GROWING THROUGH ADVERSITY
EMBRACING RESILIENCE

FRIDAY
JUNE 18
ANNUAL MEETING
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

SATURDAY
JUNE 19
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
9:00 AM — 4:30 PM

FOR EVENTS ACCESS SUPPORT, CONTACT EVENTS@NAMINJ.ORG
FRIDAY

JUNE 18

ANNUAL MEETING
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

WELCOME
Mark T. Williams, BSN, RN-BC, President, NAMI NJ
Meredith Masin Blount, Executive Director, NAMI NJ

NAMI NJ AWARDS
• Youth Leader Award
• NAMI NJ Dara Axelrod Expressive Arts Mental Health Poetry Contest Awards
  • Poetry reading (1st Place)
  • Spirit Award
  • Diversity and Inclusion Award

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM NAMI NATIONAL
Daniel H. Gillison, Jr., CEO, NAMI

AFFILIATE & INTERN AWARDS
• Affiliate Support Award
• Intern of the Year Award
• Poetry reading (2nd Place)

OUR IMPACT: A YEAR IN REVIEW
Jennifer Hughes, LCSW, Associate Director of Program Quality Assurance
Maggie Luo, MA, Associate Director of Development and Communications

PROGRAM AWARDS
• NAMI Family-to-Family Award
• NAMI Family Support Group Awards
• NAMI Basics Award
• NAMI Connection Awards
• NAMI In Our Own Voice Award

MULTICULTURAL AWARDS
• AACT-NOW Recognition Award
• CAMHOP Recognition Award
• NAMI NJ en Español Recognition Award
• SAMHAJ Recognition Award
• Poetry reading (3rd place)

SPECIAL STAFF RECOGNITION & SYLVIA AXELROD AWARD PRESENTATION
Phil Lubitz, MSW, Associate Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, NAMI NJ

SATURDAY

JUNE 19

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
9:00 AM — 4:30 PM

9:00 AM CONFERENCE OPENS
9:00 AM — 12:00 PM EXHIBITOR VIRTUAL TABLES OPEN
9:00 AM — 9:30 AM EXHIBITOR VIRTUAL TABLES
9:30 AM — 10:00 AM WELCOME
Valerie L. Mielke, MSW, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, NJ Department of Human Services
Mark T. Williams, BSN, RN-BC, President, NAMI NJ
Meredith Masin Blount, Executive Director, NAMI NJ

10:00 AM — 10:45 AM EXHIBITOR VIRTUAL TABLES
10:45 AM — 11:00 AM BREAK

11:00 AM — 12:00 PM AM WORKSHOPS
ADVOCACY 988: Background, What it Means, and What Comes Next for NJ (Breakout Room AM-W1)

COMMUNITY TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE Juneteenth: The Worth and The Work (Breakout Room AM-W2)

EDUCATION NAMI Ending the Silence (ETS) (Breakout Room AM-W3)

OPIOID NJ’s Opioid Crisis: Where We Are, How We Got Here, and What We Can Do? (Breakout Room AM-W4)

12:00 PM — 12:15 PM BREAK

12:15 PM — 12:30 PM AWARDS PRESENTATION

12:30 PM — 2:00 PM ORCHESTRATING CHANGE
Sponsored by Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services
Bring your lunch and enjoy the movie

2:00 PM — 2:15 PM 15 MINUTE BREAK

2:15 PM — 3:15 PM ORCHESTRATING CHANGE PANEL
Sponsored by Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services

3:15 PM — 3:20 PM 5 MINUTE BREAK

3:20 PM — 4:20 PM PM WORKSHOPS
ADVOCACY Overview of WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) (Breakout Room PM-W1)

COMMUNITY TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE Post Traumatic Growth — From Surviving to Thriving (Breakout Room PM-W2)

EDUCATION Community Support Services (CSS) and Housing for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (Breakout Room PM-W3)

OPIOID New Jersey Evidence-Based Practice Initiative: Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders (Breakout Room PM-W4)

4:20 PM — 4:30 PM ADJOURNMENT
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NAMI New Jersey (NAMI NJ) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. Through education, support, advocacy and public awareness programs NAMI NJ fosters understanding, confronts stigma, advocates for public policies, and promotes research.

Learn more at www.naminj.org
(732) 940-0991
info@naminj.org

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instagram.com/nami.nj
youtube.com/c/naminj
linkedin.com/company/nami-nj

You Are Not Alone.
**NAMI NJ YOUTH LEADER AWARD**
This award recognizes a young adult who goes above and beyond in the efforts to overcome stigma and provide hope and healing to those affected by mental illness.

