

## **BOARD ROSTER**

**Meisha Battiste** – founder of *growURpotential* and current MFT intern, graduated from Phillips Graduate Institute in 2014. She has held social and marketing program administration roles since 1992, including program development, implementation, and operational oversight. As office manager at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for nearly nine years she was responsible for projecting and managing a budget over 1.7 million dollars.

**Dena Schwimmer** – co-founder of *growURpotential* and current MFT intern, graduated from Phillips Graduate Institute in 2014. Her significant experience in business management includes thirty years in print collateral production and project management focused primarily in the music and film industry. Her volunteer work with caregivers of family members diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease has motivated her advocacy for this population and heightened her resolve for community mental health services.

**Sylvia Olydokun** – a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP) since 1999, she manages interdisciplinary teams in the coordination and operation of designated programming and services for persons with developmental disabilities residing in residential facilities. Her industry knowledge and leadership skills have contributed to operational success for dozens of residential facility owners, for whom she serves as an expert adviser. Ms. Olydokun earned a BA degree in Sociology from California State University-Dominguez Hills. Her civic motivations revolve around mental health services and she has served on several advisory committees.

**Chela-Rene Spaargaren** – a Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator at University of California at Los Angeles, she has been committed to the field of oncology research since 1998 and a part of UCLA's research efforts since 2001. She is a talented administrator with abundant experience at developing policies, processes, and procedures. She specializes in regulatory compliance and directs practices that exceed standards set by regulatory agencies including the FDA and UCLA IRB.

Ms. Spaargaren is an active member of Médicos, Enfermeros, y Dentistas Para El Pueblo (MEDPEP), a medical preparation and education program designed to support low-income Latino students in their pursuit of medical professions. Ms. Spaargaren earned a BSN degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Christa Paul** began her career as a Special Education Teacher more than twenty years ago. She has dedicated her professional focus to improving the lives of students diagnosed as Autistic, Intellectually Disabled, and Severely Emotionally Disturbed. Her passion and advocacy for mental health services stems from observation of the many challenges faced by her students and their families.

Ms. Paul community service includes participation in several advisory boards and councils meetings. Her administrative experience includes policy development and oversight. Ms. Paul earned a Master of Science in Special Education degree from California State University, Long Beach. She also holds an Administrative Credential from Chapman University.

**Legal advisor** – we hold a fee for service agreement with *Hunton Law*. They provide legal counsel for Nonprofits, Foundations & Social Enterprises; they are located at 2211 Park Blvd, Palo Alto, CA 94306.