



**RHP 9 & 10 Cohort Behavioral Health Cohort 2  
Medical City Lewisville  
Thursday, July 10, 2019**



**Joel J. Hunt, PA-C**  
**Director Care Connections Outreach**

Joel Hunt, PA-C has over 10 years of delivering healthcare to marginalized people. Joel began his career in medicine with people experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake City, Utah at a Health Care for the Homeless grantee and Federally Qualified Health Clinic where he started a street medicine program. At JPS he was responsible for oversight and implementation of the Care Connections Outreach street medicine team, collaborating with community partners for development of services such as integrating housing and health care, health care and homelessness research, and resident physician and student training opportunities in street medicine. He graduated from the University of Utah where he received a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies after serving 6 years in the US Army.

**Rachel Amerson, CHES**  
**Community Health Worker**

Rachel has worked on the Care Connections Outreach team for 3 years as a Community Health Worker.



**Kyla Rankin, LMSW**  
**Senior Community Development Specialist**  
**HOMES**

Kyla is a licensed master social worker and for the past eighteen years has worked with homeless families at Parkland Health & Hospital System's Homeless Outreach Medical Services Program (HOMES). Kyla is a Senior Community Development Specialist for the HOMES program and works with The Bridge and other shelter agencies to coordinate primary care services. Kyla serves on the complex case committee, diabetes education team and the community outreach council at Parkland. Her day to day passions include working with Promise House and Austin Street to provide needed social work services to youth and women in transition. Kyla is a current Board member of Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and serving her community through various volunteer service organizations.

Kyla received a Bachelor of Science in English Education from Hampton University and a Master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Prior to pursuing the challenges of social work, Kyla was a teacher for several years in the inner city of Long Beach, California.

***Kurtis Young, MSSW, LCSW***  
***Director of Social Work***  
***Behavioral Health Services***

Since 2009, Young has worked for Parkland Health & Hospital System as a social worker in the Psych ER and Consult Liaison services. He now serves as Director of Social Work for the Behavioral Health division at Parkland. His team partnered with the City of Dallas and Meadows Mental Health & Policy Institute to launch the RIGHT Care Team, a successful and innovative approach to responding to 911 mental health calls. This team was awarded Parkland's Patient Safety Champion – Innovative Team Award in 2019 and garnered national attention as a best-practice model for care. The department also partners closely with the local behavioral health authority, mental illness court, local shelters, Mobile Crisis Outreach Team, and outpatient agencies.

Kurtis, originally from Nebraska, completed his Bachelors in Social Work at Creighton University in Omaha, where he was named Social Work Student of the Year. He started his career working with homeless and near-homeless individuals in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he also served as President of the Pottawattamie County Behavioral Health Leadership Team. After moving to Dallas, TX, in 2005, Young obtained his Masters of Science in Social Work degree in 2008 while working in foster care and adoption.