**Bernadette Trendler, Ending the Silence Presenter, NAMI NJ**

**NAMI NJ SPIRIT AWARD**
This award recognizes an individual who embodies the spirit of NAMI NJ: volunteering, inspiring, helpful and hopeful.

**Subha Bolisetty, Northern Regional Coordinator, NAMI NJ SAMHAJ**

**NAMI NJ DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD**
This award recognizes an affiliate or an individual who demonstrates a commitment to diversity and inclusion. One that has shown exemplary efforts in engaging minority communities in programming, services, and in team recruitment.

**Meg Isbitski, LSW, DRCC, Mental Health Administrator, Access & Functional Needs Coordinator, County of Somerset,**
Department of Human Services

**AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP AWARD**
This award recognizes an affiliate leader who demonstrates their dedication, inspiration, and who has made an impact on furthering NAMI NJ’s mission and community service.

**Annie Glynn, Past President, NAMI Sussex, Inc.**

**AFFILIATE SUPPORT AWARD**
This award recognizes an affiliate member who demonstrates empathy, passion, and dedication to supporting those families and individuals affected by mental illness - not only within the organization, but also in their local community and beyond.

**Atlantic/Cape May, Greater Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex/Passaic, Gloucester, Hudson, Middlesex, Mercer, Greater Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren**

**NAMI NJ INTERN OF THE YEAR AWARD**
This award recognizes a NAMI NJ intern who demonstrates leadership, passion, and dedication to our overall mission, and who shows continued commitment and service to the NAMI NJ members and community.

**John Gesumaria, Intern 2020-2021, NAMI NJ**
*MSW Student, Columbia University*

**THE SYLVIA AXELROD AWARD**
This award recognizes an individual for providing tireless service to those affected by mental illness — not only in depth of commitment, but in length of years committed to the cause.

**Phil Lubitz, MSW, Associate Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, NAMI NJ**
NAMI NJ SIGNATURE PROGRAM RECOGNITION AWARDS

This award category recognizes NAMI signature program leaders who have shown exemplary commitment and skills in serving communities through the evidence-based programs.

NAMI FAMILY-TO-FAMILY AWARD

David and Rachel Ludwig

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shagun Agarwal</th>
<th>Lauren Feliciano</th>
<th>Kevin Kane</th>
<th>Johnathan Ordonez</th>
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<td>Nelhy Barreiro</td>
<td>Sue Ferranti</td>
<td>Abbie Katz</td>
<td>Dan Orr</td>
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<td>Beena Bhatcar</td>
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<td>Rob Gleason</td>
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<td>Carmen Reyes Quintero</td>
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<td>David Ludwig</td>
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<td>Lynne Malloy</td>
<td>Maryam Suluki</td>
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<td>Jeri Doherty</td>
<td>Annette Hoffman</td>
<td>Dayana Mataliana</td>
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<td>Helene Kalkay</td>
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<td>Elaine Fehrenbach</td>
<td>Karin Kane</td>
<td>Judy Offner</td>
<td>Donna Williams</td>
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NAMI BASICS AWARD

Tony Wilson, MEd, Sandy Wilson, BSN, RN

NAMI CONNECTION AWARDS

| Nelhy Barreiro            | Lianna DePinto   | Lily Huang | Joan Racey |
| Milan Borde               | John Drinkard   | Jumoke Kolawole | Eric Rauch |
| Alvin Camacho             | Roselin Duenas  | Elena Kravitz | Rupeet Singh |
| Wayne Caprio              | Shanee Frazier Eweka | Viviana De LosAngeles | Jonah Sinowitz |
| Ron Cassmassine           | James Fehrenbach| Megan McCurdy | Marianne Squire-Maszer |
| Victor Chou               | Chris Fiala     | Sharon McKenna | Barbara Stewart |
| Robin Colarusso           | Max Fu          | Patrick Mellin | Gary Tucker |
| Charlie Cramer            | Strawberry Gallagher | Amanda Migden | Wayne Vivian |
| Emily Crowley             | Lauren Haas     | Sara Muang  | Jay Yudof       |
| Robert Cubby              | Pang Yen Hu     | Jeff Newman | Richard Zhang   |
| Shavonne Davis            | Amy Hu          | Laavanya Pasupuleti |           |

NAMI IN OUR OWN VOICE AWARD

Strawberry Gallagher, M.A.
MULTICULTURAL PROGRAM RECOGNITION AWARDS
This award category recognizes multicultural program volunteer leaders who have shown exemplary commitment and passion in serving New Jersey’s diverse communities.

