## JUNE 4 - 5, 2024

# STATEWIDE HARM REDUCTION SYMPOSIUM

Empowering Communities for Change: Health, Equity, and Evidence

**Crowne Plaza Albany - the Desmond Hotel** 





# WELCOME!

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO), in partnership with the New York State Department of Health's Office of Drug User Health, is thrilled to present the 2024 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium! We are honored to host this event and bring together a diverse group of professionals, experts, and advocates working to further harm reduction practices across New York. Over the next two days, we have planned an exciting lineup of plenary speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions intended to inspire and equip you with new knowledge and skills that will help you to better protect and promote the health of people in your communities who use drugs. We look forward to spending this time together, engaging in insightful discussions, exploring innovative ideas, and fostering connections that will empower you in the important work you are undertaking. Thank you to all of you, who have dedicated time from your busy schedules to be here with us, and thank you to our speakers for preparing meaningful content for our program.

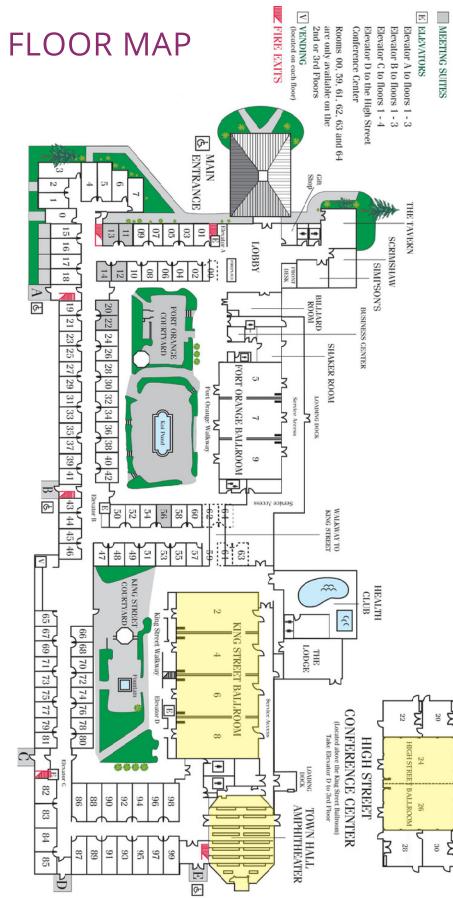
We would like to extend our gratitude to our exhibitors, who are here to share how their harm reduction services, resources, and expertise can be of service to you all in your work. We encourage you to connect with our exhibitors over the next two days to learn more about how they can help meet the needs of your community!

### **Hotel information**

- Check-in: 4:00 PM
- **Check-out:** 12:00 PM
- **Parking:** complimentary onsite parking lot
- **Pet policy:** Guide dogs/service animals are allowed; \$100 pet deposit per stay; \$75 pet fee per night

