

## ***NCPC Feb 23 - Your Story, In The News Luncheon Bios***

### **Moderator: Scott Lewis**

Scott Lewis is the editor in chief and CEO of the Voice of San Diego. He oversees all operations and has created partnerships and products that have earned the pioneering nonprofit news organization national and international recognition. Scott is a regular on local television and radio. He hosts the Friday Five on NBC 7 San Diego and a weekly podcast and radio show on AM 600 KOGO. Scott's a graduate of the University of Utah and lives in Ocean Beach with his wife and two children.

### **Panelists:**

#### **Natalie Walsh**

Natalie has worked for KPBS since 1993. As Executive Producer for news, Natalie oversees our local news programming and operations, including KPBS Midday Edition on radio, KPBS Evening Edition on TV, as well as Morning Edition and All Things Considered, and special projects like our election coverage and the Fronteras Desk.

Natalie launched KPBS television's first nightly news program, Full Focus, which aired until 2007. Natalie was producer and production coordinator on more than 60 documentaries and specials for KPBS television, and senior producer for KPBS's long-running daily talk show These Days.

Natalie earned a master's degree in mass communications from San Diego State University, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Cincinnati. Natalie lives with her husband and daughter in San Diego and enjoys gardening and traveling.

#### **Pam Kragen**

Pam is a feature writer who specializes in writing human interest, dining, theater and opera stories. She joined the San Diego Union-Tribune staff in October 2012 after 27 years at the North County Times, where she served as an arts, business and news reporter and editor. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from San Diego State University and completed fellowships in theater criticism at the University of Southern California and opera/classical music criticism at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She reports from the U-T's North County office in San Marcos.

## **Michael W. McConnell**

Michael is a recognized leader in the fight to solve homelessness. He serves on multiple local and regional homelessness advisory committees and has been an active member of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH), an organization that engages stakeholders in a community-based process that works to end homelessness. At RTFH, he served on committees that focus on system modeling, data analysis and resource allocations.

As the San Diego team leader for “25 Cities,” a national initiative to end homelessness, he led efforts to create the necessary tools to ultimately end veteran and chronic homelessness in the region.

A thought leader on the topic, he’s presented at conferences across the country, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conferences. He organizes regional summits and is a regular presence at community meetings.

Previously, McConnell was a member of San Diego Grantmakers’ Homelessness Working Group and helped establish Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego – a local representative of a national collaborative of philanthropists and grantmakers that combine resources to actively end homelessness. Additionally, he served as vice chair on the Regional Task Force on the Homeless – the San Diego County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) provider.

Since 2009, McConnell has directed all of his philanthropy and volunteer time to solving homelessness. Inspired by witnessing the plight of the large population of homeless people near his downtown San Diego home, he also shares a personal connection through his brother’s mental illness, a disease shared by many homeless individuals.