AACT-NOW RECOGNITION AWARD
Lisa Powell, MA, Program Coordinator, AACT-NOW

CAMHOP RECOGNITION AWARD
Maggie Luo, MA, Program Coordinator, CAMHOP
Dan Liu, PhD, Program Assistant, CAMHOP

NAMI NJ EN ESPAÑOL RECOGNITION AWARD
Nelhy Barreiro, BA, Program Coordinator, NAMI NJ en Español

SAMHAJ RECOGNITION AWARD
Beena Bhatcar, BA, Program Coordinator, SAMHAJ

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2020 NAMIWALKS NJ RECOGNITIONS

TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISERS

$5,505 ........................................... Francine Turner
   ATLANTIC CAPE MAY BEACH AND BOARDWALKERS

$3,455 ........................................... Susan Eisenhauer, Susan’s Stigma Busters

$3,065 ........................................... James Wiegand, Jr., Cory Wiegand 12,673-1

$2,625 ........................................... Jeri Hurvitz
   ATLANTIC CAPE MAY BEACH AND BOARDWALKERS

$2,060 ........................................... Beena Bhatcar, Team SAMHAJ

$1,945 ........................................... Nozer Mehta
   Mental Health Warriors- Greater Monmouth

$1,855 ........................................... Bianca Valentin, NAMI Sussex

$1,845 ........................................... Julie Donohue, NAMI Union County

$1,635 ........................................... Annie Glynn, NAMI Sussex

$1,500 ........................................... Marc Hurvitz
   ATLANTIC CAPE MAY BEACH AND BOARDWALKERS

TOP 10 FUNDRAISER TEAMS

$13,990 ........................................... ATLANTIC CAPE MAY BEACH AND BOARDWALKERS

$7,420 ........................................... Mental Health Warriors- Greater Monmouth

$6,615 ........................................... NAMI Sussex

$5,770 ........................................... Burlington Stigma Stompers

$5,496 ........................................... NAMI Union County

$5,425 ........................................... Cory Wiegand 12,673-1

$4,145 ........................................... Susan’s Stigma Busters

$3,592 ........................................... Team SAMHAJ

$2,450 ........................................... CAMHOP

$2,135 ........................................... Team Warren County

TOP 10 SPONSORS

$8,000 ........................................... RWJ Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Network

$3,500 ........................................... Alkermes Pharmaceutical

$3,000 ........................................... GooDeed Title Agency, Inc.

$2,500 ........................................... Hackensack Meridian Health

$1,000 ........................................... Atlanticare Behavioral Health

$1,000 ........................................... East Orange General Hospital

$1,000 ........................................... Edison Sam’s Club

$1,000 ........................................... Janssen Pharmaceuticals, US

$1,000 ........................................... Magyar Bank

$1,000 ........................................... The Kennedy Forum
NAMI NJ DARA AXELROD EXPRESSIVE ARTS MENTAL HEALTH POETRY CONTEST AWARDS

We thank all 39 participating poets and 128 voters for another successful NAMI NJ Dara Axelrod Expressive Arts Mental Health Poetry Contest with the theme “Food” — Fond memories of your favorite food and your attachment to it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP 10 POETS!
1st Place: Labor of Love by Jyoti Singh
2nd Place: Gram’s Fried Green Tomato Pizzas by Sharon Kaye (Guerrazzi)
3rd Place: Memories sealed up by Sharon Ivanauskas
4th Place: Food is Family by Rescuepoetix™
5th Place: El sándwich de Papa by Martha Rodriguez
6th Place: Homemade Soup by Patricia Urban Korsak
7th Place: THE MADNESS by Neelam Chandra
8th Place: Savor by Aditi Tandon
9th Place: LET ME TELL YOU A DIFFERENT STORY by Ojo Taiye
10th Place: Mulberry Mud Pies by Dana I. Hunter

READ OUR WINNING POEMS ON OUR WEBSITE: NAMINJ.ORG/POETRY-CONTEST

COMMENTS FROM THE VOTERS

Congratulations to all the writers – the poems were wonderful!
Excellent evocative work, much admiration to the poets!
Amazing poems that touch the soul.
Incredible Talent!!
Interesting lovely poems, thanks for sharing poets and giving us poetry fans the chance to read and vote. Congrats.
Very well written poems.
All the poems were great. It was difficult to vote!
Love it.
AM W1 988: Background, What it Means, and What Comes Next for NJ

STEPHANIE PASTERNAK
Senior Manager, State Affairs
Advocacy & Public Policy
NAMI

Learn about 988, the plan for a nationwide, three-digit phone number for suicide prevention and mental health crises. Advocacy expert Stephanie Pasternak from NAMI National’s Government Relations, Policy & Advocacy will walk you through the following steps:

