



Biographies

Paul Acker is currently the Assistant Executive Director of Focus On Recovery – United, a peer-run organization in Middletown and the Program Director of their peer bridge program, Anatar miTana. Anatar miTana is a pioneering program, working with people who seem stuck in the revolving door of civil commitment. Paul started working in the system in 2006 at InterCommunity in East Hartford, where he was quickly promoted to Coordinator of Social Rehabilitation. During this time Paul established himself as a leader in the peer community and a voice for improving the lives of persons diagnosed with a mental illness. Paul is also the co-chair of the Keep The Promise Adult Committee, a statewide Mental Health advocacy organization.

Virginia Adams is a person in long term recovery and has been working in human services for more than 20 years. Virginia has worked in the nonprofit sector all of her life because she believes in the inherent strengths within the community she serves. Virginia graduated from Springfield College with a Bachelor of Science in Human Services. She is passionate about recovery and uses her life experiences and academic study to assist, support and encourage those in the recovery community. Virginia joined CCAR's team in 2011 and is the full time Volunteer Coordinator at the Hartford Recovery Community Center.

Colette Anderson, LCSW is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Women's Consortium (CWC). She has spent over 30 years working in behavioral health. Her experience includes presenting and speaking on trauma-informed programs and co-chairing both the Trauma and Gender (TAG) Practice Improvement Collaborative and Women's Service Practice Improvement Collaborative (WSPIC) for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Prior to working at the CWC, Colette has worked at Connecticut Valley Hospital, Connecticut Mental Health Center, and was the Chief Executive Officer at the Western Connecticut Mental Health Network. She has a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Connecticut.

Charles Atkins, MD is the Chief Medical Officer at Community Mental Health Affiliates, LLC (CMHA) in New Britain CT. He is a board-certified psychiatrist, published author, professional speaker and clinical trainer. He writes both non-fiction and fiction, including books on Co-occurring Disorders (PESI), Bipolar Disorder and Alzheimer's Disease (Sourcebooks). His recent novels include the Barrett Conyors forensic thriller series (Llewellyn and Severn House), and The Lil and Ada Connecticut cozies (Severn House). Dr. Atkins has written hundreds of articles, columns, and shorts stories for professional and popular magazines, newspapers, and journals. He is a member of the Yale volunteer clinical faculty. He's been a regular contributor to the American Medical Association's *American Medical News*, a consultant to the Reader's Digest Medical Breakthrough series, and his work has appeared in publications ranging from *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* to *Writer's Digest Magazine*. He has been featured twice in the *New York Times*, as well as many other publications.

Patricia Baker was named president & CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health) in March 2002 after serving as executive director since CT Health was established in July 1999. Immediately prior, Patricia served as the national program director for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and as director of Connecticut government programs at Oxford Health Plans. This long-time women's health advocate also served as executive director of Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, associate executive director of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, and executive director of The Women's Center in southeastern Wisconsin.

Sam Ball is a clinical psychologist and Professor of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine where he has worked in the Division of Substance Abuse for the past 25 years overseeing various education, training, faculty development, and research programs. He has also held several leadership positions at The APT Foundation, directing outpatient, residential, and research programs for people with drug addiction problems. More recently, he assumed the position of President and CEO of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University and is in the process of establishing a CASA research and policy program at Yale. Dr. Ball's clinical, educational, and research interests have focused on psychotherapy and diagnosis, particularly for persons suffering from the most common form of co-occurring disorder -- substance use and personality disorders.

Madelon Baranoski, PhD, is an Associate Professor, Yale University, Law and Psychiatry Division, and has earned a PhD in Developmental Psychology and Clinical Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Baranoski has also obtained a MSN from Yale University and served as a nurse in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps from 1969 to 1972. Currently she serves as the Director of the New Haven Diversion Project at CMHC. Dr. Baranoski has held numerous professorships and received several honors, including the Surgeon General's Academic Award, the Annie W. Goodrich Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Outstanding Alumnae Award from Yale School of Nursing, and the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Connecticut Psychiatric Society. Dr. Baranoski has participated in a countless number of research projects and has authored many scholarly articles in her fields.

