



STATEWIDE HARM REDUCTION SYMPOSIUM

Meeting the Moment: Building Stronger Community-Based Systems

November 17-18, 2026 | Hilton Garden Inn Troy

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS
Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

NEW YORK STATE Department of Health | AIDS Institute

WELCOME!

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO), in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health's Office of Drug User Health, is proud to welcome you to the 2026 Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium! We are honored to host this annual event and bring together a diverse group of professionals, advocates, and experts committed to advancing harm reduction across New York State. Over the next two days, you'll hear from inspiring plenary speakers and thought-provoking panels, and participate in engaging breakout sessions, all designed to deepen your knowledge, build your skills, and support your work in promoting the health and well-being of people who use drugs. We're excited to spend this time together, exchanging ideas, fostering connections, and learning from one another. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to be here, and thank you to our speakers for sharing their expertise.

We also extend our appreciation to our exhibitors, who are here to showcase tools, resources, and services that can support your work. We encourage you to connect with them throughout the symposium to explore how they can help meet your community's needs.

Please note that partners, sponsors, and exhibitors present at the symposium are here to share information and expertise as resources for attendees. The presence of, or remarks made by, an exhibitor does not constitute an endorsement by NYSACHO or NYSDOH of any specific vendor's products, services, or views.

Hotel Information

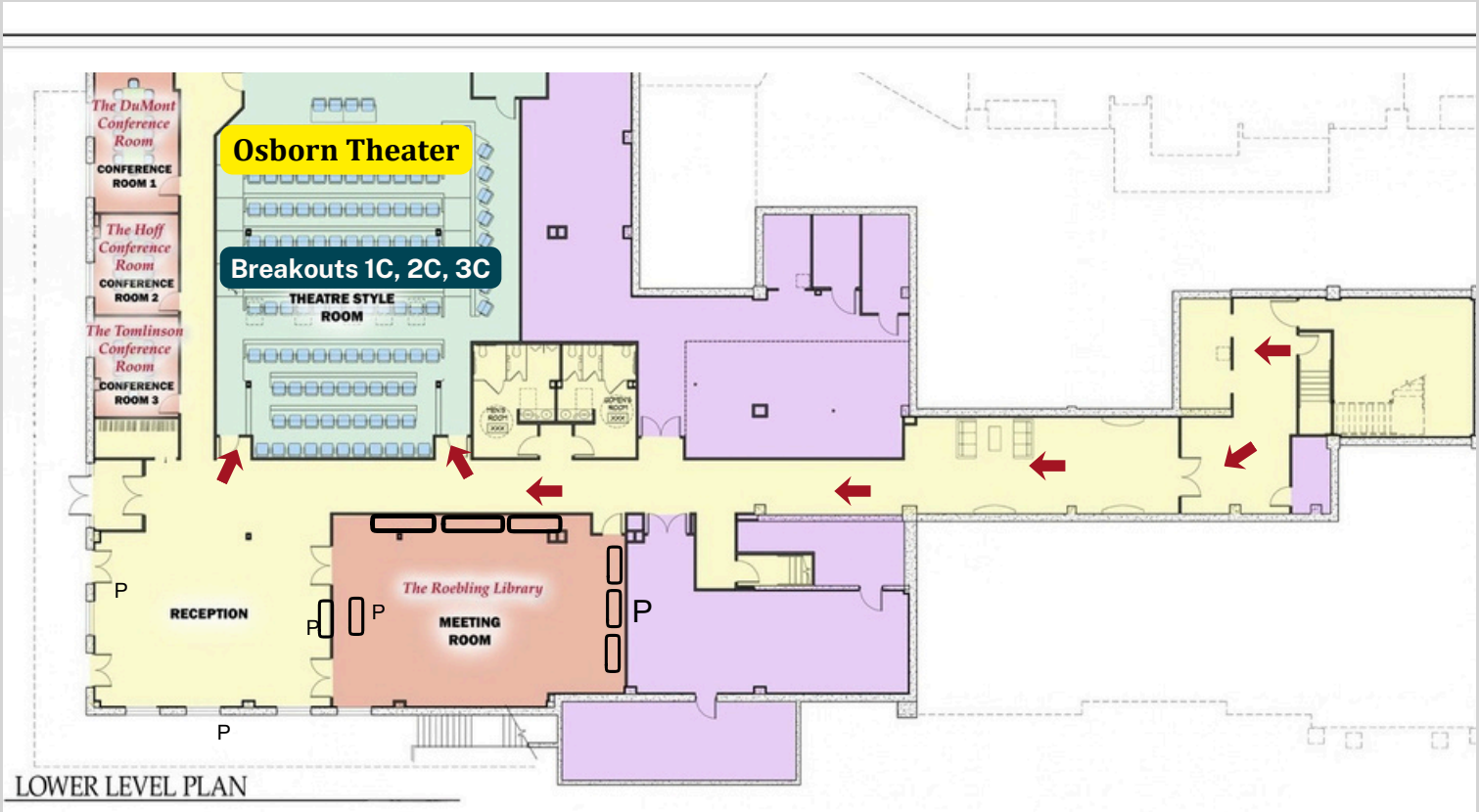
- **Check-in:** 4:00 PM
- **Check-out:** 12:00 PM
- **Parking:** Complimentary on-site parking
- **Pet Policy:** No pets allowed; service animals only

