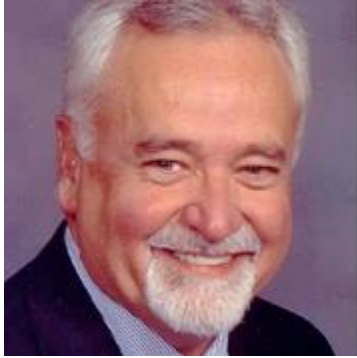




Sam Brinton, The Trevor Project

One of the world's leading advocates for LGBTQ youth, Sam Brinton is a genderfluid person, using they, them or theirs as their pronouns. They are the vice president of advocacy and government affairs at The Trevor Project. As a survivor of conversion therapy, they are founder of the 50 Bills 50 States campaign to end the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion therapy, first in the United States and then around the globe, and have spearheaded efforts to submit legislation and promote public education in the hopes of ending the practice on minors. Brinton has spoken before the United Nations and Congress and testified on legislation in state capitols from coast to coast to protect LGBTQ youth across the country. They have been featured in numerous media including multiple widely shared New York Times op-eds, the Washington Post, Playboy Magazine, TIME Magazine, USA TODAY, MSNBC, PBS Newshour, Huffington Post and CTV in Canada.



Frank Campbell. PhD, National Suicidology Training Center

Dr. Campbell is the executive director emeritus of the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center, where he serves as volunteer chair of the National Suicidology Training Center (NSTC). He is also a volunteer assistant coroner in East Baton Rouge Parish. In addition to his volunteer activities he is the senior consultant for Campbell and Associates Consulting where he consults with communities on Active Postvention efforts and Forensic Suicidology cases. During his more than thirty years of working with those bereaved by suicide he introduced his Active Postvention Model (APM) in 1997 it is most commonly known as the LOSS Team (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors). His work with survivors and victims of trauma has been featured in three discovery channel documentaries, professional journals and book chapters. He is a past president of the American Association of Suicidology, a recipient of both national and international awards for his contributions. Dr. Campbell is also a veteran and is most proud to have been a consultant and contributor to the TAPS program for military family members who attend the survivor seminars and National programs for the past decade. To learn more about his work in the field of Suicidology you can visit his website www.lossteam.com or the NSTC at www.BRCIC.org.



Jason Cherkis, Huffington Post

Jason Cherkis is an award-winning reporter who has spent years covering mental health and substance use disorder. He is currently working on a book about suicide for Random House.



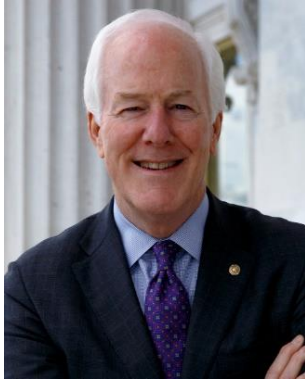
Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D., California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies

Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey is the director of policy and legislative affairs for the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies and previously served as chief consultant to the California State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions; principal consultant to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development; and a health policy consultant to the office of former Senator Curren D. Price, Jr. Dr. Clark Harvey has a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She serves on the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Association (APA), and has held positions on the Association of Black Psychologists, Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board, Sacramento County Children’s Coalition and the Los Angeles View Park Section of the National Council of Negro Women. Dr. Clark Harvey has received numerous awards was recently appointed by Gov. Newsom to his Master Plan on Aging Advisory Committee and his Behavioral Health Task Force.



Pat Coleman, MBA, Behavioral Health Response

Pat Coleman is president and CEO of Behavioral Health Response (BHR), a professionally staffed and accredited clinical contact center that provides expert behavioral health and crisis response services to agencies and companies worldwide via telephone, text and web chat and face-to-face mobile outreach as well as through virtual platforms. Coleman's experience includes nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies and private sector corporations. She serves as adjunct faculty for Washington University's Brown School of Social Work teaching a class on management, the region VII Board director for the National Council for Behavioral Health and the chair of Fontbonne University's Eckelcamp Business School. In addition to receiving many awards for her accomplishments as a leader and a community volunteer in her own right, under her leadership, BHR received the Arcus Award from St. Louis Regional Chamber, the What's Right with the Region award from Focus St. Louis and the Behavioral Healthcare Management award from the National Council.



Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas), U.S. Senate

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn was first elected to the Texas Senate in 2002 and has earned a national reputation as an articulate and powerful voice for Texas and conservative values in Washington. Sen. Cornyn has served the people of Texas for the last three decades, first as a district judge and later as a member of the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Attorney General. He received his undergraduate degree from Trinity University, his law degree from St. Mary's School of Law and his LLM from the University of Virginia Law School. Sen. Cornyn has committed himself to strengthening our national defense, securing our borders, repairing our broken immigration system and strengthening the economy by keeping taxes low, reducing federal spending and fighting job-killing regulations and is an advocate for Texas military personnel, veterans and their families to provide the best possible support, care and benefits. He serves on the Senate Finance, Intelligence and Judiciary Committees, where he helps craft legislation on behalf of 28 million Texans. From 2013 until 2018 Sen. Cornyn was chosen by his colleagues to serve as the Whip.



Shannon CrossBear, Strongheart Resource Development

Shannon CrossBear strives to demonstrate and promote gentle healing by addressing disparities that have led to poor outcomes. Her work has included facilitating and consulting with the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health, Georgetown University, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the Surgeon Generals Conference on Children’s Mental Health. She has worked with tribal and non-tribal communities to provide technical assistance to systems and circles of care utilizing traditional interventions and promoting culturally congruent and trauma-informed practices. She has worked in communities throughout the United States and Canada to address systemic change for improved outcomes for children and their families. CrossBear has facilitated and supported practices and services including provision of culturally-cemented early childhood, parenting programs and supports for transition age youth, adults and families with mental health and substance abuse issues. She supports organized stakeholder voices and representation at local and national levels through various behavioral health initiatives.



Antigone Davis, Facebook

Antigone Davis is a director and global head of safety at Facebook. As Facebook's global head of safety, Antigone works with internal teams, external safety organizations, and government bodies to ensure that Facebook is a world leader in online safety. Antigone spearheads the efforts of Facebook's Safety Advisory Board, a team of leading safety organizations from across the globe that provide Facebook with cutting edge research and advice on best practices, as well as its Global Safety Network. Antigone also serves on the International Advisory Board for WePROTECT and the boards of the Family Online Safety Institute, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Prior to joining Facebook, Antigone spent 10 years working for a State Attorney General. As senior advisor to the Attorney General, she helped establish the office's first online privacy and safety unit. She also led the National Association of Attorneys General's 2012-2013 presidential initiative "Privacy in the Digital Age." Before serving in the public sector, Antigone used her juris doctorate from the University of Chicago Law School as a corporate attorney and her master's degree in education as a middle school and high school teacher. Antigone received her B.A. from Columbia University.



Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW, Louisiana Public Health Institute

Shelina Davis is chief executive officer of the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI), an organization that champions health for people within systems and throughout communities. Prior to joining LPHI, She served as assistant vice president of practice improvement at the National Council for Behavioral Health where she led strategic oversight and development of the public health portfolio of initiatives by supporting community-based organizations and federal, state, local and tribal agencies and workforce in addressing their most pressing behavioral health challenges using a health and racial equity lens. She has more than a decade of experience in public health, health care systems, leadership and professional development and health equity. Davis serves on the Boards of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship - New Orleans, CARE: Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity and was appointed to Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards' COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, Louisiana Prisons Sub-Committee and Louisiana Resilient Commission, Manufacturers Sub-Committee.



John Draper, Ph.D., National Networks

Dr. Draper has nearly 25 years of experience in crisis intervention and suicide prevention work, and is considered one of the nation's leading experts in crisis contact center practices (hotline, online chat, SMS services, etc.). He oversees all aspects of the federally funded National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, which consists of over 160-member crisis centers across the country. Dr. Draper frequently presents at national conferences on subjects related to best practices in crisis intervention and suicide prevention, as well as the use of innovative technologies (text, chat, other online programs, etc.) in helping persons in emotional distress. Dr. Draper also frequently discusses the role of persons with lived experience of suicide (attempt survivors, loss survivors, etc.) in suicide prevention. Dr. Draper has been quoted in The New York Times, ABC News, The New York Post, and TIME among others.



Krista Drobac, Alliance for Connected Care

Krista Drobac has 20 years of experience in federal and state government, and in public affairs. In addition to providing consulting services, she serves as the executive director of the Alliance for Connected Care, a 501(c)(6) organization dedicated to ensuring that all patients are able to realize the benefits of connected care. She also serves as chair of Aligning for Health, a coalition advancing social determinants of health policy at the federal level. Drobac was previously director of the health division at the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices and a senior advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She also served as deputy director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and spent five years on Capitol Hill as a health advisor. She holds a BA from the University of Michigan and an MPP from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.



