J. Dena Ned, PhD, is an Associate Professor/Lecturer at the University of Utah, College of Social Work. After earning her MSW from the University of California, Berkeley, she worked with California’s Division of Children and Family Services, and the California State University system, before going on to direct a 501(c)(3) urban Indian health organization in Salt Lake City. She is an advocate for the interests of American Indian/Alaska Native children and families served by state and tribal agencies, protected by the Indian Child Welfare Act (P.L. 95-608), or the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (P.L. 94-437). Her direct practice experience motivated her to explore issues of social justice and policy, and to promote comprehensive and holistic change from and by the perspective of Indigenous Peoples. [As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma,] her research has focused on the intergenerational impact of colonization, structural racism, and historical trauma within federal American Indian policies, delivery of care systems, and the challenges to retain Indigenous students in higher education & graduate programs.