Chyrell D. Bellamy, PhD, MSW, is the Director of Peer Services/ Research and is an Assistant Professor of Yale University's Department of Psychiatry, Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH). Dr. Bellamy has experience as a frontline service provider, community educator and organizer, as a community and academic researcher, and as a person in recovery. Her expertise includes developing and conducting community-based research initiatives; involving and partnering with people living with mental illness, substance abuse, and HIV; and research on sociocultural experiences and pathways to recovery in prevention and treatment. Dr. Bellamy received her PhD in the Joint program in Social Work and Social Psychology from the University of Michigan and her MSW (health social work) and BA (psychology) from Rutgers University. She completed a Post-doctoral Fellowship at the Center for Mental Health and Criminal Justice Research at Rutgers University. In her capacity as Director of Peer Services and Research, Dr. Bellamy provides instruction on peer curricula development and training based on her research and practice experience with peer employees since 1993 (beginning with women living with HIV); training of peers to conduct research; and research and evaluation on the effectiveness of peer support.

Patricia Benedict is a member of the Abenaki Nation of the Odanak reservation in Canada. She is also a member of the Connecticut Native American community and for sixteen years, was employed by American Indians for Development, Inc. She served on the Connecticut Indian Legislative Task Force, co-organized the Black Rock Powwow and co-directed a substance abuse prevention program for the Native American Awareness Program. Ms. Benedict is currently the Program Director of the Citizens Project, a program providing community reentry supports in the form of educational classes, peer supports, and valued role assignments—to individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds with a history

of mental illness and/or co-occurring diagnoses who have a recent history of criminal incarceration. She provides training and supervision of Peer Support staff for several community-based reentry projects. Ms. Benedict works in the Peer Services and Research Area at the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH) and assists in development and implementation of peer training initiatives both locally and nationally. She created and implemented the Forensic Peer Support Training curriculum and has conducted training for peers and supervisors on the curriculum. In 2009, Ms. Benedict received the Leadership Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA).

Carl Bordeaux has been employed with VA Connecticut Healthcare System as a Certified Peer Specialist for the past 6 years. Carl has been working in the Connecticut recovery community since 2006 when he worked as a Case Manager and Spiritual Development Counselor within the ATR (Access to Recovery) program. Carl is a Certified Recovery Coach, Certified Recovery Coach Trainer, Certified WRAP Facilitator, and is certified in Mental Health First Aid. Carl has completed the Connecticut Peer Leadership Academy training, and training in Forensic Peer Support. Carl is actively involved in the Connecticut community as a member of the New Haven Family Alliance, Male Involvement Network; the Trauma and Gender Practice Improvement Collaborative; and is on the Editorial Board of the Trauma Matters Newsletter. Carl is currently president of CTPRA, Inc. (Connecticut Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association), the Connecticut Chapter of PRA (Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, Inc.). Carl has 3 children and 8 grandchildren. He enjoys reading, nature, working out, and spending time with family, friends, and the faith community.

Ellen S. Boynton is the Director of the Office of Multicultural Healthcare Equality (OMHE) for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. An overall goal of OMHE is to have impact on the reduction of health disparities. Ellen's passion for impacting health inequities is reflected in her work. Her background includes management and development of training, facilitation, and the implementation of multicultural training programs, institutes and training of trainers to meet the mandate of providing cultural competency training for DMHAS staff in state operated facilities and private non – profits. She oversees the DMHAS Statewide Multi Cultural Advisory Council, is the Vice President of The CT Multicultural Health Partnership and is a 2013 Fellow of the CT Health Foundation.

Simon Bradstreet took up the post of Network Director with the Scottish Recovery Network in 2004, establishing the organization and leading efforts to promote and support recovery based approaches across the country. Since then recovery has become a central theme in Scottish policy and practice, extensively influencing service provision in mental health and more widely.

Richard Breton is an engaged Citizen with lived experience, founding member of Reprendre Pouvoir - a user-led community organization, and peer research assistant in the International Program for Participatory Action Research.

Billy Bromage is the Director of Community Organizing for the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health and the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven. He is a social worker and a community organizer. He earned his MSW from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work in 2012. Prior to earning his MSW, he was the Social Program Manager at Fellowship Place, the social rehabilitation clubhouse program in New Haven, for five years. Billy focuses on working with people in recovery, peer workers, other mental health professionals, neighborhood leaders and residents, and local elected officials to create settings, in which people living with mental illnesses can contribute to the life of their communities in ways that are valuable to them and to their communities. Through partnerships that maximize shared decision making in the planning and execution of community-based

projects, he works with colleagues and partners to improve the communities in which they live and work.