Doree Ann V. Espiritu, M.D., Henry Ford Medical Center

Dr. Doree Ann V. Espiritu is the director of the Behavioral Health Services Integrated Care and the service chief of Psychiatry of the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital. She is board-certified in both Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry. In addition to her administrative role, she maintains an active practice seeing adult and geriatric patients in the outpatient setting and in long-term care settings. Dr. Espiritu finished her psychiatry residency in Adult Psychiatry at the Henry Ford Health System and then went on to do a fellowship in geriatric psychiatry at Wayne State University. She was trained by the founders of Perfect Depression Care/Zero Suicide (Blues-Busters team) and has been a staunch advocate for suicide prevention. She has received numerous awards including the Henry Ford Health System Shadow of the Leader, the Dr. Joseph Ponka Caring Physician of the Year and has been a consistent Hour Detroit “Top Doc” in Psychiatry from 2009-2019. Dr. Espiritu’s special interests are issues in Geriatric Psychiatry, Dementia, Successful Aging, Behavioral Health Integration In Primary Care, Non-Motor Symptoms of Parkinson’s, and Spirituality in Psychiatry. Dr. Espiritu has also been the champion for virtual care in Behavioral Health Services.



Jonathan D. Evans, M.A., innovaTel Telepsychiatry

Jonathan Evans is the president and CEO of innovaTel Telepsychiatry and has been employed in the behavioral health care field for more than 30 years. His career began at the Hamot Institute for Behavioral Health and left in 1993 to become the founding president and CEO of Safe Harbor Behavioral Health. Safe Harbor initiated and implemented a full-time telepsychiatry program, successfully enhancing access to care in the outpatient clinic. As a result of the successful implementation and patient outcomes, Evans founded innovaTel Telepsychiatry, currently providing telepsychiatric services in nine states in partnership with community provider organizations. In addition, he serves on many boards, including the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association; the Advisory Board of Directors of Open Minds Inc., a nationally based behavioral health consulting firm; and the Health Care Advisory Board of Congressman William Kelly.



Mark Fontaine, MSW, Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

Mark Fontaine serves as the executive advisor to Florida's Behavioral Health Association Director of the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) where he leads development of public policy related to behavioral medicine, mental health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment, court and forensic services, juvenile and adult corrections and recovery services and systems. Fontaine serves as the voice for community providers who deliver behavioral health services across Florida. He is on the Board of Directors of the National Council for Behavioral Health, a gubernatorial appointee to the State of Florida Drug Policy Advisory Council and an appointee to the Florida Supreme Court Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues. He has been providing leadership in the behavioral health and justice fields for more than 40 years. Fontaine has a master's degree in social work from Florida State University, holds certified addiction professional and certified criminal justice addiction professional credentials and is a certified association executive with the American Society of Association Executives.



Phyllis Foxworth, Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

Phyllis Foxworth is advocacy vice president at the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA), the leading peer-directed organization for people living with mood disorders where she directs the national advocacy strategy with a focus on strengthening mental health parity laws and compliance, broadening adoption of peer support services and development of the peer specialist workforce and ensuring that patient-desired treatment outcomes are adopted and integrated throughout the entire health care ecosystem. She also guides DBSA's state-wide grassroots organizations that mobilize individuals with lived-experience to have a voice in policies that increase access to care and change the conversation around mental health. Foxworth is a contributor to the first medical textbook on the diagnosis and management of agitation and is a co-principle investigator on two PCORI projects. She has served as a patient representative panelist at several FDA public meetings and directed DBSA's the first externally led patient focused drug development meeting that focused on mental health.



Keita Franklin, LCSW, Ph.D., Psych Hub

Dr. Keita Franklin is Psych Hub's chief clinical officer overseeing development and production of all clinical content for Psych Hub's ever-expanding repository of educational videos and informational materials. With more than 25 years of progressively responsible experience, Dr. Franklin is spearheading efforts to improve mental health literacy across the country by championing development of specialized evidence-based training for providers to improve mental health care outcomes for at-risk population groups. Before joining Psych Hub, Dr. Franklin served as a senior executive at both the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Department of Defense where she was the principle advisor for all matters on suicide prevention.