We look forward to spending the next couple of days with you!

-The NYSACHO Team

Venue Floor Maps





A special thanks to the 2026 Harm Reduction Symposium Planning Committee for their time, insight, and dedication. This event would not be possible without their thoughtful contributions!

- **Alyse Marotta, MPH,** Coordinator of Community Based Programs, Division of Community Mental Hygiene Services, Suffolk County Department of Health Services
- **Cari Faith Besserman, MS, CRC, CASAC-M,** Director, Division of Community Mental Hygiene Services, Suffolk County Department of Health
- **Douglas C. Meyer, M.Ed., NYCRPA,** Director of Crisis Services, Mental Health Association in Essex County, Inc.
- **Emily Purtell, MSW, MPH,** Public Health Planner, Rensselaer County Department of Health
- **Jesse Siegel, CPSS,** Outreach Specialist, Community Action for Social Justice (CASJ)
- **Katherine Reynolds, CASAC, CRPA, CARC,** Team Lead, Family Support Navigator Program, CoveCare Center
- **Keith Brown, MPH,** Public Health Director, Schenectady County Public Health Services
- **Kristin Russell, MPH,** Public Health Educator, Tioga County Public Health
- **Linda Beers, MPH,** Public Health Director, Essex County Health Department
- **Marilyn Tulumello,** OFR Coordinator, RN, Erie County Department of Health
- **Porshea Moore, CRPA, CASAC, CJSR,** Tioga County Mental Hygiene
- **Randy Marshall, CRPA/CARC, CASAC-T,** Policy Coordinator, InUnity Alliance
- **Shanna Siegel, RN, BSN,** Deputy Public Health Director, Public Information Officer, Putnam County Department of Health
- **Tyler Gilyard,** Program Coordinator, Substance Use Initiatives, Onondaga County Department of Health



Day 1 : Tuesday, November 17

9:30 - 5:00 **Registration Open – *Foyer***

Connect with exhibitors!

10:30 - 11:00 **Welcome Remarks – *Ferris Ballroom***

- **Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES,** Executive Director, NYSACHO
- **David Holtgrave, PhD,** Senior Policy Advisor to Commissioner of Health, New York State Department of Health, Office of the Commissioner
- **Jesse Siegel, CPSS,** Outreach Specialist, Community Action for Social Justice

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11:00 – 12:15 **Co-Occurring Disorders: The Missing Link in Primary Prevention – *Ferris Ballroom***

- **Stephanie Marquesano, JD,** Founder and President, The Harris Project, Inc.

12:15 – 1:15 **Working Lunch – *Lunch buffet in Foyer/Ferris Ballroom***

Connect with exhibitors & network with your peers!

1:15-1:30 **Break**

Connect with exhibitors!

1:30 – 2:20 **Breakout Session 1A – *Ferris Room I***

From Data to Action: A Rural Public Health and Community Partnership Advancing Harm Reduction and Health Equity in Greene County, NY

- **Veronica Salvas, MPH,** Epidemiologist, Greene County Public Health
- **Hannah Calhoun,** Executive Director, Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition

Breakout Session 1B – *Ferris Room II*

First on Scene, First to Change: Reducing Overdose Stigma Through a Collaborative Approach with Public Safety in Broome County, NY

- **Michelle Bertoni, MS-CHE,** Education and Outreach Coordinator, Broome County Health Department, Overdose Prevention Program
- **Marissa Knapp, MST,** Supervising Public Health Educator/ Director of Overdose Prevention Program, Broome County Health Department, Overdose Prevention Program
- **Christopher Streno,** Retired Law Enforcement Professional, Public Health Public Safety Liaison, Broome County Health Department, Overdose Prevention Program

