



**Session 14 | Calming a Crisis: Strategies to Reduce the Use of Force**  
August 12, 2020  
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

---

No area or action draws public scrutiny—and sometimes ire—quite like the use of force by law enforcement personnel. Police officers are necessarily authorized to employ various forms of physical control to carry out their jobs, but the circumstances, level, and degree to which the use that force is often the subject of serious debate. This session will explore the factors that lead to law enforcement use of force, and the efforts law enforcement and policy reformers are advocating to mitigate these factors.

Attendees will hear from panelists who will discuss impactful examples of the nature and prevalence of potentially disastrous outcomes of the use of force by law enforcement personnel. Attendees will be provided a clear understanding of the problem to inspire additional conversation throughout NACOLE about what more can be done to limit the use of force.

Speaker:

- Annadennise Briz, Sergeant, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Mental Evaluation Team, Los Angeles, CA
- Cephus Johnson, Social Justice Activist, Love Not Blood Campaign, Emeryville, CA
- Kelly McMahill, Deputy Chief, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Las Vegas, NV

Moderator:

- Brian Williams, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission, Los Angeles, CA

### **Speaker Biographies**

---

**Annadennise Briz** | Annadennise Briz has been employed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) since 1999. She promoted to Sergeant in May of 2010. She is currently assigned to the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) and oversees a team of highly trained deputies that respond to patrol's request when they encounter people in the field experiencing mental health crises. This unit partners a Deputy Sheriff and Department of Mental Health (DMH) clinician to assist field deputies' deal with individuals in crisis or in tactical operations.

As a collateral duty Sergeant Briz has been a hostage/crisis negotiator since 2000, due to her having had experience working as a Licensed Psychiatric Technician for the DMH, before becoming a deputy. Annadennise was a licensed mental health worker for the LASD/DMH MET for 5 years.

Prior to promoting, Sergeant Briz worked with in custody facilities on the Jail MET as well as a federally funded grant item that worked with inmate mothers dually diagnosed. She has worked as a Bailiff in the Mental Health Court and has worked a field patrol assignment and returned to work as a Bonus Deputy, on the Mental Evaluation Team.



2020 Annual NACOLE Conference | *Oversight in Uncertain Times: The Path Ahead*

*Please note, content and speakers subject to change.*

Sergeant Briz has presented numerous incidents at training meetings sponsored by the California Association of Hostage Negotiators (CAHN) within Southern California. She has also presented at the annual Mental Illness and Law Enforcement Conference. Sergeant Briz has presented nationwide at numerous conferences for law enforcement crisis/negotiators and teaches/trains members of her Department and other law enforcement agencies on a regular basis.

Sergeant Briz is a mother of 3 grown daughters, holds an Associate of Science degree in Mental Health and a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services.

**Cephus Johnson** | Cephus X, aka Uncle Bobby X, is a social justice activist at the forefront of ending police violence in America. After his nephew, Oscar Grant was murdered by a Bart police officer in 2009, Cephus has founded four grassroots social justice organizations, the Oscar Grant Foundation, Love Not Blood Campaign, California Families United 4 Justice, and a National Families United 4 Justice Network- a growing nationwide collective of families impacted by police violence. Cephus has received many prestigious awards for his social justice police accountability work.

In 2019 Cephus received The Black Panther Party Community Award, Oakland City Council Commendation Award, the Oakland City Council Resolution for innovation, groundbreaking work, promoting positive change and uplift for the city of Oakland in the field of Social Justice Award, including the 2019 Frontline Warriors Keepers Award, The Dick Gregory Award 2018, Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) Award 2017, The Fannie Lou Hamer Award 2016, The Hero of Forgiveness Award 2016, The Henry Moskowitz Award 2015, The Kwame Ture Black Star of Labor Award 2015, The Black Organizing Project Award 2014, The Martin Luther King Jr Gene Young Award 2014, and many others. Cephus has appeared on Katie Couric's "Race in America," MSNBC's "Caught on Tape"; and many others. He presents workshops on Know your Rights, Mobile Justice, and Family Response Teams. He has served as a leading expert and organizer on the creation of Families United 4 Justice Movement of impacted families of police murder.

Known as the "People's Uncle," Cephus is a much-beloved presence and invaluable resource for families suffering from police violence around the globe.

"He considers ending police violence and supporting families who have been impacted by police his life's work.

**Kelly McMahill** | Deputy Chief Kelly McMahill has been a Law Enforcement professional with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) for over 24 years. Kelly has held positions in Patrol, Community Oriented Policing, Internal Oversight and Constitutional Policing, Internal Affairs and Human Resources. In 2012, when the Department of Justice entered into an agreement to conduct the first ever Collaborative Reform Process with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Kelly was chosen as the sergeant to assist in the creation of the Office of Internal Oversight and became the main liaison with the Department of Justice. From 2012 through 2014, Kelly was a member of the team that implemented numerous groundbreaking reforms related to the use of deadly force by officers. Many of these reforms are now counted as best practices around the country.

In 2013, Kelly promoted to lieutenant and proudly served in the Bolden Area Command where she led efforts in community engagement and crime fighting. In 2015, Kelly was assigned to the Critical Incident Review Team which conducts all administrative investigations of deadly force incidents by officers. In March of 2017, Kelly promoted to captain and was assigned to run the Internal Oversight and



2020 Annual NACOLE Conference | *Oversight in Uncertain Times: The Path Ahead*

*Please note, content and speakers subject to change.*

Constitutional Policing Bureau which oversees the criminal and administrative investigations into use of deadly force and other high-risk incidents involving LVMPD officers. Kelly was then assigned as the bureau commander of South Central Area Command where she commanded a station of 210 officers and civilians in one of most diverse areas within the Las Vegas valley.

In February of 2020, Sheriff Lombardo appointed Kelly to Deputy Chief of the Professional Standards Division. Currently, she oversees Human Resources, all Department training and the LVMPD volunteer program.

Although Kelly loves working for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, her greatest joy comes from being married to Kevin McMahill, who is the LVMPD Undersheriff and raising their five children together.

**Brian K. Williams** | Brian K Williams. Esq., serves as the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission. This advisory Commission serves as a liaison between the community and the Sheriff's department as well as provides policy and other recommendations concerning the department. Williams also maintains a law practice, the Brian K. Williams Law Group. Prior to his appointment as executive director of the Civilian Oversight Commission, Williams served as President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Southern California, one of the nation's preeminent educational programs for youth. During his career, Williams has also served as the executive director of the Southern California Leadership Network (SCLN). The SCLN is one of the nation's premiere leadership development programs and is affiliated with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Williams served for 11 years as an Assistant City Attorney in the Los Angeles City Attorney's office where he handled hundreds of criminal and civil matters and tried more than 100 cases. When Los Angeles City Attorney James K. Hahn was elected Mayor of Los Angeles, Mayor Hahn appointed Williams as his Deputy Mayor. Williams served for four years as the Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles for Transportation, Environment, and Infrastructure. Upon leaving the Mayor's Office, Williams was appointed the Assistant City Manager for the City of Pasadena, where he oversaw the police, fire, planning, water and power, and human resources departments.

Williams, a two-time UCLA Chancellor's Marshall, earned a B.A. in Political Science at UCLA and received a Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law. Williams has lectured at the UCLA School of Law, USC School of Law, Loyola University, and has provided commentary in national, regional and local media outlets. Williams is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Boule', the Pacific Council and numerous other organizations. A native of Southern California, Williams is married and the proud father of two outstanding sons.

