SECURITY
There is one candidate running for one open position. The candidate’s biography is listed below.

COLLEEN KAPSIMALIS DOYLE, member since 2015

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colleen Kapsimalis Doyle has worked in injury and violence prevention at the Colorado state health department since 2013 and has been a member of Safe States since 2015. She currently serves at the Safe States Executive Committee Secretary and previously served as the Safe States Policy Committee Chair. During this time, she contributed to strategic discussions to inform the direction of the Safe States Alliance, gained state/national policy experience, improved member engagement, and contributed to Safe States’ policy priorities. In continuing her role as Secretary of the Executive Committee, Colleen will remain committed to advancing the Safe States Strategic Map, especially related to focusing on racial equity, strengthening the workforce, advocating for policy solutions, and engaging in cross-sector collaboration. She will also apply her strategic and organizational skills to set the direction of Safe States that represents the interests of members and the future of the injury and violence prevention field.

TREASURER
There is one candidate running for one open position. The candidate’s biography is listed below.

KIRSTIN MCFARLAND, member since 2015

Washington State Department of Health
Kirstin McFarland is the Injury and Violence Prevention Section Manager at the Washington State Department of Health. She is responsible for budget development and oversight, contract development and management, and expense tracking for eligibility/grant alignment. In previous state roles, she provided administrative support to non-profit organizations who offered prevention and direct client services in local communities. Kirstin has served on the Safe States Executive Committee for the past four years as a Member At-Large and most recently as Treasurer. In that time, she has learned a lot about Safe States and the amazing work the organization does to support the injury and violence prevention field. If given the opportunity to serve a second term as Treasurer, she would continue to bring integrity and a collaborative spirit to each interaction. As treasurer, she will continue to invest in supporting the organization’s mission through sound fiscal practices and attention to detail.
MEMBER AT-LARGE

There are ten (10) candidates running for four (4) open positions. The biographies for each candidate are listed in alphabetical order below.

LAURA CHISHOLM, member since 2016

Oregon Health Authority

Laura Chisholm is the Injury & Violence Prevention Section Manager at the Oregon Health Authority. She is motivated to serve Safe States because the work is more important than ever. Along with 18 years as a state public health educator, program coordinator, and manager, she brings an unusual lens informed by doctoral work in archetypal psychology: the ability to recognize and respond to what’s happening under the surface of groups and organizations. Laura will respectfully ask difficult questions; name the elephant in the room when she senses it looming; and support honest, trauma-informed dialogue to work through challenges. She is committed to continued self-examination related to racism and privilege and thanks you for considering her.

DEBORAH ERDMAN, member since 2014

Geisinger Medical Center

Deborah Erdman is the Injury Prevention coordinator at Geisinger Medical Center. As a Critical Care/Trauma Nurse for 35 years, Deborah has seen the aftermath of trauma injuries, what it does to the individual, families, and community. She is dedicated to injury prevention in the community as a passionate educator and advocate, working in partnership and collaboration with local, state, and national groups. She is currently serving with Safe Kids Coalition to the Area Agencies on Aging to promote and provide effective evidenced based injury prevention programs. Deborah also strives for excellence in advanced trauma care across the continuum serving as an educator to health care providers. It would be her honor to serve with Safe States.

DEANNA FERRELL, member since 2017

Utah Department of Health

Deanna Ferrell is excited about the work occurring to make our communities healthy, safe, and equitable which has motivated her to become more involved with national efforts in injury and violence prevention. She has worked in the Violence and Injury Prevention Program at the Utah Department of Health for four years, currently serving as the Epidemiologist and Surveillance Coordinator. Deanna focuses on shared risk and protective factors and health equity as an epidemiologist, evaluator, and supervisor. Her interests are to increase community-led initiatives, innovative solutions, and collaboration. She will bring her passion, voice, and data-driven skills and insight as an At-Large Member of Safe States. Thank you IVP community!
MEMBER AT-LARGE

MIGHTY FINE, member since 2008

American Public Health Association
Mighty Fine is the Director of the Center for Public Health Practice and Professional Development at the American Public Health Association. Mighty welcomes the opportunity to continue to serve on the Safe States Executive Committee, as he is deeply committed to helping Safe States achieve its mission to strengthen the practice of injury and violence prevention. Mighty has built expertise in the social determinants of health and will be sure to elevate a social justice perspective during his time on the Board. Additionally, Mighty will continue to draw from his training, experience, viewpoint and other facets to help shape our collective efforts to prevent some of the leading causes of premature death.