Day 1 : Tuesday, November 17

Breakout Session 1C – *Osborn Theater*

On the Move for Our Community: A Peer-Led Mobile Unit Bringing Services Where They're Needed Most

- **Jason Meurlin, MPH,** Data Analyst, Erie County Department of Health, Office of Harm Reduction
- **Jeffrey Brylski,** Peer Navigator, Erie County Department of Health, Office of Harm Reduction

2:25 – 3:15 **Breakout Session 2A – *Ferris Room I***

Monroe County Call-to-Action Campaign: Deconstructing Stigma, Restoring Community, and Humanizing Substance Use

- **Jessica O'Connor, MPH,** Addiction Services Program Manager, Monroe County Department of Public Health
- **Alex Benitez,** Addiction Services Outreach Supervisor, Monroe County Department of Public Health

Breakout Session 2B – *Ferris Room II*

Reading Between the Lines: Uncovering Actionable Themes Through Qualitative Fatality Review Analysis

- **Gregory Gallo, LCSW,** Clinical Program Manager, Dutchess County Department of Mental Health
- **Vanessa Madrigal, BA,** Clinical Research Coordinator, Weill Cornell Medicine

Breakout Session 2C – *Osborn Theater*

Strengthening Community Resilience Through Prevention: The Work of the Tioga County ASAP Coalition

- **Kylie Holochak, MS,** Public Health Project Coordinator, Tioga County Public Health
- **Kristin Russell, MPH,** Public Health Educator, Tioga County Public Health

Strengthening Prevention Through Partnership: Lessons Learned from the Rensselaer County SPARE Coalition

- **Leonard Claus, CPH,** Public Health Director, Rensselaer County Department of Health
- **Emily Purtell, MSW, MPH,** Public Health Planner, Rensselaer County Department of Health

Day 1 : Tuesday, November 17

3:15 – 3:35 **Break**

Connect with exhibitors!

3:35 – 4:50 **A Day in the Life of a Harm Reduction Program– *Ferris Ballroom***

- **Michelle M. Logan, LMSW,** Director, Harm Reduction Unit, Office of Drug User Health, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health
- **Olivia Bridge, CASAC-T, CRPA,** Outreach Specialist, Addiction Center of Broome County
- **Amanda Parker, CASAC,** Director of Peer Services, Addiction Center of Broome County
- **Jesse Siegel, CPSS,** Outreach Specialist, Community Action for Social Justice
- **Trudy Wallace,** Drug Checking Coordinator, ACR Health
- **Ryan Sorrell,** Mohawk Valley SEP Coordinator, ACR Health

4:50 – 5:05 **Reflections on Day 1 – *Ferris Ballroom***

- **Joseph Kerwin,** Director, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health

END OF DAY 1

BabySTEPs

Supporting transitions for expectant and postpartum parents



Every journey to parenthood is different, and everyone deserves support.

BabySTEPs is a free, confidential program from **Partnership to End Addiction** that supports individuals across New York State who are navigating substance use during pregnancy and the first year postpartum. Built to reduce stigma and remove barriers to care, BabySTEPs gives your clients another trusted source of support alongside the care you already provide.

Educational Resources
English: drugfree.org/baby
Español: drugfree.org/bebe

Automated Messages
Daily text messages offering support, education, and resources, grounded in motivational interviewing and coping skills training.

Helpline
Two-way texting with a trained professional for support tailored to each client's needs.

How to Access
Clients can text **BABY** (or **BEBE** for Spanish) to **55753** to start receiving supportive messages. Once enrolled, they can text **CHAT** to reach the helpline for more individualized support. **It's free and private.**

What BabySTEPs offers providers
Join the BabySTEPs Partner Network, a free professional community for providers in New York State who work with pregnant and postpartum individuals affected by substance use. We meet monthly (2nd Wednesday at noon) with speakers on relevant topics.

Email **babysteps@toendaddiction.org** to join our mailing list or request flyers for your office.

Why It Matters
Stigma and fear keep many pregnant and postpartum individuals from seeking help for substance use. BabySTEPs meets clients where they are, offering support through articles, supportive texts, or one-on-one helpline texting. Clients only share what they are comfortable with and are never asked to identify themselves.

BabySTEPs is a program of the nonprofit Partnership to End Addiction
Msg and data rates may apply. Msg frequency varies. Text HELP for help or STOP to opt out.