Carlos Correa was born in Pennsylvania, but raised in Salinas, Puerto Rico. In June 2004, one month after his high school graduation, he left home for Fort Sill, Oklahoma and a short time later, completed basic training and was in the military. Returning from this first deployment in Iraq, it was clear to Carlos that something was different. When he returned from his second deployment to Afghanistan, he was only 20 years old, and remembers feeling lost and like he had no plan. He remembers one particular interaction with a longtime friend that led him to say to himself: “something’s wrong with me,” but he wasn’t able to express this to anyone. After a short stint in the Army Reserves, he moved to Connecticut and started working with a fantastic social worker at a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). At this point, his primary goal was to reunite with his wife and two young daughters. With the help of individual and couples counseling as well as spiritual counseling, he was able to make this goal a reality. What he didn’t know is that this step in his recovery journey would get him more involved with the VA than he had previously imagined. In his role as a Peer, Carlos prides himself on being an open book. He is willing to share any detail of his story that has the potential to help the Veteran he’s working with. In fact, Carlos appears in the video on Men’s Trauma that is being premiered at this conference.

Sera Davidow is an advocate, activist and filmmaker, as well as a wife and mother of two. She devotes much of her time to the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community (www.westernmassrlc.org), which includes Afiya (www.afiyahouse.org), the 13th Peer Respite in the United States. She is also an active part of Hearing Voices USA (www.hearingvoicesusa.org) and a regular blogger on Mad in America (www.madinamerica.com). She entered the mental health system as a teenager and cites ‘non-compliance’ as a part of what saved her from a very different path through life that surely would not have included the freedom she now enjoys from all psychiatric labels and medications.

Dr. André Delorme is a psychiatrist and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He is the National Director of Mental Health for the Ministry of Health and Social services of Quebec. He was previously Head of the psychiatry department at the Montreal University Health Center and medical director of the Granby Hospital. He still works as a clinician in a PACT team which offers treatment and rehabilitation to persons diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Dr. Delorme produced the Quebec Mental Health Plan of Action in 2005. This plan followed and built on a major overhaul of the public health network by the provincial government introducing a new organization of primary care facilities across the province. It also promotes a model of care shared between family doctors, mental health primary care professionals and secondary care mental health specialists. This new network should have a major impact on mental health promotion and service delivery.

Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, PhD., is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Prior to her appointment she held varied roles at the Department including Deputy Commissioner, Senior Policy Advisor and Director of the Office of Multicultural Healthcare Equality. Under the Obama Administration, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon served as Senior Advisor at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with the Department of Health and Human Services working on a range of policy initiatives addressing behavioral health equity, workforce development, and healthcare reform. Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has also held positions as Assistant Professor and Director of Health Equity and Multicultural Research and Consultation with the Program for Recovery and Community Health in the Yale Department of Psychiatry.

Deb Dettor is Managing Director for CCAR; she was delighted to join the CCAR Team in March 2012. Before that, she spent 8 years leading the Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery, promoting recovery through advocacy and education, and by opening the first state funded Recovery Community Center in Portland. As a leader in recovery advocacy, she coached others in using their own recovery stories to educate legislators and policy makers. Ms. Dettor is a person in long-term addiction recovery since June 1985 and is grateful to share her story to spotlight the healing power of recovery. Deb's recovery journey has been featured in national spotlights through SAMHSA Recovery Month, Faces and Voices of Recovery, A & E Recovery Project, and CCAR's Recovery Elders Video Project among others. She has been a speaker for many years leading trainings, community rallies and events, and through television and radio spots. Deb was awarded the 2011 Community Vision Award by Day One for her leadership to establish a recovery presence in Maine. Her recovery writings have been featured in books, journals, and newspaper columns, and through online forums. Deb has supported people in recovery within a myriad of roles since completing her M.S. in Counseling in 1982. Before working with recovery community organizations, Deb had been a therapist, staff supervisor, trainer and program administrator.

Paul J. DiLeo, MS, FACHE, supports Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, PhD, in the overall management of the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). He is directly responsible for overseeing multiple divisions within the Department including Forensic Services, the Fiscal Division, Human Resources, Information Technologies, Managed Healthcare Reform (CT Behavioral Health Partnership), Division of Safety Services, Veteran's Services, the Community Services Division, the Audit Unit, the Legal Affairs Unit and Research. Mr. Di Leo is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and has a Faculty Appointment as a Lecturer at Yale University, School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. During his nearly seventeen year tenure, he has been the Project Director of the CT Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health, the Project Owner of the DMHAS federally funded Access to Recovery program and has been responsible for Connecticut's nationally recognized General Assistance Behavioral Health Program (GABHP). Additionally, Mr. Di Leo has implemented a Detox facility in an inner city environment and managed national fortune 500 EAP/managed care contracts.