We look forward to spending the next couple of days with you! - The NYSACHO Team

## **VENUE FLOOR MAP**



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## DAY 1 – TUESDAY, JUNE 4

10:00 - 5:00	<b>Registration open</b> — <i>Outside of King Street Ballroom</i> Connect with exhibitors!	3:30 - 4:20	<b>Breakout Session 2A</b> — <i>King</i> Monroe County IMPACT Team: H Partnership
11:00 - 11:45	Welcome Remarks — King Street Ballroom		Jessica O'Connor, MPH, Mon
	Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, New York State Association of County Health Officials		Deb Leach, BS, CASAC-T, Mon
	<ul> <li>James V. McDonald, MD, MPH, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health (pre-recorded remarks)</li> </ul>		<b>Breakout Session 2B</b> — <i>Town</i> No One Is Disposable: Changing
	Joseph Kerwin, Director, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health		Empowering Individuals to Save
	Ashley Livingston, Friends of Recovery Warren & Washington		<ul> <li>Monika Salvage, Cayuga Cou</li> <li>Deborah Pickering, MS, ATC,</li> </ul>
11:45 - 1:00	<ul> <li>Partnerships in Opioid Overdose Prevention — King Street Ballroom</li> <li>Jeanette O'Connor Shanley, New York State Department of Health</li> </ul>	4:20 - 4:30	<b>Break</b> Connect with exhibitors!
	Patrick Quinn, Westchester County Department of Health	4:30 - 5:20	The Intersection of Person-G (Workshop) — King Street Ba
1:00 - 2:30	Sharon Thomas, Urban League of Westchester           Working Lunch (buffet) and Naloxone Panel Presentation & Discussion —		<ul> <li>Lauren Johnson, MA, CASAC-</li> </ul>
	Lunch buffet in Koi Pond / Presentation in King Street Ballroom		Shanna Siegel, RN, BSN, Putr
	Sharon Stancliff, MD, New York State Department of Health	5:20 - 5:30	<b>Reflections on Day 1</b> – <i>King</i>
	Elizabeth Schady, New York State Department of Health		Elizabeth Girolami, New York
2:35 - 3:25	Breakout Session 1A — King Street Ballroom Cross-Sectoral Partnerships for a Safer Community		Emily D'Angelo, New York Sta
	Been Valcin, MPH, BA, CASAC-P, Wayne Behavioral Health Network		
	<b>Breakout Session 1B</b> — <i>Town Hall</i> Expanding Harm Reduction in Rural New York: Successes and Challenges from Cortland County's Implementation of the HEALing Communities Study		END
	Nicole Carter, MPH, Rural Health Institute of New York		
	Aster Parrott, MS, MA, Rural Health Institute of New York		

**Breakout Session 1C** — High Street Ballroom

An Unlikely PAIR: Partnership to Advance Integrated Referrals (PAIR)

**Jennifer Rodriguez, MS, MSW,** Livingston County Department of Health

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# DAY 1 – TUESDAY, JUNE 4

#### (continued)

#### ng Street Ballroom

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#### wn Hall

ng the Public Discourse Around Substance Use and ve Lives

ounty Mental Health

**C,** Cayuga County Health Department

#### n-Centered Services and Population Health Ballroom

**AC-M**, Putnam County Department of Mental Health

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#### ng Street Ballroom

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State Association of County Health Officials

### **D OF DAY 1**

## DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

7:30 - 11:00	<b>Registration open</b> — Outside of King Street Ballroom	12:00 - 12:45	Working Lunch — Koi Pond Connect with exhibitors!
7:30 - 9:00	Breakfast Buffet Open — Koi Pond Connect with your peers!	12:45 - 1:00	<b>Break</b> Connect with exhibitors!
8:00 - 9:00	Working Breakfast - Drug Overdose Data and Public Health Surveillance Panel — King Street Ballroom	1:00 - 1:50	Breakout Session 3A — King S
	Lucila Zamboni, Ph.D., New York State Department of Health		How a Harm Reduction PSA Was Point Naloxone Distribution to Re
	Anne DelVecchio, MPH, New York State Department of Health		<ul> <li>Marissa Knapp, MST, Broome</li> </ul>
	Emily Payne, MSPH, New York State Department of Health		<ul> <li>Alexis Pleus, Truth Pharm</li> </ul>
9:00 - 10:30	Using Civil Rights Laws to Advance Health Justice for People Who Use Drugs — King Street Ballroom		<ul> <li>Kathy Staples, Truth Pharm</li> </ul>
	Sally Friedman, The Legal Action Center		<b>Breakout Session 3B</b> — <i>Town</i> Deciphering Substance Use Trend
	Rebekah Joab, The Legal Action Center		Sadia Rifah, Erie County Depa
10:30 - 10:45	Break Connect with exhibitors!		Jennifer Garrigan, Erie Count
10:45 - 12:00	Notes from the Field: Insights from Counties Conducting or Preparing for Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFRs) – Hybrid — King Street Ballroom and <u>Virtually (Zoom)</u> Gregory Gallo, LCSW, Dutchess County Department of Behavioral		<ul> <li>Breakout Session 3C — High S</li> <li>Peak Collaboration! Rewriting th</li> <li>Essex County Health Department</li> <li>Terri Morse, LMHC, Master CA and Community Services</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>and Community Health</li> <li>Michael Birnbaum, Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health</li> </ul>	2:00 - 2:30	<b>Closing Remarks</b> — King Stree
	Daniel Gilmore, Ph.D., Oneida County Health Department		Glynnis Hunt, New York State
	Ashlee Thompson, MHA, MSEd, Master CASAC, Oneida County Department of Mental Health		Emily D'Angelo, New York Stat
	Veronica Salvas, Greene County Public Health Department		
	Meghan Tice, Oswego County Health Department		

