Cheryl Joan Vince is a senior vice president at AIR. Vince oversees a body of work that involves research and evaluation, training, and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of juvenile justice, mental health, child welfare and education agencies as they address a variety of issues in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

For more than three decades, Vince has served as a leader, building new programs in nonprofit organizations to address challenges in education, public health, and human services. She has experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of large-scale interventions, and putting in place large scale training and technical assistance functions that building organizations’ capacities to implement evidence-based programs. She has developed numerous curricula, training materials and resources for audiences ranging from children and adolescents to nurses and physicians on healthy aging, as well as leaders and decision-makers in national governments responsible for policy setting.

In this work, she has drawn extensively on implementation and diffusion research; she has synthesized, studied and published about its application in her analysis of 22 country initiatives to operationalize the World Health Organization’s vision of improving student and staff health through education systems.
Vince has worked both across the United States and in many countries around the world. In partnership with United Nations organizations, national governments, professional associations, universities and nongovernmental organizations, she has built bodies of work that apply a public health approach to promote well-being and healthy development across the life cycle and address major health challenges. Areas of focus include emotional and mental health; substance abuse; injury, violence, and suicide; reproductive health; HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections.

From 1998 to 2010, she served as the director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center, during her time at EDC. Earlier in her career, she spent several years teaching in Canada after receiving her education diploma from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

Avenel Joseph
Director of Policy and Oversight, Senator Edward J. Markey

Avenel Joseph is Director of Policy and Oversight for Senator Edward J. Markey and serves as point in coordinating and executing the Senator's legislative and other policy objectives as it relates to responding to the ongoing opioid crisis. Joseph began her career on Capitol Hill in 2009 as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Congressional Fellow in the office of then Representative Markey. Subsequently she worked on the National Resources Committee oversight and investigations team before transitioning to the Senate with Senator Markey. Joseph holds a B.S. from Penn State University, M.S. from the University of Illinois and completed her doctorate research at Emory University School of Medicine.

Susan Heil
Principal Researcher, AIR

Susan Heil, Ph.D., a Principal Researcher in the Health program and Research and Evaluation Division at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), has led opioid-related projects for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for over 7 years and currently leads several projects across HHS agencies that address local and national responses to the opioid epidemic. For SAMHSA, she has served as project director of the contract supporting SAMHSA's Opioid Treatment Program Certification activities since 2013 and is well-versed in the regulatory oversight roles of SAMHSA staff and requirements of states, OTPs and the organizations that accredit OTPs; and automated data processing to support those roles and actions through the OTP Extranet System web-based application. She oversaw the attainment of the ATO for the current OTP Extranet System, as well as an ATO reassessment.

Her experiences span other work in the opioid arena. She is principal investigator on an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) grant focused on expanding rural access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) through primary care practices in 42 Oklahoma counties, the Rural Oklahoma MAT Expansion Project (OklahomaMAT.org). Heil recently completed an evaluation of the CDC's communication efforts around their prescription drug overdose prevention guideline and led the evaluation of the Partnership for Drug Free Kids' prescriber education campaign pilot implementation. Heil is an experienced researcher and lead of projects and tasks across the research to practice continuum that: 1) evaluate Federal policy, 2) implement programs, 3) assess and support attainment of programmatic goals, 4) develop products and tools, and 5) transform systems of care. Her research domains span addiction outcomes research, health communications, healthcare and behavioral healthcare delivery systems, healthcare quality and performance measurement, healthcare quality improvement, environmental health, and disability. Heil holds a PhD in Social Psychology from Kansas State University.

Marian Ryan
District Attorney, Middlesex County, MA

Elected to office in 2014, Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan represents the Commonwealth’s largest county with 54 towns and cities and 26 colleges in urban, suburban, and rural areas, comprising over one quarter of the population of Massachusetts.

Ryan is a career prosecutor with significant courtroom experience having prosecuted many of Middlesex County’s most complex and challenging cases. She is a talented appellate attorney and has briefed and argued more than 40 cases in the Massachusetts Appeals Court and Supreme Judicial Court. As District Attorney, she is responsible for the prosecution of approximately 40,000 cases a year.

From her experience she has learned that as important as prosecution is, prevention is equally important as it leads to a better outcome. She is a recognized expert on developing and creating innovative solutions that are defined by not simply getting involved after a criminal act has occurred but instead taking meaningful steps to stop crime before it happens.

Ryan has been a leader in domestic violence prevention and prosecution for over three decades and has conducted trainings across the county for prosecutors, law enforcement officers and service providers on recognizing the signs of domestic violence.

She regularly lectures and leads workshops on workplace safety, the dangers of prescription drug abuse, teen dating violence, anti-bullying, and distracted driving; and has been acknowledged for her leadership on the opioid crisis and on developing initiatives aimed at keeping children safe and protecting our seniors.

Ryan has received a number of awards and peer recognition for her trial skills and community involvement including receiving the Middlesex County Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award and the Boston College Law School’s David Nelson Public Service Award.

Ryan has significant teaching experience as an adjunct professor at both graduate and undergraduate levels. She is currently on the faculty of LasellCollege in Newton, where she teaches courses in Constitutional Law and the American Legal System. She has previously taught at Emmanuel College and Wentworth Institute and has served as an instructor at Harvard Law School’s Trial Advocacy Workshop.

Ryan grew up in Somerville and is a summa cum laude graduate of Emmanuel College and a cum laude graduate of Boston College Law School.

Xavier “Lawrence” Andrews
Executive Director, Prevention Alliance of Lauderdale County Anti-Drug Coalition (PAL)

As Executive Director, Xavier “Lawrence” Andrews is responsible for implementing and tasks and management of projects. Andrews currently serves as on the Board of Directors for (PAT) Prevention Alliance of Tennessee as West Tennessee Regional Representative which serve Lauderdale County, Tipton County, Dyer County, Madison County, Weakly County, Henry County, Obion County, and Milan. Andrews is a graduate CADCA National Coalition Institute and is a certified Youth Metal Health First Aid with the National Council of Behavioral. Andrews also serves as Lauderdale County Commissioner for District 4. Andrews attended Knoxville College in Knoxville Tennessee studying Mass Communication & Special Education.