Sean Donovan has been known by many roles the past fifteen years: labeled by multiple psychiatric diagnoses, as inpatient and outpatient, as (thankfully) non-compliant to many low clinical expectations set out for him and now as community bridger and peer-to-peer advocate. His "non-compliance," in struggling to find and create communities that are run and led by psychiatric survivors, value people's self-determination and practice peer-to-peer support-- instead of shying from taking risks and staying on many medications --he credits with saving his life. He is now the Community Bridging Coordinator for the Western Mass RLC, supporting folks to move from inpatient hospitals to empowering communities, and is involved with Alternatives to Suicide mutual support groups as co-facilitator of groups in Western Mass and as co-trainer for new facilitators nationwide.

Deron Drumm is the Executive Director of Advocacy Unlimited, Inc., board member of the National Association of Rights Protection and Advocacy, legal editor for Mad in America and vice-chair of the PAIMI Council. After years of seeking to escape difficult emotions in unhealthy ways, Deron found inner peace and strength by intentionally incorporating holistic healing practices into his life. He is married to his best friend and the proud stepfather of two wonderful children.

Demian Fontanella joined the Office of the Healthcare Advocate at the end of 2011, bringing a diverse background in medicine and law with him. After college in Boston, he served a tour of duty in the United States Air Force as a Medic in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After returning to Connecticut with his family, he completed his undergraduate work, receiving a degree in Political Science from Charter Oak

State College and then continued on to the University of Connecticut School of Law, from which he graduated in May, 2008. He interned with OHA from 2006-07, working on several pieces of legislation and projects. Since joining OHA, he has been actively involved in consumer outreach and advocacy, client representation for issues with healthcare coverage, promoting OHA's legislative initiatives and supporting Connecticut's evolving and multifaceted healthcare reform efforts. These include the Patient Privacy and Security Advisory Committee, working with legislators and advocates to develop a behavioral health clearinghouse, and working with the state's healthcare marketplace under the ACA to develop and implement the Navigator and In-Person Assistor Program for the state. Demian provides legal counsel to OHA staff concerning client cases and also assists Vicki Veltri, the Healthcare Advocate, with the office's legal and legislative agenda, drafting testimony and representing OHA.

Julienne Giard, LCSW is Director of Evidence-Based Practices in the Office of the Commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Ms. Giard oversees several evidence-based initiatives and Learning Collaboratives (e.g., Trauma-informed, Decision Support, ACT, CSP/RP, Supported Employment, Supported Education) and consults to other staff across DMHAS who are implementing evidence-based and best practices. Julienne is Project Director for a new 5-year SAMHSA grant to expand Supported Employment. Ms. Giard was the Project Director for the CT site of the SAMHSA-funded Co-Occurring State Incentive Grant (COSIG) during 2006-2010. Julienne has authored several articles and national presentations.

Tania Grigolo earned a PhD in Psychology and Culture. She was a member of the Coordination of Mental Health of the Brazilian Federal Ministry of Health for several years and she is now a consultant for National Secretary for Anti-drugs Policies of the Brazilian Ministry of Justice. She a member of the Health Commission of the Federal Board of Psychology of Brazil. She is also a professor in Psychology at CESUSC and at the graduate course in Mental Health the Federal University of Santa Catarina.

Thomas Gugliotti, MS, MA is a Communications Specialist with the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and has worked in the agency for 29 years. He was formerly the Media Production Director at Fairfield Hills Hospital before its closing in the early 90's. Mr. Gugliotti has produced numerous educational videos for staff and the general public, one of which, "Mental Illness: The Invisible Disability" won a Telly Award in 1996. He has also garnered numerous national awards for posters and educational materials addressing stigma and discrimination against people with substance use or mental health disorders. His current production "Men's Trauma" is being premiered at this conference.