- What We Want: Building an ideal crisis response system
- Costs of Inadequate Crisis Care
- Crisis Standard of Care (24/7 Crisis Call Centers, Mobile Crisis Teams, and Crisis Stabilization Programs)
- Where We Are: Recap of Federal 988 Action and What Crisis Services Are Available Now
- What’s Next: State and Local Action Needed

AM W2 Juneteenth: The Worth and The Work

CHANEL MCCORD, MA, LPC, ACS
CEO & Clinical Director
Oasis Wellness Group

Juneteenth: The Worth and The Work will explore the history of Juneteenth and the impact on mental health in black communities. We will take a look at the celebration of not just the holiday but the history behind the day and what next steps need to be taken in order to continue to move forward and heal black communities.
**AM W3**

**NAMI Ending the Silence (ETS)**

**JOHN GESUMARIA**  
*Ending the Silence Presenter*  
NAMI NJ  
*MSW Student, Columbia University*

**BERNADETTE TRENDLER**  
*Ending the Silence Presenter*  
NAMI NJ

50-minute presentation designed for middle and high school students that includes warning signs, facts and statistics and how to get help for themselves or a friend.

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**AM W4**

**NJ's Opioid Crisis: Where We Are, How We Got Here, and What We Can Do?**

**ANGELA CONOVER**  
*Director of Opioid Response and Prevention*  
Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

**ANGELO M. VALENTE**  
*Executive Director*  
Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

New Jersey is in the midst of an opioid crisis with thousands dying each year. This workshop will explore how this epidemic developed, what the current status is and what we can all do to help prevent the crisis from expanding and protect our friends and families.

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MARGIE FRIEDMAN & BARBARA MULTER-WELLIN
Executive Producer/Directors
Orchestrating Change

Margie and Barbara are both EMMY award winning producer/directors with years of non-fiction television experience. They have produced shows for CBS, NBC, ABC, HBO, Showtime, Lifetime, HGTV, Disney Channel and others. Their previous films have aired on PBS including, the prestigious series, “Independent Lens.”

SANDY BARTLETT
Sandy plays flute and piccolo with Me2/Boston. She works full-time and is currently in school getting a degree in biology.

RONALD BRAUNSTEIN
Music Director and Co-founder
Me2/Orchestra

A graduate of The Juilliard School, he won the Gold Medal in the Herbert von Karajan International Conducting Competition. He has conducted the San Francisco Symphony, Berlin Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony, among many others. Mr. Braunstein was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and created Me2/Orchestra to support others who struggle to maintain good mental health.

CAROLINE WHIDDON
Executive Director and Co-founder,
Me2/Orchestra

Caroline has more than two decades of experience in orchestra leadership. She is a past Chair of the Youth Orchestra Division of the League of American Orchestras. Caroline received her Bachelor’s degree in French horn performance from the Eastman School of Music. She was first diagnosed with depression and anxiety disorder nearly 30 years ago. Braunstein and Whiddon launched Me2/in the fall of 2011. They married in 2013.

SPONSORED BY BRIDGEWAY REHABILITATION SERVICES
PM W1  Overview of WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)  
KELLY UHLAND  
Training Coordinator  
Consumer Connections at the Mental Health Association in New Jersey  
This workshop will give a brief overview of the basics of WRAP. Attendees in this workshop will:  
• Acquire the basic components of the WRAP Evidence Base Practice and the mission of the Copeland Center.  
• Learn how to get involved in WRAP personally and professionally.  
• Examine the Key Recovery Concepts and how to look at them broadly and personally.  
• Identify wellness tools; and strategies to help someone stay well in all aspects of someone’s life.  
• Break down each part of the Study of Mental Health Recovery, including WRAP.

PM W2  Post Traumatic Growth — From Surviving to Thriving  
ANAT SAMID, LCSW  
Licensed Psychotherapist  
Rothbart Group, LLC  
Trauma is a response to an experience that is deeply distressing or disturbing. After trauma, many of us are resilient and get back on our feet finding a way to keep going on with life. Some of us have even discovered a powerful journey to a new sense of self, purpose, meaning and community through our suffering. Let’s learn more about Post Traumatic Growth and how to support it in ourselves and others.
PM W3  Community Support Services (CSS) and Housing for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

HARRY REYES, DHSC, LPC, LCADC
Assistant Division Director,
Office of Treatment and Recovery Support
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Department of Human Services

Overview of CSS and housing options for MH/SUD. This workshop will review the DMHAS housing subsidies that are available thru CSS, and SUD availability. Individuals will be able to distinguish and understand housing options from DMHAS vs DCA or other divisions that also offer housing resources.

