

WELCOME TO THE 19TH ANNUAL CHRIS ASHMAN WELLNESS AND RECOVERY CONFERENCE

EMPLOYMENT: THE PATHWAY TO
WELLNESS AND RECOVERY



EMPLOYMENT: THE PATHWAY TO WELLNESS AND RECOVERY

Employment has historically been perceived as a disincentive in the system of disability services and in the process of receiving benefits, but that is changing. Research has shown that employment needs to be incentivized because it aids in an individual's overall wellness, and is an effective tool in the process of recovery. The disability services organizations are working collectively to ensure that people with disabilities be made aware of their ability to work while keeping their benefits, simultaneously being able to move toward higher levels of independence.

Employment is just one tool to wellness. Our comprehensive system of services provides multiple pathways to wellness and recovery. It is essential to meet people where they are at; if employment does not serve the person at a moment in time, then employment can be discussed at a time that the individual is ready to move toward those steps. Sometimes, meeting a person where they are at means connecting with the individual in a moment of crisis or in a time they need to connect with another human being to navigate a difficult period in life. The Orange County Crisis Call Center and Dutchess County Stabilization Center are available tools in this type of moment. Individuals can utilize crisis services to remain well and in the community, also encouraging continuity of employment.

We are thrilled to bring together experts and professionals from various organizations to explore the vital role of employment as a pathway to wellness and recovery. We hope that this conference will spark meaningful conversations, provide new insights, and provide practical solutions for individuals to thrive in the workplace and beyond through the help of their support networks. Thank you for joining us and we look forward to a productive, transformative and inspiring conference.



Chris Ashman retired as the Commissioner of the Orange County Department of Mental Health in 2012.

Throughout his career and thereafter, Mr. Ashman has been a true champion for people with disabilities.

Mr. Ashman spearheaded the very first Mental Health Wellness and Recovery Conference in 2002 which is now an annual event named in his honor.

We thank him for his innumerable contributions to the service system and his dedicated support over the years.

19th Annual Chris Ashman Wellness and Recovery Conference

EMPLOYMENT: THE PATHWAY TO WELLNESS AND RECOVERY

PROGRAM AGENDA

| | |
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| 8:00 AM | Registration and Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM | Welcoming Remarks by Doug Hovey, Darcie Miller and Nolly Climes |
| 9:15 AM | Keynote Presentation - Nicole Haggerty - OMH - Employment: The Pathway to Wellness and Recovery |
| 10:00 AM | Panel Presentation - Facilitated by Joe Marrone Access Supports for Living - Evelyn Cintron and Gregg Knowles Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation - Colleen Long-Cestaro New York Connects - Benefits Advisement - Ian Weinstein, Outreach Specialist Career Center of Orange County - Veronica Jones |
| 11:30 AM | Presentation - Steve Miccio, CEO of People USA - The benefits of Supportive Crisis Stabilization Centers |
| 11:55 AM | Presentation - Angela Jo Henze, Executive Director of MHA Orange - Orange County Crisis Call Center: A Crisis Stabilization Center Without Walls |
| 12:20 PM | Q & A |
| 12:30 PM | NARCAN Training & Lunch |

SUNY Orange - Newburgh Campus
April 20, 2023
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.



www.myindependentliving.org/wellnessconference

MEET THE PRESENTERS

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND WELLNESS PROFESSIONALS



JOE MARRONE

Senior Program Manager, Retired
for Public Policy
at the Institute for Community Inclusion



NICOLE HAGGERTY

Deputy Director for the
Division of Adult Community
Care at the NYS Office of
Mental Health



ANGELA JO HENZE

Executive Director
at Mental Health Association
of Orange County



GREGG KNOWLES

Assistant Director of
Employment Services and
Workforce Partnerships
at Access Supports for Living



EVELYN CINTRON

Assistant Director of
Employment Services
at Access Supports for Living



VERONICA JONES

Disability Resource Coordinator
at Career Center
of Orange County



IAN WEINSTEIN

Outreach Specialist
at New York Connects



STEVE MICCIO

Chief Executive Officer
at People USA



COLLEEN

LONG-CASTERO
Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
at ACCES-VR



Joe Marrone

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER, RETIRED
FOR PUBLIC POLICY
AT THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Joe Marrone is a recently retired Senior Program Manager for Public Policy at the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMASS Boston. Currently, he is a contracted consultant and Program Director of an online project Mental Health and Employment. Recently, Joe has been working with Tribal and Alaska Native Vocational Rehabilitation programs across the country on various projects.

