



About the Facilitators

Regina M. Huerter, M.A., Senior Project Associate, Policy Research Associates, Inc.

Regina "Regi" Huerter joined Policy Research, Inc. in 2017 as a Senior Project Associate to provide technical assistance to counties involved in the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, particularly those addressing the intersection of behavioral health and justice. Prior to joining PRA, she was the Executive Director of the Denver Office of Behavioral Health Strategies and Crime Prevention and Control Commission. Before moving to Denver in 1982, Ms. Huerter was raised in Greeley, Colorado where she began her work with youth in 1978 as a counselor in residential facilities and volunteered for Partners, a youth mentoring organization, and in the fields of domestic violence, rape awareness and suicide intervention. She moved to work for Metro Denver Partners where she developed adult mentor screening tools and created special programs for young women. In 1991, she was part of creating the Gang Rescue and Support Program known as GRASP which was adopted by the Metro Denver Partners Board before she left to join the Denver District Attorney's Office in 1993, where she created and ran the Juvenile Diversion Program. After more than a decade at the DA's office, she left to be the CEO for Urban Peak, a youth-focused homeless housing and intervention program. She was called back the City in 2005 to begin the Crime Prevention and Control Commission, now under the Office of Behavioral Health Strategies. Ms. Huerter holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master's Degree in Counseling from the University of Colorado. She is known nationally for her expertise in creating justice system change, particularly behavioral health and trauma-informed practices, as well as gangs and youth subcultures. Ms. Huerter also works as adjunct faculty for Metropolitan State University of Denver. She served on Colorado's Criminal and Juvenile Justice Commission and currently sits on the Governor's Behavior Health Transformation Council. She is the recipient of several awards, including those she is most proud of -- the 9 News "9 Who Care" and 2008 NAMI Colorado "Heroes in the Fight" - for advocacy and creating changes in the mental health/criminal justice system.

Debra A. Pinals, MD, Consultant, Policy Research Associates

Dr. Pinals is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Program in Psychiatry, Law, & Ethics at the University of Michigan. She also serves as the Medical Director of Behavioral Health and Forensic Programs for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She served as the Assistant Commissioner of Forensic Services for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health from 2008 until her recent transition to Michigan in March 2016. Dr. Pinals graduated from the Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1989 and trained in psychiatry and forensic psychiatry through Harvard Medical School residencies. She was a schizophrenia research fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health. Over her career she has worked in community mental health, forensic hospitals, correctional facilities, emergency rooms and court clinics. She has been the Principal Investigator on several federal grants related to prisoner reentry and specialty courts, examining services for individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders and criminogenic risks. She is a past President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and a past chair of the Forensic

Division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. She has received several recognition awards including: 2012 Jail Diversion Award from the Massachusetts National Alliance on Mental Illness; 2012 Commissioner's Team Recognition Award from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for her work in helping establish the Plymouth Mental Health Court; and a 2015 award from the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services for innovations in work related to juvenile justice and behavioral health. Dr. Pinals has participated in a variety of criminal and civil forensic evaluations, she has developed training materials for police who encounter persons with mental illness, and has authored or co-authored numerous publications on schizophrenia and issues related to forensic psychiatry, including scholarly work regarding competence to stand trial, violence risk assessment, correctional mental health services, mental health and law enforcement collaboration, and is the editor of the book *Stalking: Psychiatric Perspectives and Practical Approaches* and an author of the book *Evaluation for Civil Commitment*. She is a co-developer of MISSION-Criminal Justice, a manualized intervention that links approaches to caring for justice-involved individuals with mental illness, substance use challenges and trauma histories with efforts to decrease criminal recidivism as part of recovery.