

2024 Mat-Su Reentry Summit: Building Bridges to Success - Speaker Bio's

Session 1: Tanaine Jenkins - After 10 years as property of DOC, Tanaine Jenkins has become a powerhouse in the re-entry and recidivism circuit. As an expert in the field, Tanaine is the author of *From Prison to President: 7 Ways to Succeed in Your Second Chance*, she has worked with FRRC, Reform Alliance and has been featured on the CW and PBS. Tanaine is on a mission to help Justice Impacted individuals be successful in their second chance by teaching them to FEEL all of their feelings. I had the pleasure to hear Tanaine speak in both Philadelphia and Florida, and I am very excited to hear her speak again today.

Session 2: Alexa Filanowicz - Alexa Filanowicz, MSW, LCSW, is a prior behavioral health clinician who has been a faculty with the UAA School of Social Work since 2012.

Session 3: Todd Stafford - In 2019 Todd was hired by Prison Fellowship as the Program Manager for the Prison Fellowship Academy program. In 2022, he moved the Academy program to Palmer Correctional Center. The Prison Fellowship Academy is a life skills program that focuses on the Values of Good Citizenship.

Session 4a: Aaron Parks - Aaron Parks founded Parks Insurance Agency in 2019. Under his leadership, the agency became a leading force in the insurance industry, achieving national recognition. Parks Insurance Agency was ranked #1 for ACA enrollments in 2022 and 2023, covering all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Aaron's commitment to client care is evident in the agency's unique reentry division, supporting clients through life's transitions.

Session 4b: Bryan Brandenburg - Bryan Brandenburg is the executive director of Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Inc., (AARS) one of Alaska's longest serving residential treatment facilities for those living with substance use disorder.

Session 5: Melissa Toffolon - Melissa Toffolon has a doctorate in sociology from Tulane University in New Orleans and a master's degree in public health from Columbia University in New York City. She began her career in Alaska teaching research and statistics at the University of Alaska, Anchorage and the Mat-Su College. In 2012, she began work at the Mat-Su Health Foundation where she oversaw research, evaluation, and programs and served as the Vice President of Programs. In 2020, she opened Actionable Data Consulting, a values-driven firm that provides research, community-based participatory action project support, evaluation, and facilitation services.

Day 2 Speakers:

Session 6: Dr. Sandra Smith - Dr. Sandra Smith is the Vice President of Via Hope, which is the Mental Health Resource of Texas (USA). She holds a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Ph.D. in Human Services from Capella University with undergraduate studies in Business Administration. She is a Certified Reentry Peer Specialist and is also a SAMHSA GAINS Center trainer for “How Being Trauma-Informed Improves the Criminal Justice System Responses.” Dr. Smith is a published author on her true-life story entitled “Choices” and is a Reentry Advocate based on her own lived experience. She has a trademarked training in "Thrauma®" which is the concept of the before, during, and aftereffects of trauma.

Session 7a: Marsha Oss - Marsh Oss has 38 years of recovery and started volunteers in Idaho’s Prisons after one year of sobriety. She has worked inside and outside correctional institutions, hospitals, and treatment agencies as a Correctional Office and SUD Counselor. Marsh was the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Case Manager, helping justice-involved individuals return to the community from 2017-2022. Marsha joined the City of Fairbanks in 2022 as the Reentry Coalition Coordinator, she currently holds an National Certified Addiction Counselor I and is certified through Alaska as a Chemical Dependence Counselor/Behavioral Health Councilor II and as a Traditional Peer Support Specialist III.

Session 7b: Bernie Jarriel: Bernie Jarriel is currently the Director of Operations at Mat-Su Health Services. He has e been with Mat-Su Health Services since 2019. Bernie’s previous experience includes being the Executive Director of a Mental Health and Social Services agency and also the Director of a large outpatient medical and specialty clinic. Bernie has a Dual Masters Degree in Health Promotion / Health Education and Health Administration.

Session 8a: Kristofer Black: Kris is a lifelong Alaskan with a Master of Public Health and experience in criminal justice planning and education. Over the past three years, Kris has overseen the CAREERRS grant, which focuses on improving employment outcomes for reentrants. Kris has taught at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and currently serves as an adjunct instructor at Eastern Oregon University. As a Criminal Justice Planner for the Alaska Department of Corrections, Kris works to enhance reentrant programs and support successful reintegration.

Session 9: Ashley Smith: Ashley Smith is a dedicated advocate for criminal justice reform and successful reintegration. As a reentrant herself, she has firsthand experience overcoming similar barriers faced by those she serves. For the past five years, Ashley has worked as an Employment Services Technician at the Mat-Su Job Center for the State of Alaska. Her commitment to helping others reenter the workforce underscores her belief in the power of second chances and the transformative impact of employment on individuals' lives.