**Paul Fahey,** consultant to Oneida County Health Department (Primeau-Fahey Studios)

Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by Health Research Inc. (HRI) via Grant 140156901 Opioid Stewardship Funding. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of HRI, NYS Department of Health or the Project Sponsor, Office of Drug User Health, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

# DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

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#### ng Street Ballroom

as Used to Decrease Overdoses in a Community and Multi-Reduce Overdose Fatalities

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State Association of County Health Officials

# **SPEAKERS**



#### **PATRICK OUINN**

Program Specialist (Health) - Westchester County Department of Health

Patrick Quinn has worked for the Westchester County Department of Health for 27 years. Since 2014, he has overseen the county's Opioid Overdose Prevention Program and has trained/ certified thousands of people who live or work in Westchester County on how to administer Naloxone. In addition, he is the co-chair of the county's Opioid Overdose Response Initiative.



#### **SHARON THOMAS**

Director of Health Services - Urban League of Westchester

Sharon Thomas has worked at the Urban League of Westchester for 20 years. Since 2010, she has overseen the Urban League's Syringe Exchange Program and has assisted with expanding other substance use services. Since 2017, she has overseen their Opioid Overdose Prevention Program and continues to work with local service providers, agencies, faith-based organizations, shelters, and community partners to provide overdose prevention education and Narcan trainings.



#### SHARON STANCLIFF, MD

Associate Medical Director of Harm Reduction in Healthcare -New York State Department of Health

Sharon Stancliff, MD is Associate Medical Director for Harm Reduction in Health Care at the AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health and she is a staff physician at Project Renewal where she prescribes buprenorphine an FQHC in a men's shelter.. She has been the Medical Director of a Community Health Center, an Opioid Treatment Program and the Harm Reduction Coalition. Her current focus is on opioid overdose prevention through expanding access to buprenorphine in primary care and in less traditional settings such as syringe access programs as well as expanding access to naloxone. She has spoken and provided technical assistance these topics nationally and internationally as well as publishing in books and peer reviewed journal. She maintains board certification in Family Medicine, and in Addiction Medicine.



#### **ELIZABETH SCHADY**

Program Director - New York State Department of Health

Elizabeth Schady is an Opioid Program Manager with the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH), Office of Drug User Health ODUH). Ms. Schady oversees the Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, which furnishes naloxone to over 1100 registered providers statewide. She is also the lead on the Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) based in NYC. The PORT partners closely with the NYPD providing outreach to individuals who have survived an overdose. This team is responsible for engaging with these individuals and providing them with harm reduction material and education, referrals to health services, and entitlements. Ms. Schady also oversees the Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP) and Harm Reduction Billing Services within in ODUH. Prior to working with the NYSDOH Ms. Schady was the Director at Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services overseeing several programs working with chronically ill individuals, people who use drugs, people who inject drugs and homeless individuals



#### **BEEN VALCIN, MPH, BA, CASAC-P** Coordinator / Trainer - Wayne Behavioral Health Network

Been Valcin is a trainer and coordinator at the Wayne Behavioral Health Network. Been received his Master's in Public Health from Roberts Wesleyan College. He obtained his Bachelors of Science in Health Administration from Roberts Wesleyan and his Associate in Business Administration from Finger Lakes Community College. Been has been working in the public health's field for more than a decade. He also worked as a peer counselor for families impacted by HIV, substance use disorders, and victims of abusive families. Been volunteers his time for several community organizations including Edgewood Church, FHP University and the Dirt Road Collective.