Partnership to End Addiction

drugfree.org/babysteps-terms | drugfree.org/article/privacy-policy

NEW YORK STATE | HARM REDUCTION ASSOCIATION

Convening. Supporting. Advocating.

The New York State Harm Reduction Association brings together harm reduction providers and allies to build collective power and influence. Together, we:

CONNECT through conferences, events, and a statewide network.

GROW through training, education, resources, and technical assistance.

ADVOCATE for policies and resources that allow harm reduction programs and communities to thrive.

JOIN US

Day 2 : Wednesday, November 18

Breakfast – *Main Lobby (see signage)*

The Hilton Garden Inn Troy offers a breakfast buffet beginning at 6:00 AM for $12.50 per person.

7:30 - 11:00 **Registration Open– *Foyer***

8:00 - 8:10 **Day 2 Welcome – *Ferris Ballroom***

- **Allan Clear,** Director, Office of Drug User Health, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health
- **Glynnis Hunt, MS,** Deputy Director, Office of Drug User Health, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health

8:10 - 9:20 **Emerging Drug Supply Trends and the Importance of Public Health Data – *Ferris Ballroom***

- **Emma Fabian, MSW,** Executive Director, New York State Harm Reduction Association
- **Lucila Zamboni, Ph.D.,** Director, Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology, Office of Drug User Health, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health
- **Kusuma Anand,** Drug Analysis Specialist, Southern Tier AIDS Program
- **Leonardo Dominguez Gomez, MPH,** Assistant Director of Drug Checking and Drug Checking Technician, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

9:20 - 10:10 **Low Threshold, Housing First: Supportive Housing as a Key Component of the Harm Reduction Continuum – *Ferris Ballroom***

- **Kevin Blank, MSW,** Vice President of Supportive and Affordable Housing Operations, Housing Works, Inc.

10:10 - 10:25 **Break**

Connect with exhibitors!

10:25 - 11:15 **Breakout Session 3A – *Ferris Room I***

From Access to Trust: Building a Community-Based Harm Reduction Ecosystem in Cayuga County

- **Karina Anderson,** Grant Coordinator and Private Consultant, Cayuga County Mental Health

Day 2 : Wednesday, November 18

Breakout Session 3B – *Ferris Room II*

Innovative EMS-Substance Use Crisis Response Co-Response Model for Suspected Overdose Events Involving Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2/Spike)

- **Mariah Senecal-Reilly, MPA,** Director of Substance Use Initiatives, Onondaga County Health Department
- **Tracie DeSantis,** Supervisor/Paramedic, American Medical Response

Breakout Session 3C – *Osborn Theater*

Putnam County's Project ANCHOR: Aftercare Network for Compassionate Healing and Overdose Recovery

- **Lauren Johnson, MA, CASAC-M,** Dual Recovery Coordinator, Putnam County Department of Mental Health
- **Alyce Bilello,** Public Health Educator, Putnam County Department of Health
- **Keri Forster, CASAC-G Advanced,** Program Director of Substance Use Services, CoveCare Center
- **Katherine Reynolds, CASAC, CRPA, CARC,** Team Lead, Family Support Navigator Program, CoveCare Center

11:15 - 11:30 Break

Connect with exhibitors!

11:30 - 12:45 Community-Centered Solutions for Opioid Settlement Funds: Investing in Harm Reduction – *Ferris Ballroom*

- **Christine Khaikin, JD,** Deputy Director of Health Policy, Legal Action Center
- **Aliya-Begum Jessa,** MPA, MSW, Policy Research Associate, Legal Action Center
- **Jennifer Rodriguez, MS, MSW,** Public Health Director/ DCS, Livingston County Department of Health
- **Mary Guldenschuh,** Deputy Director, Livingston County Workforce Development and Youth Bureau
- **Marissa Knapp, MST,** Supervising Public Health Educator/Director of Overdose Prevention Program, Broome County Health Department, Overdose Prevention Program

12:45 - 1:00 Closing Remarks – *Ferris Ballroom*

- **Danielle Pellino, MPH, CHES,** Program Manager, New York State Association of County Health Officials

SPEAKERS

ANAND, KUSUMA *(she/her)*

Drug Analysis Specialist - Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP)

Kusuma is the Drug Analysis Specialist at Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP) and brings science into the world of harm reduction. Having done drug analysis for the last three and a half years, her work has helped with tracking drug supply trends in Central NY and helped clients be more informed about what is in their supply and empower them to make decisions with this information. She is vigilant in keeping up with state and nationwide trends to keep clients informed of changes in the supply.