RHONDA JACKSON, member since 2017

Florida Department of Health
Rhonda Jackson serves as the Violence and Injury Prevention Section Administrator for the Florida Department of Health. Nationally, she has not been a loud voice, but present, taking these first few years to just listen. Rhonda currently serves on the Rape Prevention Education Director’s Council and has presented at various meetings and conferences nationally. On the state level, she has served the past two years as Chair of the State Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan Committee; Co-Chair of the State Health Improvement Plan Behavioral Health Priority Area (including goals related to mental health and children in the welfare system, naloxone distribution, promotion of Mental Health First Aid, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome protocols for hospitals, implementation of the Overdose Data 2 Action Grant, and data-related activities for suicide prevention). Rhonda currently serves as Co-Chair for the Injury Safety and Violence Priority Area and now has the time and internal support to take on a broader role.

SHERRY JOHNSON, member since 2019

St. Mary’s Medical Center
Greetings from the Western Slope of Colorado. Sherry Johnson is the Injury and Violence Prevention Coordinator for St. Mary’s Medical Center in Grand Junction, Colorado. She is interested in serving on the Safe States Board as an at large member. She brings 32 years of nursing experience with the last 2 years as an Injury and Violence Prevention coordinator. Sherry is always looking for the opportunity to support our purpose in the field of injury and violence prevention.
MEMBER AT-LARGE

ASHLEY LAMAR, member since 2020

JPS Health Network
Ashley Lamar is an enthusiastic Injury Prevention Specialist in a busy Level One Trauma Center. She actively engages others with an open mind and considers multiple points of view when making decisions. She partners with multidisciplinary professionals to have the greatest impact in reducing injury and elevating health equity within the community. Ashley has a fresh perspective in developing and growing relationships, which contributes to greater collaboration and knowledge sharing. Because of the listed attributes, she would make a productive and excellent At Large Member for Safe States Executive Board.

NIDHI SACHDEVA, member since 2014

Duke University School of Medicine
Nidhi Sachdeva is a connector of ideas and people, builds community, and advocates for justice. As a Senior Research Program Leader with the Duke Department of Population Health Sciences, she manages a portfolio to reduce the harms of drug use. Previously, Nidhi lead strategic planning, partnership and TA, and policy and program implementation at North Carolina’s Division of Public Health; and was a Program Manager at the University of North Carolina’s Injury Prevention Research Center. She has served within government (local and state), health systems, and research universities; on three Safe States STAT teams, and on six Annual Conference planning committees. Nidhi is currently a first term Executive Committee member and has more to contribute with a continued passion for IVP, health equity, and supporting communities and organizations.

ALISON WESTON, member since 2018

UCHealth
Alison Weston coordinates the injury prevention programs at two UCHealth hospitals in northern Colorado. She has enjoyed supporting local injury prevention programming and is interested in expanding her support nationwide through education, innovation, and collaboration. Her passion lies in providing support to other injury prevention professionals. She is well qualified for the At-Large executive committee position as she has coordinated multiple coalitions and served as President of a local non-profit board helping to set their strategic direction. As an At-Large member, Alison will actively support Safe States members and the mission to strengthen the practice of injury and violence prevention.
MEMBER AT-LARGE

LAUREN YERKES, member since 2021

Virginia Department of Health
Lauren Yerkes is an Injury and Violence Prevention Epidemiologist for the Virginia Department of Health. She is interested in serving as an At-Large Member to advance injury and violence prevention work through her enthusiasm for data-inspired public health action. Lauren works collaboratively to develop prevention strategies focused on a shared risk and protective factors approach and prioritizes a strong foundation of health equity. She enjoys exploring innovative ways to utilize data to create projects that prevent injury and violence. Lauren is motivated to work with the Safe States community to support, implement, and accomplish goals of injury and violence prevention initiatives that promote the health and well-being of people nationwide.