PM W4  New Jersey Evidence-Based Practice Initiative: Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders

MARIE Verna
Initiative Manager
State Opioid Response (SOR)

Since 2018, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has received funds through the federal State Opioid Response (SOR) grant to implement an Evidence-Based Practice Initiative (EBPI): Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders. The initiative’s purpose is two-fold: 1) To improve provider agencies’ provision of Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); 2) To improve clinical, direct-care staff skills in practicing therapeutic approaches that ensure outcomes meaningful to the people they serve.

In the year of funding of the EBPI, four agencies were chosen through a systematic scoring rubric and received robust technical assistance in the form of executive consultation, readiness assessment, training, coaching, fidelity monitoring and sustainability planning. In the current, second year, six agencies are currently working with JBS International, Inc., the grantee chosen by DMHAS to provide the full array of technical assistance services.
Retiring

AFTER

25 YEARS

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HONOR

Phillip Lubitz, MSW

Associate Director of Advocacy and Public Policy,
NAMI NJ

Phil will be awarded The 2021 Sylvia Axelrod Award

For providing tireless service to those affected by mental illness —
not only in depth of commitment, but in length of years committed to the cause.
MEREDITH MASIN BLOUNT
Executive Director
NAMI NJ

Meredith Masin Blount is the Executive Director of NAMI NJ, a leading voice on mental illness in New Jersey. NAMI New Jersey (NAMI NJ) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. NAMI NJ, in conjunction with its 19 affiliates across the state, held more than 600 support groups, 310 education classes and provided more than 260 presentations in 2019.

Prior to NAMI NJ, Ms. Blount was the Senior Director of Youth Services for New Brunswick Tomorrow. Through this role, Ms. Blount managed the state’s largest School Based Youth Services Program – providing mental health counseling and youth development services to students in New Brunswick Schools. The program had steadily grown over her seven-year tenure and expanded to seven schools, serving more than 1,000 New Brunswick students yearly. Prior to joining New Brunswick Tomorrow, Ms. Blount worked at the New Brunswick Housing Authority; creating the Social Services Department within the agency. She also was an AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteer with the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance in Boston.

Meredith is also a proud wife to a very patient husband and mother to 3 soccer boys: 16, 13, 7. If you do not see her in the office, you can probably hear her cheering on the soccer fields every weekend. Every weekend.

ANGELA CONOVER
Director of Opioid Response and Prevention
Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Angela Conover is the National Media Coordinator for the American Medicine Chest Challenge, the national affiliate of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey and the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey’s Director of Media, Marketing and Community Relations. She coordinates the American Medicine Chest Challenge-New Jersey, the Do No Harm prescriber and faith based education series, and other statewide public service announcement campaigns for the PDFNJ, including Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day. Angela collaborates with municipal alliances, community coalitions and other groups and state agencies to help promote a substance abuse prevention message. She also serves a recovery support advocate for New Jersey.

Angela has presented for CADCA, National Rx and Heroin Abuse Summit, National Health Marketing Conference and numerous events across New Jersey on the opioid issue.
JOHN GESUMARIA  
*Intern 2020-2021*  
NAMI NJ  
*MSW Student, Columbia University*

John Gesumaria will be a second-year MSW student at Columbia University after a ten-year career in business. He recently completed his internship with NAMI NJ in May, assisting on various initiatives such as Ending the Silence. He’s been part of NAMI NJ - Union County for the past ten years, where he presents and participates at NAMI monthly public meetings, guest speaker at Kean University, Union County College, and Crisis Intervention training to share my mental health lived experiences and recovery.

DANIEL H. GILLISON, JR.  
*CEO*  
NAMI

Dan Gillison brings expertise in non-profit leadership and a passion for advocating for people with mental illness to NAMI. Before coming to NAMI, Dan led the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APAF), where he was responsible for strategic planning, personnel management, board communications, oversight of APAF’s public education programs and outreach, and formulating strategic alliances and partnerships to further APAF’s mission. Prior to APAF, Gillison led County Solutions and Innovation for the National Association of Counties (NACo) where he was instrumental in repositioning the organization’s programs to provide expertise in health and human services, justice and public safety. Dan has over 30 years of experience and has previously held leadership positions at Xerox, Nextel, and Sprint. Dan holds a B.A. from Southern University and A&M College.

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EVENTS@NAMINJ.ORG
JENNIFER HUGHES, LCSW  
Associate Director of Program Quality Assurance  
NAMI NJ

Jennifer Hughes, LCSW, is the Associate Director of Program Quality Assurance at The National Alliance on Mental Illness of NJ (NAMI NJ). She has been with NAMI NJ since January 2019 and has worked in the social work field for 6 years.