Shannon Hall, Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland

Shannon Hall is executive director of the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland, which represents behavioral health providers. She leads development and execution of organizational and financial plans; partners with government and health care stakeholders; maintains a working knowledge of developments in the fields of mental health, addiction, housing and health care; and advocates at national and state levels on issues impacting members and association. She was previously executive director of D.C. Behavioral Health Association where she was responsible for all aspects of association representing 44 behavioral health providers serving D.C. residents. She has also served as an attorney for the Children’s Law Center and Robert Seldon and Associates, was managing editor for TomPain.com and a health policy legislative assistant. Hall earned her J.D. from American University, where she graduated cum laude, and her BA from Oberlin College.



Tom Hill, MSW, National Council for Behavioral Health

Tom Hill joined the National Council for Behavioral Health in March 2017 as vice president of addiction and recovery. Prior to that, he served as a presidential appointee in the position of senior advisor on addiction and recovery to the SAMHSA administrator where he initially served as acting director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. He served as a senior associate at Altarum Institute and as technical assistance director for a number of SAMHSA treatment and recovery support grant initiatives. Hill was director of programs at Faces & Voices of Recovery for four years and his personal experience of recovery from addiction spans two decades. He received his Master of Social Work in community organizing from Hunter College at City University of New York. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Johnson Institute America Honors Recovery Award, the NALGAP Advocacy Award and a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in the Developing Leadership in Reducing Substance Abuse initiative.



Donna Holland Barnes, Ph.D., Howard University

Dr. Donna Holland Barnes is an associate professor at Howard University and teaches suicide risk management in the College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry. She has published many articles and chapters on suicide and given presentations on the topic across the country. Dr. Barnes trains faculty, staff and students, as well as the community on how to recognize the signs of someone who is in a suicidal crisis. She is the co-founder of the National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide (NOPCAS) and the author of the Truth About Suicide published by DWJ books in New York as part of the "truth about series..." for middle school and high school students.



Chuck Ingoglia, MSW, National Council for Behavioral Health

Chuck Ingoglia is president and CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health, where he leads the national charge to ensure people have access to their potential to live full and complete lives. Ingoglia is transforming the conversation about mental health and delivery of services. He effects change at both the national and state policy level by, among other things, playing a major role in federal and state policy advocacy and analyses on myriad issues relevant to behavioral health financing and health reform. His influence and advice on policy is informed by insight gained as a result of providing site-of-service technical assistance to members. He holds both a master's degree and a bachelor's degree in social work from the Catholic University of America.



Lee Johnson, Texas Council of Community Center

Lee Johnson serves as the deputy director for the Texas Council of Community Centers, a state association that represents the 39 community centers of Texas. In this role, he advises on legislative strategy, appropriations issues, strategic communications, public policy development and implementation. Prior to joining the Texas Council, he served as legislative director for a state representative and, in the private sector, managed the urban and land use planning efforts of a commercial development firm in Austin, Texas, engaging county and city officials across the state. Johnson holds undergraduate and master's degrees in public administration and political science from Texas State University.



Andrea Kalin, Spark Media

Andrea Kalin is the director, producer and writer of *Scattering CJ* and is the creative visionary and founder of Spark Media, a Washington, D.C.-based production company dedicated to crafting stories with a strong social conscience. Her films have aired on major networks around the globe, screened theatrically to sold-out audiences and earned more than 100 industry awards, including a Prime Time Emmy, and Golden Globe and WGA nominations. Kalin specializes in bringing viewers to the emotional frontline where lives of courage, perseverance and dignity transcend seemingly insurmountable hardships.



Brad Lerner, JD, Beacon Health Options

Brad Lerner is vice president government affairs/associate general counsel for Beacon Health Options. He is a practicing lawyer and government relations professional with more than 20 years of public and private sector experience analyzing and addressing regulatory issues, including complex legal and policy issues in health care. He is a leading expert on Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) analysis and compliance and among his duties at Beacon Health Options are creating strategies to implement and health care reform and advising senior executives regarding health care reform developments. Previously, he worked as a regulatory attorney at the Federal Communications Commission and as in-house counsel at Cavalier Telephone, LLC. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School.