Joe has over 40 years' direct service and administrative experience in delivering rehabilitation services and community mental health. He was Coordinator of Training for Vocational Rehabilitation. He was the Associate Director of the largest community mental health center in Washington State and had a 17-year career in public Vocational Rehabilitation. He has consulted, trained and lectured in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Asia, and Europe.

He lectured and published extensively on policy and program issues in employment services and mental health.



Nicole Haggerty

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE
DIVISION OF ADULT COMMUNITY CARE AT THE
NYS OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Nicole Haggerty, LMHC is the Deputy Director for the Division of Adult Community Care at the NYS Office of Mental Health. Nicole works in her current role providing program and policy direction and oversight for adult mental health services, including outpatient treatment, rehabilitation services, care coordination, employment services and new initiatives to support the rapidly growing and evolving needs of the community.

Nicole and her team provide technical assistance and guidance to providers through a recovery lens. Nicole works closely with stakeholders to develop and implement policy pertaining to healthcare reform, including increasing access for community-based services, integrated care, and addressing the social determinant needs of individuals seeking services and supports.

Prior to her time with OMH, Nicole worked as a provider in programs such as the OMH PROS program, care management, discharge facilitation, a children's day program, and OMH housing. Nicole has post-graduate training in psychotherapy and experience in private practice where she worked with individuals, couples and families.



Angela Jo Henze

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AT MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF ORANGE COUNTY

Angela Jo Henze, M.A., Executive Director, has been with Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. (MHA) since April 2004. Previously, Ms. Henze was the Executive Director of a non-profit organization specializing in crisis management and enhancing the services of emergency personnel. She has over 30 years' experience in administration, program development, crisis response, facilitation, quality control, incident review, policy development, program evaluation and service delivery.

Ms. Henze is a recognized facilitator in Orange County for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Question, Persuade and Refer Suicide Postvention, Safe TALK, Daily Living Activity for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder and Youth. She is a trainer for new police recruits and Stages of Change through the county-wide WELCOME Orange orientation for new employees. Ms. Henze is an instructor for the Credentialed Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Counselor program, NYS Impaired Driver Program, and National Traffic Safety Institute Defensive Driving. She is also an active member in many local committees and groups.

Ms. Henze is a firm believer in the importance of "Joy in Work" and having a good balance between work and personal life/family. She finds joy in spending time with family, friends and her fur-babies.



Gregg Knowles

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS
AT ACCESS SUPPORTS FOR LIVING

Gregg Knowles is the Assistant Director of Employment Services and Workforce Partnerships at Access Supports for Living. In this role, he oversees supported employment for behavioral services programs, including Supported Housing, PROS, and the Clinic. He provides strategic leadership to advance employment and increased quality of life for people with mental health challenges; this includes people who were previously homeless, young people transitioning out of foster care, individuals in recovery from substance use disorder and veterans.

Prior to joining Access in 2016, he ran his own career consulting practice and previously worked for JP Morgan Chase, where he was Vice President and Head of University Relations & Recruiting.



Evelyn Cintron

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
AT ACCESS SUPPORTS FOR LIVING

Evelyn Cintron is an Assistant Director of Employment Services at Access Supports for Living.

Evelyn has been with Access Supports for Living (formerly Occupations, Inc.) for 24 years. She leads the teams that provide Supported Employment to individuals referred by Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).



Veronica Jones

DISABILITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR
AT CAREER CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY

Veronica Jones is the Disability Resource Coordinator for the Career Center of Orange County. She is a Disability Program Navigator. Veronica works to assist customers with disabilities to access and navigate the various programs and services that impact their ability to gain, return to, or retain employment.

Prior to her role as Disability Resource Coordinator, Veronica was a Case Manager for the Employment and Training Department and served as Equal Employment Opportunity Officer for the Career Center.

In 2011, Veronica became a Community Partner Work Incentive Coordinator. The role of the CPWIC is to provide job placement and employment support services to individuals who receive SSDI and SSI cash benefits based on their disability.

Veronica served on the Orange Sullivan County Employment Alliance Network Committee (OSCEAN) for several years in various capacities and has collaborated with multiple community based organizations over the years to assist people with disabilities with obtaining and maintaining employment.