Jennifer oversees NAMI NJ’s education, support and outreach programming, including, programs specialized for families and those living with a mental illness. Additionally, Jennifer supervises NAMI NJ’s multicultural outreach programs throughout the state. As an Associate Director, Jennifer focuses on program development, evaluation, and expansion across diverse populations. She collaborates with community partners across New Jersey to increase awareness of mental illness.

Jennifer completed her Masters of Science in Social Work at Columbia University in 2015. Jennifer began her career as a mental health clinician and program manager at the School Based Youth Services Program in New Brunswick, NJ. In addition to her work at NAMI NJ, Jennifer works as a therapist at a private practice in Middlesex County, NJ where she works with children, adolescents, adults, and families.
MAGGIE LUO, MA
Associate Director of Development and Communications
NAMI NJ

Xiaomei Maggie Luo is the Associate Director of Development and Communications with the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Jersey (NAMI NJ). She oversees the statewide organization’s public awareness programming, community outreach, online presence, affiliates affairs, donor relations, and fund development. Maggie has almost 20 years of experience in working with immigrant families affected by mental illness in cultivating grassroots awareness on mental health issues and planting community self-help groups in various localities across NJ. She is the founder and coordinator for NAMI NJ’s Chinese American Mental Health Outreach Program since 2003, and recently led a successful restructuring and program alignment effort across NAMI NJ’s four award-winning multicultural outreach programs. Maggie is the recipient of the inaugural NAMI NJ Diversity and Inclusion Award in 2020 for her exemplary efforts in engaging minority communities in program development and team recruitment. She is fluent in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese. Maggie received her master’s degree in communications with a health focus from Rutgers University. She is a member of her local public school’s Special Needs Parent Teacher Organization advocating for students with learning disabilities. Maggie is also a member of her local Church where she has served as a Sunday School head teacher for special needs youth and young adults for the past decade.

FOR EVENTS ACCESS SUPPORT, CONTACT EVENTS@NAMINJ.ORG
CHANEL MCCORD, MA, LPC, ACS
CEO & Clinical Director
Oasis Wellness Group

Chanel McCord is the CEO and Clinical Director of Oasis Wellness Group. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the State of New Jersey and an Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS). Chanel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Master of Arts in Professional Counseling and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Counselor Education & Supervision. Chanel is also a Licensed Minister. As part of her clinical work, Chanel specializes in working with women and black men who are experiencing unfulfillment in their lives and having lost their voice due to unprocessed trauma. Chanel utilizes the power of strength identification, storytelling and emotional processing to assist her clients in reaching restoration and healing to begin living a more fulfilled life. Chanel also provides faith-based Christian spirituality integration into her therapeutic practices to assist clients who are struggling with or wanting to explore their spirituality. Chanel is a well sought after Speaker and Workshop Facilitator. She is passionate about spreading mental health awareness, breaking stigma, normalizing therapy and helping others to embrace their humanity. Chanel utilizes her speaking platform to drive home these messages and empower the listening audience to be moved to action. To stay in contact with Chanel you can follow her on Facebook @ Oasis Wellness Group, Instagram @OasisWellnessGroup or LinkedIn at Chanel McCord or visit the website at www.OasisWellnessGrp.org.

FOR EVENTS ACCESS SUPPORT, CONTACT EVENTS@NAMINJ.ORG
VALERIE L. MIELKE, MSW
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
NJ Department of Human Services

Valerie Mielke is the Assistant Commissioner for the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) in the Department of Human Services and serves as the Single State Agency (SSA) for Substance Abuse and the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) as designated by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Division is responsible for the coordination, administration, management and supervision of the community public mental health system, and is also responsible for regulating, monitoring, planning and funding substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery support services. Ms. Mielke holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fairfield University and a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University.

Valerie currently serves on the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) Board of Directors as the President. NASMHPD’s goal is to advance national, state and local mental health policy. Additionally, Valerie serves as a board member of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) Public Policy Committee. NASADAD’s goal is to advance national, state and local addiction policy.

Valerie was recently appointed to the National Justice Counts Steering Committee which is being led by The Council of State Governments Justice Center. This is a new national consensus-building initiative designed to improve the availability and utility of criminal justice metrics/ data that can drive budget and policy decisions. Valerie also serves on the US DHHS, SAMHSA National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts’ Response to Mental Illness.

STEPHANIE PASTERNAK
Senior Manager, State Affairs
Advocacy & Public Policy
NAMI

Stephanie Pasternak serves as Senior Manager of State Affairs for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), where she tracks and analyzes state mental health policy developments. Pasternak works closely with NAMI State Organizations to help advance their policy priorities, advise on advocacy strategy, and explain NAMI’s federal policy actions.
HARRY REYES, DHSC, LPC, LCADC
Assistant Division Director,
Office of Treatment and Recovery Support
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Department of Human Services

In DMHAS, the Office of Treatment and Recovery Supports, Dr. Reyes oversees numerous units and services such as: Community Support Services (CSS); DMHAS Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder housing subsidies, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) services, Acute Care services, Justice Involved services, Intoxicated Driving Program, Women and Infants SUD services, and Workforce Development.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Reyes has worked within the mental health and addictions field as a case manager, advocate and clinician. He currently develops policy and procedures for the states neediest consumers and oversees a budget of $500 million for treatment, training and housing.