David Lloyd, MBA, The Kennedy Forum

David Lloyd is a senior policy advisor at The Kennedy Forum. He focuses on a range of behavioral health policy issues, but has devoted much of his time to improving enforcement of the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and state-level parity laws. Previously, Lloyd was vice president at Voices for Illinois Children and director of its Fiscal Policy Center and served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Cornell University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Saibatu Mansaray, U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy

Saibatu Mansaray is the assistant director for Public Health, Education and Treatment Task Force in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Prior to joining ONDCP, she served as the director of advance for Vice President Pence. Ms. Mansaray served 23 years on active duty with the United States Army and retired in October 2017. She served 11 years as an enlisted service member before graduating from the Inter Service Physician Assistant Program in 2005. Ms. Mansaray was the first Army Physician Assistant female assigned to the White House Medical Unit as a White House Physician Assistant and Tactical Medical Officer to President Obama. She subsequently was appointed as the director of medical advance and operations for the White House Medical Unit. Her final military assignment was as the senior military aide to the Vice President of the United States. She is the first and only medical officer to serve as a Military Aide in the White House. Since joining ONDCP Ms. Mansaray has overseen development of the 2020 National Treatment Plan. Ms. Mansaray has a Master's of Science degree in physician assistant studies from University of Nebraska. Ms. Mansaray is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College.



Ajit Pai, Federal Communications Commission

Ajit Pai is the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. He was designated Chairman by President Donald J. Trump in January 2017. He had previously served as Commissioner at the FCC, appointed by then-President Barack Obama and confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate in May 2012.



Joe Parks, M.D., National Council for Behavioral Health

Dr. Joe Parks currently serves as medical director and vice president, practice improvement and consulting, for the National Council for Behavioral Health and is a distinguished research professor of science at Missouri Institute of Mental Health with the University of Missouri, St. Louis. He is the national behavioral health representative at large for The Joint Commission and practices outpatient psychiatry at Family Health Center, a federally funded community health center established to expand services to uninsured and underinsured patients in Columbia Missouri. Dr. Parks previously served as director of Missouri MO HealthNet Division (Missouri Medicaid) in the Missouri Department of Social Services and was medical director for the Missouri Department of Mental Health in Jefferson City and division director for the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. Dr. Parks has conducted research and published in multiple publications and received numerous awards for improving the quality of care and leadership.



Devin Reaves, MSW, Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition

Devin Reaves is the executive director and co-founder of Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition and has been living in recovery since 2007. He is a community organizer and grassroots advocacy leader and has worked on the expansion of access to the lifesaving medication, naloxone; implantation of 911 Good Samaritan policies; and the development of youth oriented systems. His goal is to build constituencies of consequence that will lead to meaningful public health policy changes around substance use disorders. Reaves received a Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice with a focus on community and organizational change and has a BA in human services from Lynn University. Devin also serves on the Pennsylvania Overdose Task Force and the Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Drug Abuse.



Jerry Reed, Ph.D., Education Development Center, Inc.

Dr. Reed serves as senior vice president for practice leadership at Education Development Center, Inc., (EDC). His interests include suicide, injury and violence prevention, public policy, geriatrics, and health. Dr. Reed recently co-led the committee that updated the U.S. National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and he serves as an executive committee member of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. Dr. Reed also serves on the National Advisory Board of the Kennedy-Satcher Center for Mental Health Parity and is an active member of the American Association of Suicidology, the American Public Health Association and the International Association for Suicide Prevention. Dr. Reed received a Ph.D. in health-related sciences with an emphasis in gerontology from the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in 2007 and his MSW from University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1982 with an emphasis in aging administration. He served in the United States Navy during the period 1974-1978.



Jeff Richardson, MBA, LCSW-C, Sheppard Pratt Community Services

Jeff Richardson is vice president and chief operating officer of Sheppard Pratt Community Services. He previously served as the executive director of Mosaic Community Services for 18 years and brings more than 30 years of experience in behavioral health. Richardson holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master's in business administration from Loyola University. Committed to garnering and expanding support for community mental health, he serves on multiple nonprofits boards, state task forces and academic positions, including the National Council for Behavioral Health, Mental Health Association of Maryland, Bon Secours Hospital, Itineris and the Community Behavioral Association of Maryland.