Ian Weinstein

OUTREACH SPECIALIST
AT NEW YORK CONNECTS
INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC. AND
WESTCHESTER INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER

Ian Weinstein is a graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz and has worked in the Human Services field for over 25 years. Ian began his career assisting families and individuals with developmental disabilities at Ulster-Greene ARC (now “The Arc of Ulster-Greene”). In 2001, he started working for Independent Living, Inc. to staff a new grant program supporting individuals who received federal disability benefits when they began the journey to employment or re-employment, ultimately managing the program from 2003-2017. Currently, Ian works as an Outreach Specialist for NY Connects, where he assists with setting up a variety of long term care services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities. Much of Ian’s work and expertise revolves around the application for, and maintenance of benefits and entitlements such as Medicaid, Social Security Disability Insurance, Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), among others.

Ian is married to Cecille Castillon-Weinstein, who was just named as one of Hudson Valley’s Top “40 under 40” by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce for her growing Pepper Executive Concierge business.



Steve Miccio

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AT PEOPLE USA

Steve Miccio is Chief Executive Officer of People USA. His journey with the organization started in 1999. Inspired and driven by his personal lived experience, Steve has spent over two decades creating, providing, and promoting innovative crisis response services across the U.S. and internationally. These services provide our guests with person-centered communication, trauma-informed care, empathy, and positive expectations for their recovery & overall wellness. Steve's unique models and approaches significantly reduce hospital utilization, incarceration rates, and overall healthcare spending.

Some of Steve's professional highlights with People USA include:

- First in the United States to embed peers in a hospital psych. ER, paving the way for a evidence-based practice standard today.
- Created the Dutchess County Stabilization Center; first peer-run crisis stabilization center in the United States.
- Created the Transitional Care Wellness Team model, a unique hybrid of transitional care management and wellness coaching.
- Created the Westchester Forensic Mobile Crisis & Response Team
- Organized and provided Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to hundreds of law enforcement throughout New York.



Colleen Long-Castero

SENIOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELOR
AT ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Colleen graduated with a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from The University of Scranton.

Her first job in the field was job coaching. She has been working with Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) since 2017 and is currently working as a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in the Middletown Satellite Office of the Mid-Hudson Office.



RESOURCES FROM TODAY

AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER TO BRIDGE SERVICE GAPS

Independent Living, Inc. (ILI)

A cross-disability resource center for Advocacy; Benefits Advisement; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services; Education Advocacy; Employment Services; Family Services; Home Care Services (CDPAS); Mental Health Services - Case Management, Forensic Connections, Recovery Center Services; Self-Directed Care; Transition and Diversion; Supported and Supportive Housing; Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

WWW.MYINDEPENDENTLIVING.ORG

Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. (RSS)

A resource for individuals with psychiatric and substance use disorders, providing services and opportunities for meaningful emotional, social, vocational and educational growth.

WWW.REHAB.ORG





RESOURCES FROM TODAY

**AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER TO
BRIDGE SERVICE GAPS**



New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)

Promotes the positive mental health of New Yorkers. Offers crisis services. OMH operates psychiatric centers across NY. OMH also certifies and oversees more than 4,500 programs offered by local nonprofit agencies.

WWW.OMH.NY.GOV

Mental Health Association of Orange County (MHA)

Promotes the positive mental health and emotional well-being of Orange County residents. Provides crisis services, community-based programs, family support, housing programs, and more.

WWW.MHAORANGENY.COM

Access Supports For Living (ASFL)

Assists those who live with the challenges associated with developmental disabilities and behavioral health issues live healthy and full lives. Services include care coordination, counseling, living skills, housing, and more.

WWW.ACCESSSUPPORTS.ORG





RESOURCES FROM TODAY



AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER TO BRIDGE SERVICE GAPS

Career Center of Orange County

Provides employment and training services under specific grants as established by the federal government. Services include assessment, career services, counseling, job placement, job search, tuition assistance and training, and more.

WWW.ORANGECOUNTYGOV.COM/352/EMPLOYMENT-TRAINING

New York Connects

Provides free, unbiased information and assistance. We can help you link to long term services and supports, such as home care, transportation and meals. Our goal is to help individuals remain in their homes as long as possible.

WWW.NYCONNECTS.NY.GOV

People USA

People USA is a peer-run mental health nonprofit that creates, provides, and promotes its own, innovative crisis response & wellness services.

WWW.PEOPLE-USA.ORG

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

Assists individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living through training, education, rehabilitation, and career development.

WWW.ACCES.NYSED.GOV/VR



Conference Notes

KEYNOTE

PRESENTATIONS

NETWORKING

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

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CONTINUING
EDUCATION CREDIT
PROVIDED BY
**TRAUMA INSTITUTE OF
ORANGE COUNTY**

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:
NOLLY CLIMES**

WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GUIDANCE, SUPPORT AND
LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS. WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST
ON YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!