#### NICOLE CARTER, MPH

Nicole Carter works at RHI as an Epidemiologist. She has worked for two years at the agency primarily on overdose prevention, but will be expanding into other areas such as mental health and housing. She graduated with her B.S. in Public Health, followed by her Master's degree in Public Health in May 2022, from Syracuse University. Prior to attending SU, she grew up in Binghamton NY.

### **ASTER PARROTT, MS, MA**

In May of 2022, Aster started with RHI as Community Engagement Coordinator for the HEALing Communities Study. Since that project ended in spring of 2024, its work has included grant writing, data communication and report design, and product management for the various tools, portals, and other public health products RHI supports. In 2019, Aster earned its M.A. from Cornell University where they studied how different kinds of evidence get used in drug policy debates. It also regularly taught undergraduate writing courses about science, technology, and inequality.

### **JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ, MS, MSW**

Jennifer Rodriguez has served as the Health Director for Livingston County since 2012. Prior to that she worked for Arnothealth and for Schuyler County Health Department. She is an adjunct professor for Nazareth University. She lives in Dansville, NY with her two children.





#### Epidemiologist – Rural Health Institute of New York (RHI)

### Product Manager - Rural Health Institute of New York (RHI)

### Public Health Director - Livingston County Department of Health



#### **JESSICA O'CONNOR, MPH**

Addiction Services Program Manager - Monroe County Department of Public Health

Jessica has 16 years of experience improving community health and currently serves as the Program Manager of the 24-member Monroe County Department of Public Health Addiction Services Division. Jessica has managed grant programs, including the recent NIH Healing Communities Study, and has been integral in the continued development of Monroe County's opioid response. Jessica is passionate about initiatives that highlight community partnership and reduce stigma around addiction. Jessica holds a BS in Psychology and a Master of Public Health degree.

#### **DEB LEACH, BS, CASAC-T**

Addiction Services Outreach Supervisor - Monroe County Department of Public Health

Deb has worked in the field of addiction for over ten years and is a loyal and fierce advocate for people who use drugs. She leads IMPACT Outreach Team of the Monroe County Department of Health Addiction Services and coordinates Monroe County's Naloxone Box program. Deb believes wholeheartedly in harm reduction and her favorite part of her job is showing love to the community. Deb holds a BS in Alcohol and Substance Use Programs with a minor in Sociology and a CASAC-t certification.



#### **MONIKA SALVAGE**

Project Director - Cayuga County Mental Health

Monika Salvage is the project director for the Healing Cayuga and the Comprehensive Substance Use Diversion programs in Cayuga County and coordinates cross-sector efforts to reduce overdose deaths through the implementation of evidence-based practices. Monika also oversees the state-registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Program for Cayuga County Mental Health and has developed and implemented a multi-modality naloxone and harm reduction training and distribution program for the county that significantly increased access to and use of naloxone by laypersons who saved lives and contributed to the reduction in overdose deaths. Monika secures and administers federal and state grants for the county and works with local agencies on data-driven implementation of substance use grant projects that support identified measurable goals. In addition to her grant and project management experience, Monika's background in communications led to the implementation of numerous public information and communications campaigns on opioid use disorder, harm reduction, and stigma that shaped the public discourse.



## **DEBORAH PICKERING, MS, ATC**

Deborah Pickering is the Director of Health Education & Public Information at the Cayuga County Health Department, serving in this role since June of 2023. Ms. Pickering has over 14 years of grant administration and project management experience that has focused on implementing and advancing evidence and population-based public health policies and systems to address current public health problems, diseases, and other community health factors. A few highlights of her work include implementing the first Food is Medicine program within the City of Syracuse; coordinating the Tobacco 21 initiative in Onondaga County, which led to the successful passing of the bill in December of 2017; and working with over 80 healthcare and mental health care organizations in Central New York to advance systems change policy to address tobacco dependence treatment. Deborah has a passion for improving the health and well-being of communities, addressing the social care needs of individuals, and creating healthier environments for future generations.

#### LAUREN JOHNSON, MA, CASAC-M

Lauren Johnson is the Dual Recovery Coordinator for the Putnam County Department of Mental Health. Lauren has 15 years' experience working in Behavioral Health. Her experience spans from residential and outpatient treatment, supportive housing, prevention, recovery and harm reduction. Lauren has a passion for working with people who use substances and harm reduction.