Kimberly Guy is a Peer Supervisor, Trainer, and Engagement Specialist for Yale University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry's Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH). Ms. Guy was raised primarily in New Haven, Connecticut, where she now lives and works. Ms. Guy worked much of her life as a nurse's aide until beginning work as a recovery mentor and soon after, an emerging leader in the Recovery Movement, sharing her personal story of hope and recovery from trauma, addiction and mental health challenges. Ms. Guy has presented across Connecticut and nationwide on topics including peer support and person centered approaches to treatment planning for people with addictions and mental illness. Ms. Guy has co-authored several publications, manuals, and curricula with colleagues at Yale-PRCH. She has recently developed a guide to the pardon process for people in recovery. She is the third generation of women sent to institutions, mother of four children, and an avid gardener.

Marty Hadge after years of receiving traditional mental health treatment, including multiple psychiatric hospitalizations, has found meaning and value to the experience of hearing voices and other extreme states through the healing environment of the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community and

Hearing Voices groups. Marty is a trainer for the HVN USA. He was a Keynote Speaker at 2013 Alternatives Conference and currently works as a Community Bridger for the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community.

Linda Hamill is from the Citizenship and Recovery group from Scotland made up of representatives from the University of Strathclyde, Platform and the Scottish Recovery Network. She is chair of Platform and is a service user. Linda has a background in social justice and recently has been involved in a local government campaign. She has been involved with mental health services for many years and her aim in life is to continue to make sure that service user's voices are heard.

Mayor Toni Harp has had a long career in public service. Her public service in elected office began as member of New Haven's Board of Aldermen, and then for 21 years as state Senator for the 10th District. Mayor Harp is the Mayor of New Haven and the first woman to hold this office. Mayor Harp has worked toward signature issues throughout her tenure as an elected official. These include full access to affordable healthcare, regardless of ethnic, cultural, or economic differences; effective public safety networks working with an equitable criminal justice system; opportunities for students through public education, with particular emphasis on early childhood learning and development of reading skills; and job creation and economic development. Mayor Harp has lived in New Haven for more than 40 years and was the Homeless Service Director at the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center for more than half that time.

Annie Harper is Associate Research Scientist at the Yale University Department of Psychiatry's Program of Recovery and Community Health (PRCH). She is a social anthropologist with research and practical experience in microfinance, urban poverty and mental health, both globally and in New Haven. Her current research focuses on understanding the financial problems faced by low-income people with mental illness, and developing interventions to build financial stability.

Karen Kangas, EDD, is co-founder and currently the Director of Operations at Advocacy Unlimited, Inc. (AU), a Wethersfield, CT based nonprofit agency. AU offers comprehensive recovery and advocacy education for persons with or in recovery from mental health or co-occurring disorders, including the Recovery University Certification Program, the Advocacy Education Course, the Young Adult "Super Advocate" Program, and the "Join Rise Be" Young Adult Program. Advocacy Unlimited also offers Toivo Intentional Living, a unique and powerful holistic wellness initiative. Dr. Kangas was previously the Executive Director of AU, and prior to that held the position of Director of Community Education and Communications at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), where she was a member of the Commissioner's Executive Group. She has also been a teacher, school administrator, education consultant, assistant professor, lecturer, and producer of educational videos on mental health. In addition to her role at AU, Karen is an Adjunct Professor at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. Dr. Kangas' strong advocacy for people with mental health issues has made her the recipient of several national and local awards, including: The Clifford Beers Award in association with the National Mental Health Association, now Mental Health America; The Roger Sherman Award, an annual Connecticut Human Rights Award; and the First Annual Excellence in Advocacy Award (1998) presented by Advocacy Unlimited, Inc., (this award was subsequently renamed The Karen Kangas Excellence in Advocacy Award).

Ronnal Keil has worked for the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) in the Office of the Commissioner for eighteen years. She has parlayed a career as an advocate, direct service monitor and evaluator, database manager, report writer and critical incident investigator into a position as the Director of Recovery Community Affairs for the Department. Regardless of the position and tasks that Ronna has done in her time at DMHAS, she has remained a forthright critical voice, strident

advocate for self-determination and reminder of how average people experience the interventions DMHAS creates and funds. Ronna was raised in the Southwest in a family of performers and persons with mental health challenges. She is a high school drop-out who is a collector of intelligent and articulate friends. She is 56 years old and this is her 43rd job. She is in long-term recovery and uses medication and a robust community life to maintain her stability. She is the co-founder of Artreach, Inc., a DMHAS funded non-profit that runs the Second Step Players, a 25 year-old touring comedy troupe that educates and fights the stigma of mental illnesses.

