

JESSICA PROGULSKE

I work as the Program Coordinator for Student Supports at the Sonoma County Office of Education and serve as a Sonoma County ACES & Resiliency Fellow. I believe my position, organization of affiliation, and experience make me uniquely qualified to serve those in this committee.

NICK DALTON

I have over 30 years of experience in leadership training, development, and navigating the delicate nuances of committee leadership of all kinds. I have spent my entire life in the non-profit world and helping to chart the course for TIC in Sonoma County only makes sense as the next step in my path. Having cross-sector experience ranging from being a salesman for Bandai Toys for years, to spending a decade in education in oppressed communities both stateside and abroad, and having extensive training in compassionate communication, I feel like I would be able to help guide the committee with the integrity, cultural inclusiveness, and positive based leadership demanded of the position. Also, the work would not be on top of my normal work load as my employer, Hanna Institute at Hanna Boys Center, sees it as integral to the future of our work as well. So, it would be counted as part of my normal work day as a means of truly embodying self-care and a work/life balance. I could lead by the example of my actions and not simply by my words.

ALLEN NISHIKAWA

Hi! I'm hoping you will consider voting for me as Co-Chair. I've been involved with Sonoma County ACEs Connection since the very beginning, and recently completed the ACEs Presenter training. I currently serve on the Steering Committee as the Chair of the Membership Committee. As an organization, I believe we have made great progress in the last two years. I feel we are ready to move to the next phase, which I see as involving more community groups and creating a practical road map to making Sonoma County a trauma-informed community. This would include more emphasis on understanding resilience and advocating for legislative and social change. For the past three decades, I have worked to resettle refugees, create health and employment programs for farmworkers and design and develop treatment and support services for persons with HIV. Because of this, I have worked with many of our local communities and agencies and feel I deeply appreciate the impact of trauma on different populations. Having recently retired from Public Health, I will apply whatever time is needed to this position, without concerns about conflict of interest. I do feel we need Co-Chairs with compatible goals and the ability to work together as a team. I do not know who else is running for Co-Chair, but I have worked with Alison Lobb over the years and know we have complementary skills and shared interests. Please consider voting for the two of us as your Co-Chairs.

ALLY BERK

I have seen how Sonoma County ACEs Connection brings together people from all types of professional fields, with all sorts of life experiences. Addressing and responding to trauma and adversity faced by individuals, families, and communities is a common thread for so many of the people I have met through this group. And the desire to build resilience, facilitate healing, and work toward policies and solutions that ensure justice for all people is a common thread for many of us as well. Participating on the Steering Committee would allow me to use my leadership skills, enthusiasm, passion, and young perspective to contribute to and build on these efforts. I would also help us develop a better understanding of systemic barriers operating in our community and how to address them. As a member of the Steering Committee, I would lead us in modeling the inclusion we want to see in the rest of our community.

ALISON LOBB

Please consider me for the position of Co-Chair and let me tell you a bit about myself. I am an analyst with the Sonoma County Probation Department, working to support and promote evidence-based programs designed to help our clients live well without crime involvement. Before that, I worked for community-based organizations and local government agencies on health and social equity issues, and before that I worked for several years as a government advisor to address structural poverty in developing countries. I was a volunteer Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chaplain for ten years, delivering death notifications and “being there” with survivors when violence, accident or health crisis unexpectedly took their loved ones. I currently volunteer with Alternatives to Violence Project, helping to run workshops in prison and in the community. When I learned about ACEs, I felt the different parts of my professional and volunteer work experience fall into place as a coherent whole. An understanding of ACEs can be a powerful, common platform for working together to create a healthy, strong, resilient community. I joined the group of wonderful providers and colleagues a few months before we evolved into Sonoma County ACEs Connection. It’s very exciting to be at this point of growth and formalization of our organization. I have experience developing organizational policies and convening collaborative, interdisciplinary work teams and would enjoy using my skills to serve Sonoma County ACEs Connection. The areas I’d especially like to work on are: continuing to grow an inclusive membership that engages our community broadly; developing internal and external policy structures that support our work; and carrying the message of ACEs and resilience into countywide initiatives such as Upstream (I am a member of the Portfolio Committee) and Health Action. I would be thrilled to serve as Co-Chair with any of the candidates! And I have worked with Allen Nishikawa over the years and feel the two of us could be a strong Co-Chair team. Please consider voting for both of us as Co-Chairs. Thank you!