#### SHANNA SIEGEL, RN, BSN

Putnam County Department of Health -

Shanna Siegel, RN, BSN, has over 15 years of experience working in the health field. She began her career coordinating a peer-led teen pregnancy prevention program. During that time, Shanna also became a labor doula and yoga instructor, offering free and low-cost services to her community. In 2011, she set her sights on becoming a registered nurse and went on to work labor and delivery until joining the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) in 2018 as a Public Health Nurse. In her current role as Supervising Public Health Educator and Public Information Officer, Shanna strives to address barriers to health and well-being through community engagement and cross-sector collaboration.

#### LUCILA ZAMBONI, PH.D.

Director - Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology -*New York State Department of Health* 

Lucila Zamboni is the Director of the Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology Unit at the NYS DOH. She has been with the NYS DOH for 8 years serving in different epidemiology roles. Prior to her appointment in ODUH she was the Program Manager for Viral Hepatitis Surveillance.





#### Director of Health Education & Public Information - Cayuga County Health Department

#### Dual Recovery Coordinator - Putnam County Department of Mental Health

# Supervising Public Health Educator, Public Information Officer



#### **ANNE DELVECHHIO, MPH**

Program Manager - State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), *New York State Department of Health* 

Anne DelVecchio is the New York State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System's Program Manager and a drug overdose epidemiologist, receiving her Master of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics in 2008 from the University at Albany. She currently works within the Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology Unit within the Office of Drug User Health at the AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health.



#### **EMILY PAYNE, MSPH**

Epidemiologist – New York State Department of Health

Emily Payne, MSPH, is an epidemiologist and program evaluator at the New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute, Office of Program Evaluation and Research. Her work focuses on programs serving people who use drugs including drug checking, naloxone distribution and administration, and referrals to opioid treatment programs. Prior to joining the NYSDOH in 2021, Emily worked as an epidemiologist at the state and local levels in Colorado.



#### **SALLY FRIEDMAN**

Senior Vice President of Legal Advocacy - Legal Action Center

Sally Friedman is the Senior Vice President of Legal Advocacy at the Legal Action Center, a non-profit organization that uses legal and policy strategies to fight discrimination, build health equity, and restore opportunity for people with arrest and conviction records, substance use disorders, and HIV or AIDS. Ms. Friedman has litigated precedent-setting cases such as Beckett v. Aetna, a class action lawsuit challenging Aetna's violation of over 13,000 members' HIV privacy rights, and Innovative Health Systems v. City of White Plains, a federal lawsuit establishing that the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits using zoning laws to exclude facilities serving people with disabilities. She has worked extensively to reduce barriers to medications for opioid use disorder. Her publications include Ending Medical Complicity with Skilled Nursing Facility Discrimination Against People with Opioid Use Disorder, Legality of Denying Access to Medication Assisted Treatment in the Criminal Justice System, Medication-Assisted Treatment in Drug Courts: Recommended Strategies, and Defense Lawyers and the Opioid Epidemic: Advocating for Addiction Medication.



#### **REBEKAH JOAB**

Senior Staff Attorney - Legal Action Center

As a Senior Staff Attorney at the Legal Action Center, Rebekah Joab advocates for individuals who experience discrimination because of their drug use, arrest or conviction records, and HIV or AIDS status. Rebekah works on LAC's impact litigation and direct legal services across these areas, with a focus on LAC's strategies to ensure access to medication for opioid use disorder and enforce anti-discrimination rights for people who use drugs. During her time at LAC, Rebekah has worked on cases to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act and recently filed Landau v. Good Samaritan Hospital et al., which challenges a hospital's denial of certain services to a patient because his history of opioid use disorder. Rebekah earned her BA in psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and her JD from the Georgetown University Law Center.



