Regional policy council

MHA Mental Health America

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

Why Addressing Mental Health Needs is Key to Budgeting and Legislating During COVID-19 and Beyond

Friday February 12, 2021

11:00 am – 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

B4Stage4 Leadership Awards Ceremony

11:00 am Honoring Governor Charlie Baker (MA), Governor Phil Murphy (NJ), Governor Tom Wolf (PA)

Policy Meeting: Rapid Presentations and Legislative Town Hall

11:25 am **Overview of State Policy and Legislation, Equity, and COVID-19 Changes in MHA Screening Data**, Paul Gionfriddo of Mental Health America (MHA)

11:40 am **Equitable Recovery**, Anna Bailey of Center on Budget Policy and Priorities

12:00 noon **Medicaid**, Adam Searing of Georgetown Center for Children and Families

Maternal Mental Health, Dr. Kanika Harris of the Black Woman's Health Imperative

Criminal Justice Reform, Mark Heyrman of MHA

Staying on Medicaid Upon Arrest, Fred Ryan of Alkermes

Telehealth & Interstate Compacts, Moe Keller of Mental Health Colorado

Parity, David Lloyd of The Kennedy Forum

Step Therapy, Charlie Husser of Alliance for Patient Access

988 and Crisis Services, Laura Evans of Vibrant Emotional Health

Mental Health Education in Schools, Amy Molloy of MHA in New York State

Peer Support, Kelly Davis of MHA

1:05 pm **Break Out Question and Answer Sessions** (Choose 1)

1. Better Budgeting Before Stage 4 - Medicaid, Maternal Mental Health, Education in Schools, Equitable Recovery.
2. Crisis is Not A Criminal Justice Matter - Crisis Services, Resourcing the 988 Lifeline, Keeping Medicaid as a Safety Net, Peer Support, Criminal Justice Reform.
3. Saving Money by Assuring Access - Telehealth, Interstate Compacts, Step Therapy, and Parity.

1:45 pm **Affiliate Legislative and Advocacy Updates**

2:00 pm **Conclusion**

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MHA REGIONAL POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

Why Addressing Mental Health Needs is Key to Budgeting and Legislating During COVID-19 and Beyond

Moderator: *Debbie Plotnick,* Vice President for Federal and State Advocacy

Previously, Debbie was the Director of Advocacy and Policy for the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania (MHASP), where she developed policy, organized grassroots advocacy activities, and designed recovery-oriented, community services. In her role at MHA, Debbie provides leadership for mental health and systems advocacy initiatives within its affiliate network, with outside coalitions, industry/business, and policy makers. She also coordinates the efforts of the Regional Policy Council (RPC) of MHA affiliate policy experts. She provides technical assistance to policy makers, government officials and is frequently called up to speak to the press and the general public about what is needed to create a community-based continuum of mental health care, and to challenge entrenched mindsets and misinformation.

B4Stage4 Leadership Awards

Governor Charlie Baker of Massachusetts

Gov. Baker has been a supporter of MHA affiliate Massachusetts Association for Mental Health during his six years in office. Recognizing the increases in anxiety and depression MHA is tracking during the pandemic, Gov. Baker says that "the extraordinary challenges that the people of Massachusetts have faced over the last few months have been stressful for so many in various ways."

From 2015-2019, his administration invested $1.9 billion in behavioral health across the spectrum of care. In 2019, Gov. Baker introduced comprehensive health care legislation, which included promoting access to behavioral health and reducing its costs to consumers. During the pandemic, he launched a new crisis counseling assistance program, MassSupport, in English and Spanish. This month, Gov. Baker also signed comprehensive health care legislation that requires coverage of telehealth services for behavioral health care.

Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey

Since Gov. Murphy took office in 2018, he has demonstrated his commitment to continuously improving access to care for people with mental illness and substance use disorders with his support of MHA affiliate Mental Health Association in New Jersey.

"In New Jersey, we recognize that taking care of our mental health is an important part of taking care of our overall health, and we must continue to work at eliminating the stigma that persists for those seeking mental health care," Gov. Murphy said in his acceptance speech. In 2020, Gov. Murphy supported and signed the law requiring inclusion of mental health education in the health curriculum for public school students in grades K-12. At the very beginning of the pandemic, he also ensured that telehealth visits for mental health services would be covered, and in 2020 announced more than $2.8 million in funding for vital behavioral health services, helping expand access to counseling and support services, including the launch of a new mental health hotline, NJ MentalHealthCares.

Governor Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania

Gov. Wolf is celebrated by Mental Health Association in Pennsylvania, who is so proud that under his leadership, Pennsylvania was ranked number one in the 2020 State of Mental Health in America report.

