**Viviana De Los Angeles** has been employed by the Middlesex County Department of Public Safety and Health-Office of Health Services for 13 years. Viviana is the Coordinator of the Regional Chronic Disease Coalition of Middlesex and Union Counties. She is responsible for managing all coalition and grant activities including organizing meetings and events, promoting access to services and expanding coalition membership. In addition to her coalition duties, Ms. De Los Angeles plans, implements, and evaluates bilingual evidence-based health education and community outreach programs. Ms. De Los Angeles is a Master Trainer for the New Jersey Department of Human Service’s Take Control of Your Health Self-Management Programs and is responsible for providing training and technical assistance for peer leaders across the state.

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**Ben Hu's journey** as a peer started almost 20 years ago when he was diagnosed and hospitalized with major depression in 2002. Since his diagnosis, he has learned to accept and live a productive life with his condition. He has earned his BA from Rutgers University and has been working as a peer within the mental health community. He finds that making an impact on the community has been very helpful to him. He particularly enjoys being transparent about the ups and downs in his journey since he has found that people listen closely when he talks about his failures rather than just his accomplishments. Ben inspires people with their own journey by helping them realize that they are human and that recovery is not a linear process.

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Shanee Frazier Eweka lives in Newark, NJ and holds a bachelor’s degree in Communications (Public Relations/Journalism) from Seton Hall University. In addition to working for a behavioral health start-up, she is also a freelance journalist and enjoys writing for local publications and websites. Frazier Eweka is passionate about three things: quality journalism, child welfare, and mental health advocacy. She volunteers as a court appointed special advocate with CASA for Children of Essex County, a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and as an advisory board member for the Gamma Rho chapter of Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority, of which she is a proud sister. Frazier Eweka believes that the advocacy skills that she had to employ in her mental health journey have only made her a stronger voice in these other areas of her life. Through the New Jersey chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness, she is actively involved in the AACT-NOW! Multicultural Outreach Group for African-Americans and the NAMI Signature Program In Our Own Voices. She also currently serves as the AACT-NOW! Northern NJ Regional Coordinator, focusing on outreach and programming about mental health in the Black community in the Northern New Jersey region. Frazier Eweka is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Public Administration with a focus on Healthcare Administration from Rutgers University. She hopes to do research and policy work centered on healthcare disparities in underserved communities. In her free time, she enjoys reading, church ministries, cooking, Broadway/live music shows, cheering on the Philadelphia Eagles, and being a newlywed with her husband David.
Laavanya Pasupuleti is a health and wellness professional who has worked in many different areas of the health care field. As a South Asian American woman, she has successfully overcome innumerable challenges with mental illness and is now thriving and living a meaningful and purpose driven life. This in turn inspired her to volunteer with SAMHAJ to promote education, support and awareness about mental health in the South Asian American community. Laavanya did her Bachelor of Psychology at Rutgers University and her Masters in Public Health from the Rutgers School of Public Health. She currently works as an independent contractor for the biometric screening divisions of Lab Corps and Quest Diagnostics as well as a Peer Recovery Specialist with SAMHAJ.