Matt Salo, National Association of Medicaid Directors

Matt Salo was named executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMMD) in February 2011. The association represents all 56 of the nation's state and territorial Medicaid directors, and provides them with a strong unified voice in national discussions as well as a locus for technical assistance and best practices. He formerly spent 12 years at the National Governors Association, where he worked on the Governors' health care and human services reform agendas and spent five years prior to that as a health policy analyst working for the state Medicaid directors as part of the American Public Human Services Association. Salo spent two years as a substitute teacher in the public school system in Alexandria, Va., and holds a BA in eastern religious studies from the University of Virginia.



Sally Spencer-Thomas, Psy.D., MNM, United Suicide Survivors International

Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas is a clinical psychologist, inspirational international speaker and an impact entrepreneur who began work in suicide prevention after her younger brother died of suicide. She is an innovator in social change and has helped start up multiple large-scale, gap filling efforts in mental health. A recent invited speaker at the White House, Dr. Spencer-Thomas' goal is to elevate the conversation and make suicide prevention a health and safety priority in our schools, workplaces and communities. She has held leadership positions for the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, the International Association for Suicide Prevention, the American Association for Suicidology and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and has won multiple awards for her advocacy. Dr. Spencer-Thomas has a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver, a master's in nonprofit management from Regis University and bachelor's in psychology and studio art from Bowdoin College. She has written four books on mental health and violence prevention.



Reyna Taylor, National Council for Behavioral Health

Reyna Taylor brings extensive experience with federal public policy initiatives to protect access and affordability to her role as vice president of public policy and advocacy at the National Council for Behavioral Health where she leads public policy and government affairs activities, supervises legislative matters and guides overall public policy strategy at the state and federal level. With nearly two decades of specialty pharmaceutical and medical device experience, Ms. Taylor has a wide range of knowledge on public policy issues, including Medicare, Medicaid and commercial management of managed care organizations, hospitals, pharmacies and mental health centers. Before joining the National Council, Taylor spent seven years with Lundbeck US doing patient assistance and advocacy in government affairs and prior to that spent almost eight years at Wyeth (later Pfizer) Pharmaceuticals, where she held a variety of psychiatry specialty management and training roles. She holds a Bachelor of Science in neuroscience from Bates College and earned a Master of Science in biotechnology and Master of Business Administration from Johns Hopkins University.



Representative David Trone (D-Md.), U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman David Trone was elected in 2018 to serve Maryland's Sixth Congressional District, where his top priorities in Congress are addressing the nation's mental health crisis and ending the opioid and addiction epidemic that has devastated the country. In 2016, he lost his nephew, Ian, to a fentanyl overdose. In Congress, he founded the Freshmen Working Group on Addiction, a bipartisan group of 64 freshmen lawmakers dedicated to ending the addiction epidemic in the country and has introduced 25 pieces of legislation to address addiction and mental health, and promoted practices and policies to tackle the crisis from every angle. He earned a bachelor's degree from Furman University and a Master's in Business Administration from the Wharton School of Business by taking out student loans. During graduate school, he opened his first store selling soda and beer and grew that single store into a business with more than 200 stores in 24 states and 7,000 employees nationwide. It is this expertise in business and management that David brings to his time in Congress.



Hallie and John Twomey, CJ's Parents

In April 2010, after arguing with their eldest son, 20-year-old CJ, John and Hallie Twomey witnessed CJ end his life. CJ's suicide forced them into a life they were ill-prepared to lead. In the almost decade that has passed since his death, the Twomeys have talked openly and honestly about the life they are living "after" and hope that his story may help prevent others from following in his footsteps. The Scattering CJ project was an idea born out of Hallie's need to do something more for her son. They collectively agreed that CJ's journey on this planet wasn't over and that his 'larger than life personality' should travel far and wide. For the past 5 years, the Twomey family, have opened themselves to this journey and trusted that it was the right decision for their family. They are humbled and honored by the response Scattering CJ has received and owe a debt of gratitude to all those who now consider themselves a part of the Scattering CJ community. They are determined to use the Scattering CJ story to spark conversations about mental health and to raise awareness about suicide prevention. It is in this way they honor their beloved son CJ and ensure his legacy as more than a suicide.



Rheeda Walker, Ph.D., University of Houston

Dr. Rheeda Walker is a licensed clinical psychologist whose program of research emphasizes two understudied areas—suicide science and African American adult mental health. Communities throughout the United States are chronically underserved in part due to social and cultural barriers. This is especially true of mental health initiatives. All of Dr. Walker’s scholarly work has focused on suicide and its correlates toward the primary goal of developing culturally-relevant models of mental health and well-being.