



# *Mending The Circle Staff*

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Contact Information

(775) 423-3634

SAMHSA Grant # TI025315



***Leslie Steve, MA, LADC, Project Director***

- **Leslie Steve** is the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Project Director for the Fallon Tribe.
- She is a Nevada Licensed Alcohol/Drug Counselor, a Nevada Certified Supervisor for Counselor Interns and has worked in the behavioral health field for nearly 25 years.
- Leslie earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1983 and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1988.
- Leslie manages and coordinates the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse/Mental Health Service Administration), "Mending the Circle" grant which provides substance abuse and mental health treatment to adolescents and transitional aged youth and their families in need of comprehensive services. Mending the Circle also focus on infrastructure and workforce development.
- Leslie is a member of the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe and lives on the "rez".





***Kevin Crowe, Ed.D., Program Evaluator***



- **Dr. Kevin Crowe** retired from the position of Chief, Planning, and Evaluation with the Nevada Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS) in October 2008, after 32+ years of service. His career included leadership positions in the Nevada Department(s) of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Mental Health.
- Kevin completed his undergraduate study at Glassboro State College (NJ) in 1976 and went on to receive his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Nevada in 1983. He brings a formal background in mental health, school psychology and rehabilitation services.
- Along the way Kevin also worked as a consulting psychologist and evaluation consultant for local and county governments, and taught at the local community college. Since his retirement, he has been working part time as an evaluation consultant for non-profit agencies, tribal entities, and specialty courts.
- He is a licensed school psychologist in Nevada and Connecticut. In addition to formal training, Kevin brings many years of experience as a SAMHSA grant reviewer and project evaluator.
- Born and raised in Connecticut, Kevin lives in Carson City, Nevada, and enjoys camping, music, biking, and exploring the mighty Sierra Nevada.



### ***Susan Mears, Ph.D., Healthcare Analyst***

- Dr. Susan Mears has worked mostly with children, adolescents, and families during her 34 years of professional practice.
- Susan holds a doctorate in Social Work Research from the University of Utah and a Masters of Social Work from San Diego State University.
- She is a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and an AAMFT Approved Supervisor.
- Susan retired from the Division of Child and Family Services in December 2014 where she was the manager for the Planning and Evaluation Unit for Children's Mental Health. In this position she was responsible for program evaluation and quality assurance for the State of Nevada Children's Mental Health programs and community treatment home providers.
- Susan brings experience from working on two previous SAMHSA Children's Mental Health grants to the Mending the Circle Project.





***Cynthia E. Wachsmuth, Administrative Assistant***

- **Cynthia Wachsmuth** is the Behavioral Health Administrative Assistant for the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe. The SAMHSA Behavioral Health Administrative Assistant position will be a pleasant change in serving the community working as support staff with the Mending the Circle project.
- Cynthia has an Associates of Arts degree from Western Nevada Community College. Human Development has been her major field of study. She holds many certifications in program management and community services.
- Cynthia started her career in early childhood development working as a childcare provider and teacher aid. Cynthia worked her way up through administration and office management within childcare, Head Start Teacher Aide to Education Coordinator, Child Subsidies Case Management to Social Work-Case Management, and Grant Management to Program Designs & Implementation.
- Cynthia is a Yomba Shoshone Tribal member where her roots grow deep.
- Cynthia is dedicated to the motto “Faith First”; respecting individual values, cultures, and spirituality.



**Thelma Simon, BSW, LADC- *Substance Abuse Counselor*  
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Health Center**

- Her Indian name is Mam-quah, her maternal great-grandmother's Indian name
- Enrolled with the Kickapoo in Kansas Tribe. On her paternal side, Thelma belongs to the Thunder Clan.
- Thelma has resided in Nevada since the early 80's working with many of the tribes.
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Worker; Holds a Nevada State Teaching License and a Nevada License for Substance Abuse Counseling.
- Instrumental in securing construction funds for the Juvenile Detention Facility located on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation and founded the Eagle Spirit Empowerment Program as the Director for substance abuse treatment housed at Owyhee Detention Facility.
- Served on multiple Federal and State advisory boards
- Served as Vice-Chairman of her own Tribe, Kickapoo Nation of Kansas.
- Committed entire professional career and interest to working with Native Americans.