Dr. Reyes is a licensed professional counselor (LPC); a licensed clinical drug and alcohol counselor (LCADC). Harry holds a BA in Psychology from Trenton State College; an MA in Human Services from Lincoln University; a Doctor of Health Sciences (DHSc) from Nova Southeastern University.

ANAT SAMID, LCSW
Licensed Psychotherapist
Rothbart Group, LLC


BERNADETTE TRENDLER
Ending the Silence Presenter
NAMI NJ

Bernadette Trendler currently manages a wellness center at a mental health non-profit organization. Through her own journey with mental health challenges, it’s been a dream of hers to give back the love that was shown to her during her own healing. As a peer specialist, WRAP facilitator and volunteer with NAMI Ending the Silence Initiative, this dream has truly come to life. Now, her sights are set on sharing the healing nature of mindful movement through yoga.
**SPEAKERS**

### KELLY UHLAND

*Training Coordinator*

Consumer Connections at the Mental Health Association in New Jersey

Kelly Uhland is the Training Coordinator for Consumer Connections at the Mental Health Association in New Jersey. She is certified by the Copeland Center as an Advanced Level WRAP facilitator, is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner, a Master Digital Peer Support Trainer and is currently pursuing the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Credential. Kelly has worked in a variety of direct service settings in community mental health and is committed to supporting the peer workforce. She strongly believes in the magic of WRAP and is excited to share this tool with different settings and populations throughout the state of New Jersey.

### ANGELO M. VALENTE

*Executive Director*

Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Angelo M. Valente has been the Executive Director of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey since its inception in 1992 and has led the organization to become the largest continuous Public Service Campaign in New Jersey’s history. Twice recognized by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, under Angelo’s leadership the organization has also been recognized by the National Association of Government Communicators for the most effective public health education campaign in the country.

In addition, in 2009, Mr. Valente was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the American Medicine Chest Challenge (AMCC), a national public health initiative to raise awareness of the issue of prescription drug abuse and maintain a National Directory of Permanent Prescription Drug Collection sites.

Mr. Valente was named NJ-TV’s “Everyday Hero” for his leadership and resourcefulness in addressing the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic. He was also inducted into the New Jersey Advertising Club Hall of Fame. Mr. Valente was only a handful of non-medical professionals named to the NJBIZ 2019 Health Care Power 50 list.

Mr. Valente received a Bachelor of Arts degree at Montclair State University and Masters’ Degrees from both Fairleigh Dickinson University and Seton Hall University.

A life-long resident of Hoboken, Angelo and his wife are the proud parents of three daughters.
MARIE Verna, MPAP  
*Initiative Manager*  
State Opioid Response (SOR)

Marie Verna works as an Initiative Manager for the federal State Opioid Response (SOR) grant implementing several innovative programs to provide low-barrier access to medications for substance use disorder. Prior to working at DMHAS, Ms. Verna worked at the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Training Institute and the Mental Health Association of New Jersey. Marie received her Master's in Public Affairs and Politics from the Rutgers Bloustein School of Public Policy.

MARK T. WILLIAMS, BSN, RN-BC  
*President*  
NAMI NJ

Mark T. Williams, BSN, RN-BC, is Board President of NAMI New Jersey. He is a retired Psychiatric Staff Nurse with over 40 years of experience in various roles and settings, including adult and adolescent inpatient, psychiatric emergency dept., outpatient services, the state hospital psychiatric system and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ (UMDNJ-Rutgers), University Behavioral HealthCare, Behavioral Research and Training Institute. He is ANCC Board Certified in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, certified as a Juvenile Sex Offender Training and Consultation Specialist, and trained as a Tobacco Dependence Treatment Specialist. Mr. Williams is an Honored Fellow of the Minority Nurse Leadership Institute, Rutgers School of Nursing, has trained at the Multicultural Leadership Academy sponsored by the Mental Health Association in New Jersey. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ. Although retired, he continues to be a devoted and passionate advocate for the rights of persons diagnosed with mental illness. He has successfully lobbied the Borough Council of North Plainfield and the County of Somerset Freeholders to pass resolutions establishing the Borough and County as Mental Health Stigma Free Zones. He sits on the Boards of several non-profit behavioral health services delivery organizations in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Due to family and friends living with mental illness, Mr. Williams is dedicated to the work of eliminating the number one barrier to services, stigma, which is NAMI’s paramount important goal of elimination.
Middlesex County continues its County-wide campaign to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and addiction!