Daryl M. McGraw, MS, CAC is the Associate Director of the Office of Recovery Community Affairs for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Daryl's personal journey through addiction and incarceration, has prepared him to be a voice for those who still find themselves caught in the vicious cycles of addiction and recidivism. Daryl advocates for recovery oriented treatment and peer support on state and community levels.

Michael Michaud, MPH, has worked in the Connecticut public behavioral health system for over 25 years and currently serves as Senior Policy Advisor for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). In the DMHAS-funded, private-non-profit system, Mr. Michaud worked as a case manager, Director of an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team, and Director of a Managed Service System in a DMHAS Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA). For many years he served as the DMHAS Regional Manager for the North Central Region. Mr. Michaud served as an Associate Project Director for Connecticut's State Innovation Model (SIM) and co-chaired the CT SIM Health Information Technology (HIT) Workgroup during 2013. He remains active in SIM and is an appointee to the SIM Practice Transformation Taskforce.

Senator Christopher S. Murphy is the junior United States Senator for Connecticut. Elected in 2012, Murphy serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, and the Democratic Steering & Outreach Committee. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Murphy served Connecticut's Fifth Congressional District for three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his three terms, Murphy served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Committee on Financial Services. Before his service in the U.S. Congress, Murphy served for eight years in the Connecticut General Assembly. He spent four years representing Southington and the 81st district in the House, and then spent four years representing the 16th Senatorial District. While in the State Senate, he served as the Chairman of the Public Health Committee.

Michael A. Norko MD, MAR, is Director of Forensic Services for the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine in the Law and Psychiatry Division, Deputy Editor of the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Norko received his bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University (1979), his MD from SUNY – Upstate Medical Center (1983) and trained in psychiatry at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York and in mental health administration at the New School for Social Research (1983-1987). Dr. Norko completed a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at Yale in 1988, and earned a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School in 2010. He has published and presented nationally and internationally on a variety of topics related to psychiatry and law. In addition to his teaching duties in the forensic psychiatry fellowship program at Yale, Dr. Norko teaches a course in the Yale Department of Psychiatry on Religion, Spirituality and Worldview in Psychiatry.

Rosana Onocko-Campos, MD, MPH, PhD. coordinated the graduation program in Public Health, Faculty of Medical Sciences (FCM) of the State University of Campinas (Unicamp) in Brazil. She currently coordinates the graduate committee of the FCM / Unicamp. She has experience in Public Health with emphasis in the following areas: public health, management and subjectivity, mental health, health planning and public policy, policy evaluation and services. She was an advisor for the National Humanization Policy in its infancy and the National Coordination of Mental Health / Federal Ministry of Health (MS). She actively participates in the training of doctors and is the coordinator of the Multidisciplinary Residency Program in Mental and Public Health. She also coordinates the research group Public Health and Mental Health: Interfaces, since 2003. Moreover, she is a master's and doctorate mentor.

Jean-François Pelletier, PhD, obtained a PhD in political science, is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at University of Montreal, full time researcher at the Centre de Recherche de l'Institut Universitaire en Santé Mentale de Montréal (CRIUSMM) and lecturer at the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health. He is director of the International Program for Participatory Action Research (IPPAR), a research program funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Fonds de Recherche du Québec - Santé. The IPPAR is also a non-profit organization whose Board of Directors is entirely composed of people with life course interruptions due to mental health experiences. The IPPAR promotes the experiential knowledge of consumers in academia and science, making research a supportive and inclusive workplace that fosters civic recovery.

John Robinson is from the Citizenship and Recovery group from Scotland made up of representatives from the University of Strathclyde, Platform and the Scottish Recovery Network. Platform is a forum for people with mental health issues to have a say in how their services are run. John was an engineer with the same company for 26 years when he became physically and mentally ill, but after receiving services, he was able to recover to a stable condition. John states that peer support was invaluable to him and he decided to give back to others the support that he had received.

Michael Rowe, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Co-Director of the Program for Recovery and Community Health at the Yale School of Medicine and Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC), and Principal Investigator of the CMHC Citizens Collaborative. His research areas include citizenship and recovery, mental health outreach to people who are homeless with mental illnesses, peers as direct care staff and as researchers, and narrative medicine. Dr. Rowe is the author of many books, peer-reviewed articles, and other publications.