### **GREGORY GALLO, LCSW**

Gregory Gallo is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker working as the Clinical Program Manager of Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health's Empowerment Center. Gregory helped develop Dutchess County's Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Committee and has continued to serve as Coordinator, Next of Kin Interviewer and cochairs the related Recommendations Subcommittee. Gregory has been involved in community based behavioral healthcare since 2010 and has experience working in Clubhouse, shelter, outpatient mental health clinics, the public health system, and his own psychotherapy practice. Gregory loves hiking, volunteering as an EMT and participating in triathlons!

#### **MICHAEL BIRNBAUM**

Michael Birnbaum works as a Research Assistant in the Performance Management & Data Analytics division of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health. Michael worked to develop and launch Dutchess County's Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Committee in 2022, acting as a Coordinator, and serves as a Co-chair of the Recommendations Subcommittee. Outside of work, Michael is an avid biker and enjoys going on hikes!

### **DANIEL GILMORE, PH.D., MPH**

Dan Gilmore has been the Director of Health for the Oneida County Health Department since December 17, 2020. Prior to his appointment as public health director Dr. Gilmore had been the Environmental Health Director for the Oneida County Health Department for 13 years

### ASHLEE THOMPSON, MHA, MSED, MASTER CASAC

**Oneida County Department of Mental Health** 

Mrs. Ashlee Thompson has worked as the Commissioner of Mental Health and Director of Community Services for Oneida County, NY since late 2020, where she administratively oversees the community's mental hygiene system. Prior to this role, Mrs. Thompson spent over 15 years providing direct clinical care and administrative roles within the field of behavioral health, where she was named the 2018 Outstanding Healthcare Professional by The Genesis Group of the Mohawk Valley and The Medical Societies of Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties. She has served on a variety of boards and coalitions, showcasing her wealth of knowledge and expertise in the fields of substance use, mental health, and intellectual/developmental disabilities.

#### **VERONICA SALVAS**

Veronica has been working in Harm Reduction and Public Health for the last 15 years and has experience working with a New York City-based Syringe Exchange Program (now Onsite) and NYS OASAS. Since 2018 she has developed overdose related epidemiological surveillance systems and worked on Harm Reduction capacity building at the county level in Dutchess, Columbia and Greene Counties. She is presently an Epidemiologist at Greene County Public Health and coordinates the implementation of their newly launched Overdose Fatality Review Team.



#### Clinical Program Manager - Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health

#### Research Assistant - Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health

#### Public Health Director – Oneida County Health Department

## Commissioner of Mental Health / Director of Community Services -

#### Epidemiologist - Greene County Public Health Department

#### **MEGHAN TICE**

Epidemiologist - Oswego County Health Department

Meghan Tice joined Oswego County Health Department in 2018. She has been working in overdose prevention for three years and coordinates the Oswego County Public Health and Safety Team.



#### PAUL FAHEY

#### Vice President – Primeau-Fahey Studios

Paul Fahey is a strategic thinker and capacity-builder, with a unique left and right-brain approach to the science of health and human services, community engagement, and public relations. He has helped clients rebuild brands after bankruptcy, grow service lines amid fierce competition, attract and retain top talent. In addition to his client strategy work, Paul has directed hundreds of quantitative and qualitative research studies and personally moderated more than 450 focus groups since 1999. He is an OFR Team Facilitator and formally trained next-of-kin interviewer supporting several County Health Departments in New York State. But this is more than just a job for Paul, as a person in recovery since December 20, 1989 he is a passionate advocate for harm reduction programs and reaching people in various stages of substance use. His experience is derived from his work with more than seventy domestic agencies, hospitals and health systems serving urban, suburban, and rural markets. In addition, he has completed the required training for Coroners in New York State and holds a Private Pilot license from the FAA.



