

Daniel J. Abrahamson, PhD
Committee on Rural Health
American Psychological Association
750 First St. NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

Dear Dan, Tammy, & CRH Members:

Please accept my strong recommendation of Daniel V. Foster, PsyD, for the Committee on Rural Health (CRH). Dan would be a strong candidate for either slate as he grew up working on farms and ranches alongside migrant workers and has worked for the last 23 years for Indian Health Service (IHS) on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana and the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. I have known Dan for 20 years as he has been in the trenches of rural and Native psychology. Having served on the CRH and knowing the importance of rural health contributions to APA governance I believe Dan can bring a strong voice to rural (farming, ranching and migrant), Native (IHS, tribal), and substance abuse treatment and needs to the CRH.

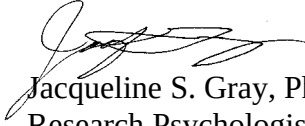
Dan Foster was raised in the rural west, to include working migrant labor in corn, potato, wheat and beet fields and hauling hay. He worked both farms and ranches for multiple family members and as a result has some fluency in Spanish. While in college, he continued to work on ranches hauling hay and breaking horses. He has provided services for rural Americans as a clinician, behavioral health department head, administrator, Deputy CEO and CEO of a rural hospital and clinic giving him insight into the obstacles and strengths, vulnerabilities and needs of rural health care broadly, and behavioral health including substance use, abuse, and use disorders.

Dan has worked in the substance abuse field since graduate school, running a drug abuse treatment program at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lompoc, CA in the early 1980's, managing inpatient and outpatient treatment at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, MN (Bureau of Prisons) for seven years. He was the first National Director of the Drug and Alcohol Programs for the Bureau of Prisons in the late 1980's and early 1990's. He has spent one day a week for the past 23 years in IHS providing inpatient substance abuse treatment programs to the Blackfeet and Rosebud Sioux Tribes with both adults and adolescents. He has also integrated substance abuse work into the outpatient treatment programs.

Dan Foster has been a leader, mentor, and teacher among indigenous psychologists sharing his experience working in the trenches of behavioral health. He is generous with his time, resources, and service while raising a family in these settings where formal services are lacking, but identifying "natural resources" within the community to address the needs for developmentally disabled and seriously mentally ill children and adults. He is deeply involved in the communities where he has worked and lived and viewed as a friend, relative, and resource to those around him.

Dan has previously served APA on CEMA and is a past president of the Society of Indian Psychologists. He has completed his certification as a prescribing psychologist and meets many of the needs of the CRH in addressing rural issues. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My best to you all and your continued great work!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline S. Gray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jacqueline S. Gray, PhD.
Research Psychologist/Associate Director