Ray Smith was born at Yale New Haven Hospital and raised in New Haven, CT. He came to Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) as a client in 2004 and, at that time, was totally out of touch with his mental symptoms. He then met many positive recovery specialists which gave him confidence and opened his mind to their suggestions about treatment. Through attending treatment groups, he realized some of his thoughts and beliefs were not able to be validated. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia and, although he didn't hear voices, he did experience paranoia and delusions. But, his open minded attitude, his willingness to listen and take prescribed psychiatric medication, and to participate and ask questions, helped significantly in his recovery. He gained the confidence to get better and through the ongoing support of his providers and recovery peers, he was able to earn his GED, learn Micro-soft Excel, and become a Dental Advocate and Peer Advocate Speaker. These helped empower him and slowly recover. Today, in 2015, he is continually involved in many advocacy projects and is presently the secretary of both the CVH Dutcher Steering Committee and of the Violence Prevention Initiative Committee. Ray still attends a large number of recovery groups and shares whatever he can from his experience with others. He loves to speak publically about his recovery and is dedicated to Advocacy Projects.

Marie M. Spivey serves as the Vice President of Health Equity for the Connecticut Hospital Association and is the current Chair of the New England Regional Health Equity Council. She has served as Chair of the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity, the CEO of the Charter Oak Terrace/Rice Heights Health Center, Harford Health Care Vice President of Community Involvement, and Bureau Chief of Community Health at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Marie is a Visiting Professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Pediatrics, Community Medicine and Healthcare, the Center of Excellence in Health Disparities research, and the Center for Public Health and Health Policy. She has also served as a loaned executive as the Chief Executive Officer of the Learning Corridor – and as such, launched Hartford’s first 16 acre campus of 4 magnet schools and a performing arts theater. She is a Registered Nurse with a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration.

Ailsa Stewart is a Social Work academic at the University of Strathclyde with experience in participatory research, learning disability, mental health and adult safeguarding. She is also the Director of the Mental Health Social Work program.

Jim Tackett has worked in the field of veterans’ affairs for over 30 years. He currently serves as Director of Veterans’ Services with the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). He directs the CT Military Support Program (MSP) which provides free, statewide outpatient behavioral health services to Veterans, including National Guard and Reserve Members, and their families. He directs the Connecticut National Guard Embedded Clinician Program which has embedded 29 MSP clinicians within Guard Units affected by deployment(s). He is also DMHAS’ Advisor to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of State Police Peer Support program -- *State Troopers Offering Peer Support (STOPS)*. He is a nationally recognized resource in veterans affairs, recently presenting at conferences and meetings called by SAMHSA, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the National GAINS Center, and the U.S. Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. He has also served as faculty for several national SAMHSA Policy Academies concerning Service Members, Returning Veterans and Their Families. Prior to joining DMHAS he served for 7 years as Director of VA Connecticut Healthcare System’s Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program, and for 15 years as Connecticut Chief Service Representative (VSO) for Vietnam Veterans of America. He has led numerous advocacy efforts that resulted in passage of new legislation and substantive system-level change.

Jan VanTassel is a public interest attorney with more than thirty-seven years of experience. She has been employed since 1998 as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Legal Rights Project, a statewide legal assistance program that represents low income adults with psychiatric disabilities on matters related to their recovery and civil rights. Jan founded and co-chairs the “Keep the Promise” Coalition, which has been recognized for its successful advocacy in expanding housing, community based services and opportunities for community integration. She has served on numerous task forces, councils and commissions related to mental health conditions, and has done extensive public speaking on this topic. Jan has worked as a legislative aide in the Massachusetts Legislature, and served as a lobbyist for legal services clients in New Mexico and Connecticut. For more than a decade she has conducted annual legislative advocacy trainings with Doreen DelBianco, Legislative Program Manager for DMHAS.

Victoria Veltri, JD, LLM, is the state's Healthcare Advocate, overseeing OHA in: assisting health insurance consumers with health plan selection; educating consumers about their health care rights; directly assisting healthcare consumers with grievances and appeals; acting as a watchdog of Connecticut’s healthcare marketplace; pursuing healthcare policy activities, and; serving as Connecticut’s federally designated independent health insurance consumer assistance program under

the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Veltri has extensive legal experience in health care advocacy and in legislative policy. Ms. Veltri represents OHA at the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight. She is a member of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange (d/b/a Access Health CT) Board of Directors, the co-chair of both the Consumer Outreach and Experience and Personnel Committees of the Exchange, and a member of the Exchange's Strategy and Finance Committees. Ms. Veltri sits on the Governor's Healthcare Cabinet, the Health Information Technology Exchange Board of Directors, and the Connecticut Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Committee. She also sits on the state's Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee and is the chair of its Equity and Access Council. Ms. Veltri is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Programs in Healthcare Management & Insurance Studies in the School of Business at UConn. A graduate of the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, Ms. Veltri also holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Western New England College School of Law and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from New York University School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in the states of Connecticut and New York, the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She is member of the American Health Lawyers Association.