ANDERSON, KARINA *(she/they)*

Grant Coordinator and Private Consultant - Cayuga County Mental Health



BENITEZ, ALEX *(he/him)*

Addiction Services Outreach Supervisor - Monroe County Department of Public Health

Alex Benitez serves as a Supervisor with the Monroe County Department of Public Health within the Addiction Services Division. Dedicated to destigmatizing addiction and empowering local communities, Alex specializes in developing clear, compassionate communication campaigns that translate complex public health information into accessible resources. Through strategic messaging and community engagement, Alex, alongside the Addiction Services team, works to raise awareness, reduce barriers to care, and directly connect individuals and families with critical local support services.



BERTONI, MICHELLE, MS-CHE *(she/her)*

Education and Outreach Coordinator - Broome County Health Department, Overdose Prevention Program

Michelle Bertoni serves as the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Broome County Health Department's Overdose Prevention Program. She has been in this role for 3 years. Michelle earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Community Health from the State University of New York in Cortland. Michelle brings her passion of helping others, by coordinating multidisciplinary overdose prevention initiatives with government agencies, public safety, healthcare providers, and the community. Michelle educates diverse audiences in overdose recognition, naloxone use, harm reduction, and stigma reduction.



BILELLO, ALYCE *(she/her)*

Public Health Educator - Putnam County Department of Health

Alyce is a former New York State Public Health Corps Fellow and currently serves as a Public Health Educator at the Putnam County Department of Health. Her work focuses on community health education and outreach in areas including harm reduction, youth tobacco use, sexual health, and mental health. She is passionate about reducing stigma, and ensuring health information is accessible and actionable for all.



BLANK, KEVIN, MSW *(he/him)*

Vice President of Supportive and Affordable Housing Operations - Housing Works, Inc.

Kevin Blank serves as Vice President of Supportive and Affordable Housing Operations at Housing Works, leading housing operations across supportive and affordable housing programs. He oversees strategic planning, compliance, property management, budgeting, and team development, with a focus on operational excellence, resident-centered services, and advancing Housing Works' mission to provide safe, stable housing for vulnerable New Yorkers. Kevin has worked in the field of housing services for People Living with HIV/AIDS for almost 30 years.



BRIDGE, OLIVIA, CASAC-T, CRPA *(she/her)*

Outreach Specialist - Addiction Center of Broome County

Olivia began her career in behavioral health in 2018 as a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) and joined the Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) in 2021. She recently earned her CASAC-T certification, further expanding her clinical knowledge and ability to provide person-centered care to individuals experiencing substance use disorders, homelessness, and co-occurring mental health conditions. As an OD2A Outreach Specialist within ACBC's Harm Reduction Services department, Olivia provides community-based support, connects individuals with essential resources, and meets people where they are, without judgment. She is a passionate advocate for harm reduction, believing that compassionate support can improve health and safety while creating pathways to recovery when individuals are ready. Olivia has a special interest in infectious disease prevention, particularly HIV education and prevention, and is committed to reducing stigma and barriers to care for individuals affected by both substance use and HIV. Through her work, she strives to empower underserved populations and ensure everyone has access to compassionate, inclusive care that promotes long-term health and well-being.



BRYLSKI, JEFFREY *(he/him)*

Peer Navigator - Erie County Department of Health, Office of Harm Reduction

Jeffrey Brylski is a Peer Navigator specializing in substance use disorders with the Erie County Department of Health. He uses lived experience alongside a non-judgemental approach to connect people with resources, treatment and community support. His goal is to meet people where they are, build trust, and empower them to take the next step toward their goals.



CALHOUN, HANNAH *(she/her)*

Executive Director - Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition (CGAC)

Hannah Calhoun holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and brings over a decade of nonprofit experience supporting high-risk youth, alternatives to placement, community health, and most recently substance use prevention and harm reduction. A lifelong local with deep roots in the community, Hannah is a person with lived experience who has lost far too many friends and loved ones — and, at times, parts of herself — to substance use. As Executive Director of the Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition (CGAC), Hannah is passionate about centering lived and living experience and bringing creativity, and energy to how communities respond to substance use. A creative thinker and storyteller, she turns ideas into meaningful campaigns, programs, and community-driven solutions. Believing it takes a village to address complex issues, Hannah works collaboratively to reduce stigma, prevent harm, and strengthen collaboration across two rural counties.