We seek to promote a message of hope and the belief that healing and recovery are attainable. We choose to believe in and celebrate strength and resilience, rather than focus on illness and disability.

We ask you to join us in this campaign to eliminate stigma in Middlesex County, and to stand with those impacted by mental illness and addiction.

#STAMPOUTSTIGMA
#MIDDLESEXCOUNTYSTANDSAGAINSTSTIGMA!

For additional information about the Middlesex County Campaign to End Stigma, please contact: 
Elisabeth.marchese@co.middlesex.nj.us.
NJAMHAA congratulates
Phil Lubitz, MSW
for achieving tremendous impact
throughout his career for New Jersey’s
families living with mental illness, as well as
for the rest of the system.

Debra L. Wentz, PhD, President & CEO
New Jersey Association of Mental Health
and Addiction Agencies
3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 35, Mercerville, NJ 08619
www.njamhaa.org
**E1**

**Behavioral Crossroads**

**PRO RECOVERY SOLUTIONS, LLC & COMPANIES**

206 W. Parkway Drive, Suite 1B
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234

**Michael DiMarco**  
Director of Business Development  
md@prorecsol.com  
609-457-4835 C / 609-645-2500 x 138  
prorecsol.com

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**E2**

**Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services**

**BRIDGEWAY REHABILITATION SERVICES**

615 N. Broad Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

**Lisa Giannascoli**  
Director of Marketing and Development  
Lisa.Giannascoli@bridgewayrehab.org  
212-585-4657  
bridgewayrehab.org

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**E3**

“Middlesex County Campaign to End Stigma.”

**Stigma Free Campaigns**

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ENDING THE STIGMA CAMPAIGN**

75 Bayard Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

For additional information about the Middlesex County Campaign to End Stigma, please contact: **Elisabeth Marchese**  
Behavioral Health Planner, Middlesex County Division of Addiction & Mental Health Planning, Office of Human Services  
Elisabeth.marchese@co.middlesex.nj.us

**Campaign letter and pledge:**  
www.middlesexcountynj.gov/stigmapledge  
#StampOutStigma  #MiddlesexCountyStandsAgainstStigma!
E4
“Orchestrating Change”
A documentary about the world’s only orchestra fighting mental health stigma.

**ORCHESTRATING CHANGE**

Margie Friedman  
*Co-Executive Producer/Director “Orchestrating Change”*  
310-418-0846

Barbara Multer-Wellin  
*Co-Executive Producer/Director “Orchestrating Change”*  
818-298-7231

orchestratingdoc@gmail.com  
orchestratingchangethefilm.com

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E5
**Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey**

PARTNERSHIP FOR A  
**DRUG-FREE NEW JERSEY**

155 Millburn Avenue  
Millburn NJ 07041

Angela Conover  
*Director of Opioid Response and Prevention*  
conover@drugfreenj.org  
201-916-1030  
drugfreenj.org/
E6
Rutgers University Institute of Health
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, HEALTH CARE POLICY AND AGING RESEARCH
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
112 Paterson St.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Mariely Moronta-Sanchez
Director, Community Outreach
mmorontasanchez@ifh.rutgers.edu
ifh.rutgers.edu/

E7
Schizophrenia Spectrum Biomarkers Consortium (SSBC)
Finding Objective Biomarkers For Schizophrenia

ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AT MOUNT SINAI
1425 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10029

ssbc@mssm.edu
212-585-4657
icahn.mssm.edu

Information about other research programs at Mt Sinai School of Medicine can be found on the Behavioral Health Website and the Coping with Unique Experiences Website.
E8
Suicide Prevention Resources from DMHAS
NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
5 Commerce Way, Suite 100
Trenton, NJ 08625

800-382-6717
state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/home/

E9
Summit Oaks Hospital
SUMMIT OAKS HOSPITAL
19 Prospect Street
Summit, NJ 07902

Hannah Blank, MA, MSW, LSW
Community Relations Representative
hannah.blank@uhsinc.com
908-376-9096
summitoakshospital.com

E10
The Mental Health Association in New Jersey
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN NEW JERSEY
35 Bearverson Blvd, Unit 5B,
Brick, NJ 08723

Kelly Uhland
Consumer Connections Training Co-ordinator
Kuhland@mhanj.org, wrap@mhanj.org
732-451-4502
mhanj.org/
For more information, or to purchase the DVD or complete concert CD, go to:
orchestratingchangethefilm.com