Rachel (Rai) Waddingham, Rai, is an international trainer and consultant specializing in developing respectful approaches to supporting those who struggle with voices, visions, overwhelming beliefs and post-traumatic reactions. She managed the London Hearing Voices Project from 2007 – 2015, where she launched an innovative project developing a sustainable network of Hearing Voices Groups in London's prisons and forensic hospitals as well as establishing Voice Collective to creatively support children and young people who hear voices, and their families. Rai hears voices, sees visions and has recovered from psychiatric diagnosis. She feels lucky to live a life that she loves. Rai is a trustee of the English Hearing Voices Network and an executive committee member for ISPS (International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis). For more information, see www.behindthelabel.co.uk

Caroline White first interfaced with psychiatry at the age of eight and years later was able to find a path out of a world defined by diagnoses and medications through roller derby and social activism. Caroline has worked tirelessly to create change in the mental health system, developing and re-defining peer roles in various organizations in North Carolina, including "CooperRiis Healing Community". She is currently a part of the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community, promoting the values of self-determination and mutual support in a number of settings. She is a facilitator/trainer for "Alternatives to Suicide" groups, promoting conversation and connection over the current paradigm of "suicide prevention". Caroline also works on developing national networks of support for voice-hearers in her role as Training Coordinator for the Hearing Voices Research and Development Project.

Betty Williams is a recent graduate of the Citizens Project and has begun working towards her associate degree in accounting at Gateway Community College. She is a mother of three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Betty is a member of Fellowship Place and the Walk of Faith Church. She is an extremely active and valued member of the New Haven community.

Justin Williams is a person in recovery and will be attending Recovery University in June as well as Springfield College in the fall for a Bachelor in Human Services. He is passionate about recovery and uses his life experiences and academic study to assist, support and encourage those in the recovery community. His goal is to support and help young children and adults who suffer with trauma and addictions. He also supports and attends the many groups that Toivo has to offer, and is inspired by Toivo's Director, Kelvin Young. He is thankful and appreciative of the many wonderful people at DMHAS who have reached out to him and inspired him to continue on his road to recovery and work toward his career goals.

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman began her service in government more than 30 years ago when she successfully ran for a seat on her local school board so she could have a say in the education of her two young daughters. In 1994, she was the first woman ever to be elected State Comptroller, and for the next 16 years used that office to advocate for fiscal responsibility and accountability on behalf of taxpayers. Since being elected Connecticut's 108th Lieutenant Governor in 2010, and again in 2014, she has been a true partner to Governor Dannel P. Malloy as they work to help the state recover from the economic downturn and build a foundation for long-term stability and prosperity. Lt. Governor Wyman is a tireless advocate for improving health care access and affordability. She is prominent in efforts to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for many years has been closely involved with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the National Kidney Foundation and the American Heart Association. Lt. Governor Wyman was the founder of a 1995 working group that led to the creation of the HUSKY health plan, which remains an important source of medical care for more than 450,000 children and their parents. The Lt. Governor Chairs the Health Care Cabinet that oversees the implementation of health reform in Connecticut. She also chairs the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange and the Steering Committee for State Health Innovation (SIM).

Kelvin Young is the Assistant Executive Director and the Toivo Director for Advocacy Unlimited, Inc. He serves on the DMHAS Multicultural Advisory Council. He believes that healing begins from within. After many years of suffering from emotional distress and drug addiction, Kelvin began his healing process while in prison. He looked within himself to find inner strength in a very hostile and restrictive environment through meditation and yoga. Kelvin speaks about overcoming drug addiction, holistic healing and taking personal responsibility for health and wellbeing. He received numerous awards including the 2014 Professional of the Year Award from the Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative and received special recognition from U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) for being a positive role model and directly contributing to the success of reentry efforts. Kelvin has one daughter and sustains his health by eating a vegan-based diet, practicing yoga, meditation, spending quality time in nature, exercising and building healthy relationships with others.