"Our country needs to do more to improve access to mental health care...and we'll succeed by working together, lifting up programs that work, and by continuing our advocacy," Gov. Wolf says. In January 2020, Gov. Wolf launched a multi-agency effort and anti-stigma campaign, "Reach Out PA: Your Mental Health Matters." The campaign, aimed at expanding resources and the state's comprehensive support of mental health and related health care priorities, included programs such as expanding the training for hundreds of constituent affairs personnel on suicide prevention and mental health intervention, ensuring health insurance coverage provides access to affordable mental health care, and increasing the number of highly qualified school social workers.

RPC Policy Meeting

Overview of State Policy and Legislation, Equity, and COVID-19 Changes in MHA Screening Data
Speaker: *Paul Gionfriddo*, President and CEO, MHA

Paul Gionfriddo has worked in a variety of health and mental-health related positions during a career spanning more than forty years. He joined MHA in 2014. His policy memoir, Losing Tim: How Our Health and Education Systems Failed My Son with Schizophrenia, was published by Columbia University Press in October 2014. From 2013-2017, he served a four-year term on the National Advisory Council to the SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services. He was a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1979 until 1990, and he served as Mayor of Middletown, CT from 1989-1991.

Equitable Recovery
Speaker: *Anna Bailey*, Senior Policy Analyst, Center on Budget Policy and Priorities

Anna Bailey works at the intersection of health care and housing in effort to advance policies that improve access to health care and affordable housing for people with the greatest barriers—including people with behavioral health needs. Anna began her career working in community mental health in her home state of Kansas. She holds a master's degree in social welfare administration from the University of Kansas and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Medicaid
Speaker: *Adam Searing*, Associate Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy, Center for Children and Families, Georgetown University

Adam Searing is an Associate Professor of the Practice at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families where he focuses on Medicaid and other health coverage programs. Before joining CCF, Mr. Searing served seventeen years as Director of the Health Access Coalition for the North Carolina Justice Center. The Health Access Coalition is North Carolina's leading voice for health reforms that address the needs of the uninsured and underinsured. During his tenure, Searing fought to keep health plans and hospitals nonprofit and community-focused, won and helped

implement expansions of the state Medicaid program, helped pass a model state's Children's Health Insurance Program and worked on passage and implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act.

Maternal Mental Health

Speaker: *Dr. Kanika Harris,* Director of Maternal Health, Black Woman's Health Imperative

Kanika Harris is a behavioral health scientist with over 15 years of experience working in academic, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors. She has worked at the intersections of reproductive health, women's health, HIV/AIDS, and population health with a strong focus on health equity. She possesses a wealth of expertise in social determinants of health and brings a social justice lens to investigating current health issues. Dr. Harris currently serves as the Director of Maternal Health for the Black Women's Health Imperative. Currently she is finishing a research study funded by Merck for Mothers and the Association of Women's Health Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) to understand racial bias among birth and postpartum nurses to inform anti-racist training for nurses. She also serves as the public health expert for the DC Mayor's Lactation Commission. Dr. Harris received her doctoral degree in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of Michigan.

Criminal Justice Reform

Speaker: *Mark Heyrman*, General Counsel, MHA

Mark J. Heyrman recently retired after forty-one years as a Clinical Professor at the University of Chicago Law School. The primary focus of his work at the Law School was to teach law students to be effective advocates through their supervised litigation on behalf of indigent clients with mental illnesses and legislative advocacy on behalf of mental health organizations. In addition to providing legal assistance to thousands of persons with mental illnesses, Mr. Heyrman and his students drafted and helped to enact more than one hundred bills designed to improve mental health services in Illinois. In 1988 he served as Executive Director of the Governor's Commission to Revise the Mental Health Code of Illinois.

Keeping Medicaid Coverage Following Arrest

Speaker: *Chief of Police Frederick Ryan (ret.), Community Relations,* Alkermes

Chief of Police Frederick Ryan served as a police officer in Massachusetts for more than 30 years and he served as Chief of Police in Arlington, Massachusetts, a Metro-Boston jurisdiction, for 20 years. In January of 2019, following a national decades long crusade to change the way law enforcement in America managed cases of mental illness and substance use disorder, he left law enforcement and joined the Community Relations team at Alkermes. He continues his work to improve treatment systems and access for those suffering with serious mental illness and substance use disorder. Chief Ryan served as Vice President of the Massachusetts Major City Police Chiefs Association from 2014 to 2019. He has received numerous professional and community awards and he is well known nationally for his work around behavioral health and addiction public policy.

Telehealth & Interstate Compacts

Speaker: Moe Keller, Director of Advocacy, Mental Health Colorado

Moe Keller has been with Mental Health Colorado since 2010. Prior to that, she served for eight years in the Colorado House of Representatives and eight years in the Colorado Senate, where she concentrated on legislation and policy for individuals who have mental health conditions and for individuals with developmental disabilities. Keller championed and helped pass Colorado's groundbreaking mental health parity laws in 1997 and 2007, legislation restricting use of seclusion and restraint of people experiencing a mental health crisis, and the Colorado Children's Mental Health Treatment Act. Prior to her work in the legislature, Keller was a special education teacher for deaf and

hearing-impaired children for 25 years. She has been married to Stephen Keller for more than four decades and has two adult children.

