Harkmore Lee, MSW, is the Director of the Center on Child Welfare at California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA). The Center is part of Cal State LA’s School of Social Work and is a member of the University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), which consists of seven local schools of social work who provide professional development training, research, and evaluation to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. Mr. Lee has worked in the fields of child welfare, domestic violence, and sexual assault for over 15 years in various capacities – including working as a County children’s services social worker, nonprofit agency senior executive, and a state and national trainer. At Cal. State LA, Mr. Lee designed and built the first Residential Simulation Lab in California that provides simulation training, space, and education to county child welfare social workers, as well as to undergraduate and graduate social work students at Cal State LA’s School of Social Work. Mr. Lee received both his B.A. and M.S.W. degrees from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor.

Janae Mankowski, LCSW, is a Children Services Administrator with the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services. Janae serves as a foundational training instructor for new hires including actively participating in simulation trainings. Janae is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked in the field of public child welfare with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services for 14 years. Working with families, Janae has experience in the areas of Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, Emergency Response, and Adoptions. In addition, Janae worked with victims and perpetrators in the area of child sexual abuse for nine years. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology at Whittier College in Whittier, California and her Master’s Degree in Social Work at California State University, Los Angeles.

Heidi Staples, MSW/BSW, is the Director of the Center on Child Welfare at UCLA, which provides professional development training, research, and evaluation to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services as part of the University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF). The Center also oversees field training of master’s level interns who agree to become employees of DCFS in exchange for tuition reimbursement. The Center is part of the Department of Social Welfare at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, where Ms. Staples also teaches child welfare policy. Ms. Staples previously served as National Adoption Specialist for the federal government at the Children’s Bureau, overseeing national training centers and leadership institutes as well as federal grants to assist states and counties in improving their child welfare systems; has been a professional trainer for over 20 years at the county, state, and national level; and worked for 25 years in San Diego County Child Welfare Services in a variety of programs as a social worker, supervisor, and manager, the last seven as Adoptions Administrator. She authored the CA state core curriculum for all public child welfare social workers on Identification of Child Maltreatment and has developed and delivered numerous other child welfare training curricula. She has been an active participant in simulation training, development, and implementation.