#### MARISSA KNAPP, MST

Supervising Public Health Educator/Overdose Prevention Coordinator -Broome County Health Department

Marissa Knapp is the Supervising Public Health Educator overseeing the CDC Overdose Data 2 Action LOCAL grant and the Opioid Settlement Funds as the Broome County Overdose Prevention Coordinator. Marissa received her bachelor's degree in Human Development from Binghamton University and a Master's degree of Science in Teaching (M.S.T.) from the State University of New York at Cortland. She has almost 15 years of experience at the Broome County Health Department, and more than 6 as the Overdose Prevention Coordinator. Ms. Knapp has worked in the community for 20 years on an array of initiatives that include evidence-based programming, pilot projects and public health initiatives to create policy, systems and environmental changes. As the Overdose Prevention Coordinator, Marissa is the chair of the Broome Overdose Action Collaborative and has fostered meaningful relationships with all types of partners in the field. She fully enjoys her job and is proud to work in the community where she was raised to reduce the burden of overdose.



#### **ALEXIS PLEUS**

Executive Director – Truth Pharm

Alexis Pleus founded Truth Pharm in January 2015 after the death of her oldest son, Jeff, to a herion overdose. Though sympathetic and compassionate to her son while he battled his substance use disorder, Alexis learned only after his death that the dogma as to how to respond to the disease of heroin/opioid addiction that was taught to her while he was alive, was false. Determined to spare other parents or individuals from facing the same discrimination she faced and desire to provide all of those touched by addiction with accurate information, Alexis founded Truth Pharm with a primary focus on raising awareness, reducing stigma and providing education on substance use disorder, with particular emphasis on the opioid/heroin epidemic.



#### **KATHY STAPLES**

Office Manager / Community Educator - Truth Pharm

Kathy has been involved in Truth Pharm since 2017 and joined our staff as an Administrative Assistant in 2022. Kathy was able to accurately record and report all data to the HEALing communities group. Kathy is also certified to deliver the Overdose Education and Naloxone since 2018. Kathy is trained in Motivational Interviewing, community education, received Anti-Racism Training, Group Facilitation both for families of someone who is currently using substances, grief group, and HIPAA. Kathy has lived experience and interacts with our clients on a daily basis.

#### **SADIA RIFAH**

Sadia Rifah is a dedicated public health educator and coordinator with a passion for harm reduction and substance use disorder (SUD) prevention. Currently serving as a key member of the Erie County Department of Health, Sadia leads educational initiatives focused on SUD, opioids, and cannabis education. With a background in public health education and addictions, Sadia brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their work, striving to raise awareness and promote health equity in her community.

#### **JENNIFER GARRIGAN**

Project Coordinator - Erie County Department of Health

Jennifer Garrigan earned her MPH in 2022 from the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. She is currently a Project Coordinator in the Office of Harm Reduction at the Erie County Department of Health. Jennifer is the lead overseeing a grant dedicated to providing resources, naloxone, training and education to First Responders as well as partnering with the University of Buffalo investigating harm reduction prescriber practices. She recently engaged in training each platoon in the Buffalo Fire Department providing updated substance and treatment information, safety precautions, and client engagement leave behind pouches in a large scale effort to get naloxone and Peer Navigator support services to the community. Prior to entering the field of Harm Reduction, Jennifer worked as a Director at a pre-clinical pharmaceutical research organization specializing in oncology for over a decade. In her spare time Jennifer coaches her two daughters in youth sports, and is an active and engaged community member volunteering whenever possible.

### **TERRI MORSE, LMHC, MASTER CASAC**

Terri started her career in mental health and substance abuse treatment in 2008, after a previous career in sales. She has been the Director of Essex County Community Services and Mental Health since 2017. Terri has a Bachelor's in Mathematics, a Masters in Administration and Leadership from SUNY Plattsburgh, and a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Union Institute and University. Strengthening the functioning of Essex County residents is her vision and serving the community is her passion.



#### Public Health Educator - Erie County Department of Health

#### Director – Essex County Mental Health and Community Services

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## NYSACHO

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SARAH RAVENHALL Executive Director sravenhall@nysacho.org

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**OORT, PATIENT CARE DISRUPTION & C/ME** druguserhealth@health.ny.gov

OFR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE collaborationhub@health.ny.gov

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AND SAFE TRAVELS HOME!

# Proud to Support Harm Reduction Champions

We are honored to sponsor this conference and support the amazing work of harm reduction advocates. Your dedication to improving the lives of people who use drugs through harm reduction is inspiring, and we are honored to be a part of your journey.



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