Parity

Speaker: *David Lloyd*, Senior Policy Advisor, The Kennedy Forum

Mr. Lloyd focuses on a range of behavioral health policy issues, but has devoted much of his time to improving enforcement of the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and state-level parity laws. Previously, Mr. Lloyd was Vice President at Voices for Illinois Children and Director of its Fiscal Policy Center. Mr. Lloyd also has served as a Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. He has a bachelor's in History from Cornell University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Step Therapy

Speaker: *Charlie Husser,* State and Federal Policy, Alliance for Patient Access

Charles Husser works in state and federal government affairs at the Alliance for Patient Access (AfPA). He represents AfPA in stakeholder coalitions across issue areas and disease states and works with the coalitions to advocate on behalf of patients and providers to pass critical legislation. His focus is on legislation involving utilization management tools, which include copay accumulators, non-medical switching, and step therapy, among others. Prior to joining AfPA, Charles spent time as a legislative assistant in the office of Congressman Evan Jenkins of the 3rd District of West Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Virginia Tech and currently resides in McLean, VA.

988 and Crisis Services

Speaker: *Laura Evans*, Program Manager, National and State Policy, Vibrant Emotional Health

Laura Evans currently serves as the Program Manager for National and State Policy for Vibrant Emotional Health, the organization that administers the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Disaster Distress Helpline. In this role, she oversees a portfolio that includes many facets of healthcare policy, including veteran's health care, suicide prevention, scope of practice, and telecommunications policy. Laura began her career in the Ohio General Assembly as a legislative aide.

Mental Health Education in Schools

Speaker: *Amy Molloy, Director, School Mental Health Resource & Training Center*, Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.

Amy is on the board of the Queensbury Union Free School District, Warren County Community Services, and Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health. Amy is an accomplished trainer and presenter and believes that through learning and open conversations we can reduce stigma and promote an understanding of mental health. That is true in both her work and as the parent of three young adults.

Peer Support

Speaker: Kelly Davis, Associate Vice President of Peer and Youth Advocacy, MHA

Kelly's lived experience with mental health diagnoses and trauma are at the center of her passion for transforming how we support individuals and change systems and services. She currently works at MHA in Peer Advocacy, Supports, and Services, where she is involved in promoting peer support, peer certification, youth and young adult leadership, and college mental health. She is passionate about trauma-informed care, peer support, consumer-led transformation,

positive psychology, and civil rights. She serves in an advisory role to the Well Being Trust, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and the Center for Law and Social Policy. In 2019, Kelly was awarded the Disruptive Innovator Award by the International Association of Peer Supporters, an award given to a young person making positive change in mental health through positive disruption.

Model Legislation and Additional Resources

General

2020 State Rankings (MHA Report)
2020 National Screening Data Overview (MHA Brief)

Breakout Session 1: Better Budgeting Before Stage 4 - Medicaid, Maternal Mental Health, Education in Schools, Equitable Recovery

Medicaid Expansion (NCSL Brief)
Maternal Mental Health (Illinois)
Medicaid Coverage Map for Postpartum Women (NASHP Map)
K-12 Education in Schools (New York)

Breakout Session 2: Crisis is Not A Criminal Justice Matter - Crisis Services, Resourcing the 988 Lifeline, Keeping Medicaid Coverage Following Arrest, Peer Support, Criminal Justice Reform

988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline (FAQ with model law)
Criminal Justice Reform (Illinois)
Diversion to Treatment (Illinois)
Competency/Fitness Restoration (Illinois)
Improve Police Interactions (MHA Brief)

Breakout Session 3: Saving Money by Assuring Access - Telehealth, Interstate Compacts, Step Therapy, and Parity

Telehealth (Colorado)
Interstate Compacts (Psypact Toolkit)
Step Therapy (Louisiana)
Parity (Kennedy Forum)

MHA RPC Representatives

Barbara Johnston
Director of Advocacy, MHA in New Jersey
Represents ME, NH, VT, NY, NJ, MA, CT, DE, PA, MD, VA

Ben Harrington
Executive Director, MHA of East Tennessee
Represents IN, KY, NC, SC, TN, AR, LA, TX, MS, GA, FL

Moe Keller
Vice President of Public Affairs and Systems Advocacy, Mental Health Colorado
Represents OK, ND, SD, WY, MT, CO, ID, AZ, NM, UT, NV, WA, OR, CA

Shannah Mulvihill
Executive Director, Mental Health Minnesota
Represents OH, IL, WI, MN, MO, KS, MI, NE, IA, HI

To learn more about MHA's RPC and its upcoming programming visit our website**.**