Alejandra Aguilar is a Promotora and Health Educator for the East Los Angeles Women’s Center. Along with Ms. Aguilar’s extensive training in HIV & AIDS she is a certified Sexual Assault Advocate. Through the HIV prevention Program Mrs. Aguilar provides HIV education in the community. These trainings prepare the women in the community to become HIV Promotoras, so that they can provide HIV prevention and awareness to members of their own community. Mrs. Aguilar is the secretary for Alianza: The Latino Caucus on HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County. Alejandra feels honored to be able to serve her community by providing these services in both English and Spanish. CONTACT: Alejandra.aguilar@elawc.org

Jenny Betz is the Project Director for the Anti-Defamation League’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute. She is responsible for overseeing all of the anti-bias education projects and programs in the Pacific Southwest Region, designed to give schools and communities the tools to create bias-free environments. Before joining the ADL, Jenny worked for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, providing educational programming and community events to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students, teachers, administrators, families and their allies. She also developed anti-bias curriculum focused on family diversity and the needs and rights of transgender people in Boston. Jenny was recently appointed to the Los Angeles Unified School District’s Human Relations Diversity and Equity Council, sits on the Executive Committee of the California Safe Schools Coalition and also serves as a board member for FTM Alliance of Los Angeles. In addition, Jenny is a speaker for Gays and Lesbians Initiating Dialogue for Equality (GLIDE). A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, she earned her Bachelor’s Degree in English from St. Mary’s College and her Master’s Degree in Gender/Cultural Studies from Simmons College. CONTACT: JBetz@adl.org

Jeff Johnson For 20 years Jeff worked in the business world as both a corporate executive (managing 180 employees) and small business owner (with 17 employees). During this tenure, Jeff earned a reputation as a business turn around specialists and customer satisfaction index improvement expert. Jeff has been recognized with District and National Awards for these efforts. Jeff left the corporate world to start and operate two successful businesses which he sold as part of a life change.

Jeff has served as a part-time para-professional and full time professional working with families in reunification efforts with and without substance abuse issues. Jeff has been a Program Director and Board Member for women with children with substance abuse issues, facilitated training seminars on family reunification and substance abuse. Recently, he assisted in the Orange County drug court developing policy and programs integrating wraparound services with DCFS. He has also lived in a Transitional Age Youth Homeless Shelter as a

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**Panelist Biographical Information**

**Brenda Wiewel** is licensed in California as a Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Marriage, Family, Therapist (MFT). She has been the Executive Director of Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, a private, non-profit substance abuse treatment program, since 1999. Prior to that she was the agency’s Clinical Director, providing Clinical Supervision to more than twenty-five substance abuse counselors over a twelve year period. She has written unpublished curriculums for the agency’s parenting and domestic violence classes. Her article with colleague Toni Mosley entitled “Family Foundations: A New Program For Pregnant And Parenting Women Offenders With Substance Abuse Histories”, was just published (November 2006) in the Journal of Offender Rehabilitation. She has written and presented papers on five occasions for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). As a founding member and current Chairperson for the NASW California Women's Council, she participated in leadership roles to organize local, statewide, and national professional education conferences. The Council focuses on education and advocacy regarding women as social workers and clients. Her special interests in social work include the needs of substance abusing women, violence against women, co-occurring disorders, and restorative justice. CONTACT: bwiewel@lacada.com

**Dwayne Clements** For 20 years, Dwayne was an active meth user. In March 2007, Dwayne celebrated 5 years of sobriety. Dwayne also has an Axis I diagnosis and has been receiving mental health services at Rio Hondo since 2002. Dwayne Clements has volunteered over 2500 hours as a Peer Advocate at Rio Hondo. During this volunteer time, he co-founded and co-facilitated the COD 12-step group at Rio Hondo, has put together a COD resource manual second to none, and was very instrumental in the start of the Rio Hondo COD Program. Presently, he is attending college to become a substance counselor. In April 2007, Dwayne was hired by LACDMH Rio Hondo as a Community Worker/Peer Advocate to work in both the Wellness Clinic and the COD program.

**Doreen Hanna** Doreen started using drugs as a coping skill at the age of 4 years old. With the influence of her parents drugs, sex, and survival sex became a lifestyle. Doreen has lived, used, worked in Texas and Southern California. She has been homeless with many life stories which include drugs, violence, sex for hire, and survival sex which she now uses to help save lives and help people. Doreen is a COD client with almost 2 years of sobriety and medication compliance. She is studying to become a Peer Advocate and preparing to enter college in the fall.

**Anita Weaver** Anita was raised from the age of 5 years old in a home where “Ice” was cooked, packaged, and sold. Her early years were spent learning “The Business” of Meth, Coke, and other substance distribution—including how to render consequences. Anita soon began to use the products she sold, but maintained a grip on the production and business side of this industry—which included violence, destruction of lives, and death. Anita is away from the addiction of using and selling and is preparing to work as a Peer Advocate—working with the Homeless COD population.