



## *Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials*

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## Speaker Bios

### **Opioid Abatement Authority**

Anthony E. “Tony” McDowell, Executive Director, Opioid Abatement Authority

- Tony McDowell was appointed executive director of the Opioid Abatement Authority on August 1, 2022. His duties include overall implementation of the Authority’s goals and objectives and distributing opioid abatement funds in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He previously served as Deputy County Manager for Public Safety in Henrico County from 2018-2022, where he played a leadership role in developing Henrico County’s comprehensive strategy to prevent, treat, and support recovery from substance use disorders. He began his career with Henrico as a firefighter/paramedic in 1997 and rose through the ranks to Fire Chief in 2012. Mr. McDowell earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Virginia Tech (1991) and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas (1995).

### **An Integrative Approach to Addressing Students' Mental Health Needs**

Karla Allen

- Karla Allen currently serves as the Coordinator of Counseling Services for Hanover County Public Schools and as an adjunct professor in Counselor Education at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is active with the Virginia School Counseling Association at the state and national levels and with the National Association for College and Career Advising. Ms. Allen was honored with the Leadership of the Year Award for 2020 through the Virginia School Counseling Association representing all of the Division Leaders for School Counseling for the state of Virginia.

Lauren Krusenklau, LCSW, School-based Clinical Supervisor, Hanover Community Services Board

- Lauren Krusenklau is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has been a part of the school-based services program since 2020. Ms. Krusenklau served as the first school-based clinician to provide direct services under the pilot program. She has since transitioned into the supervisory role and oversees school-based services being provided to youth throughout Hanover County. She started her clinical career providing case management and therapeutic support to youth in treatment foster care. Her passion for integrated-based treatment formulated while working in a pediatric medical setting, providing mental health services to pediatric patients living with chronic medical conditions.

Jennifer Sheppard, LPC, Coordinator of Children's Services, Hanover Community Services Board

- Jennifer Sheppard is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has served as the Coordinator of Children's Services at Hanover Community Services Board since 2019. Within this role, she oversees mental health and substance abuse services offered to youth in Hanover County, including outpatient, community-based, and school-based services. Ms. Sheppard started her clinical career providing case management services in an acute hospital setting. Since that time, she has worked in both direct service and leadership positions in inpatient, outpatient, and community-based behavioral health settings with children, families, and adults.

### **Special Advisor to the Governor for Children's Issues**

Janet Kelly

- The Honorable Janet Kelly has 25 years of political & public service experience, including setting a record for the youngest female to win a statewide campaign in Virginia and serving as a member of the Governor's Cabinet from 2010-2014. She has been married for 10 years and has 3 children, one of whom came to her through fictive kin adoption in 2012. Her personal story forged her path out of politics and into child welfare, starting with a Governor's office initiative called Virginia Adopts in 2013. This effort matched 1041 kids with adoptive families in one year. She then spent 8 years in the non-profit world, co-founding America's Kids Belong and founding its Virginia affiliate. She serves as a Special Advisor in the Administration of Governor Glenn Youngkin, who is focusing on children's mental health and foster care. She recently led the Administration's Safe and Sound Task Force, which resulted in an 89% decrease in kids sleeping in offices, hotels and ERs.

### **2023 General Assembly Session Recap**

Janet Areson

- Janet Areson works for the Virginia Municipal League where she covers health and human services, public safety, and select budget issues. She also works with the Virginia Local Government Management Association, an affiliate group of VML and the state affiliate of the International City/County Management Association. Janet previously worked for other local government associations and for the state and federal governments.

Katie Boyle

- Katie Boyle is the Director of Government Affairs for the Virginia Association of Counties, where she staffs the Finance and Health and Human Resources Steering Committees. Prior to her tenure at VACo, she worked in the Office of the Fairfax County Executive as part of the County's legislative team. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

Jennifer Faison

- Jennifer Faison is the Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, whose membership includes all of Virginia's CSBs and a Behavioral Health Authority. She has led that organization since 2014. She previously served as VACSB's public policy manager and project implementation associate.

## Rebecca Morgan

- Rebecca Morgan has served as the Director of the Middlesex Department of Social Services since 2012. Since 2003, she has worked in three local department of social services agencies in Virginia. Ms. Morgan currently serves as the President for the Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE) and is the past Chair for the VLSSSE Legislative and Child and Family Services Committees. She has served on various workgroups related to advancing Virginia initiatives in the child welfare field. She serves locally on the Middlesex Foundation Board that is currently working on affordable housing options for the community. Ms. Morgan graduated from the College of William and Mary with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and has a Master's Degree of Education in Community Counseling from the College of William and Mary.