CLAUS, LEONARD, CPH *(he/him)*

Public Health Director - Rensselaer County Department of Health

Len Claus is the Public Health Director for the Rensselaer County Department of Health, bringing more than a decade of experience in public health, emergency preparedness, and military emergency operations. Prior to becoming Director, Len served as Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Deputy Director, drawing on his military experience with the Division of Military and Naval Affairs' Division of Domestic Operations (J-3), where he worked alongside civilian authorities during emergency activations. During COVID-19, he served as Site Manager for the Rensselaer County Mass Vaccination Site, where more than 35,000 vaccinations were administered. Len holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Nyack College and a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Public Health Fundamentals and Principles, and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health at the University at Albany.



CLEAR, ALLAN *(he/him)*

Director, Office of Drug User Health - AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health

Mr. Clear is the Director of the New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute's Office of Drug User Health where he is responsible for program planning, design and implementation related to drug user health, including overdose, HIV prevention, low threshold buprenorphine, drug checking and access to care including medical care and mental health services. Mr. Clear has worked in the field of drug user health since 1990. He was the Executive Director of the Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center, one of the first syringe exchange programs in New York State, and of the Harm Reduction Coalition, which is the prominent community-based organization promoting harm reduction as a mode of working with drug users in the US. Mr. Clear has served on both local and international advisory bodies, including Governor Cuomo's End the Epidemic Task Force in 2015 and the United Nations Civil Society Taskforce on Drugs.



DESANTIS, TRACIE *(she/her)*

Supervisor/Paramedic - American Medical Response

Tracie DeSantis is a paramedic with 20 years of experience in emergency medical services, including more than a decade in leadership roles. Throughout her career, she has developed a particular interest in EMS innovation and finding better ways to serve patients with complex behavioral health and substance use needs. Her work has focused on improving systems, developing collaborative approaches, and exploring alternatives to traditional emergency response and transport. She is passionate about advancing practical, patient-centered solutions that better connect individuals with the care and resources they need.

DOMINGUEZ GOMEZ, LEONARDO, MPH *(he/him)*

Assistant Director of Drug Checking and Drug Checking Technician - NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Leonardo Dominguez Gomez is a researcher and drug checking technician in New York City (NYC). He has worked in and alongside the harm reduction community in New York City since 2009. Currently he is the assistant director of the drug checking program and technician at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



FABIAN, EMMA, MSW *(she/her)*

Executive Director - New York State Harm Reduction Association

Emma Fabian is the Executive Director of the New York State Harm Reduction Association (NYSHRA). She brings more than a decade of leadership experience in behavioral health management and community-based interventions to the role. Prior to joining NYSHRA, she held a leadership role at Evergreen Health in Western New York, where she developed and expanded drug user health services across the region. She is also a part-time professor at her alma mater, the University at Buffalo School of Social Work.



FORSTER, KERI, CASAC-G ADVANCED *(she/her)*

Program Director of Substance Use Services - CoveCare Center

Keri manages CoveCare Center's non-intensive outpatient clinic for clients with substance use issues, providing group, individual, psychiatric, and medication treatment. She is also responsible for the Prevention Education program, promoting behaviors and attitudes that support healthy choices in area schools and camps and oversees the Family Navigator Support Program. Keri holds an Advanced CASAC-G, BS in Community and Human Services, and a CDC certification. She has worked in the Human Services field for well over a decade with a concentration in Substance Abuse services.



GALLO, GREGORY, LCSW *(he/him)*

Clinical Program Manager - Dutchess County Department of Mental Health

Gregory Gallo is a Clinical Social worker with over 15 years of experience in human service including time spent working in psychosocial Clubhouse, supported employment, supported housing, shelter social work and a decade of psychotherapy practice. More recently, he helped launch the Dutchess County Empowerment Center, which is a peer Recovery Coach Program. Gregory currently serves as a coordinator for the County's Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review, as well as a clinician for Dutchess County's Hoarding Task Force, Trauma Team & Disaster Mental Health Team. Outside of work, he is a dedicated father, husband, volunteer EMT, and age-group triathlete.



GULDENSCHUH, MARY *(she/her)*

Deputy Director - Livingston County Workforce Development and Youth Bureau

Mary Guldenschuh serves as the Deputy Director of the Livingston County Workforce Development and Youth Bureau, where she specializes in creating equitable pathways to employment. At this year's symposium, Mary highlights a pioneering cross-departmental partnership with the Livingston County Department of Health. By integrating opioid settlement funds into workforce initiatives, this collaboration directly connects recovery with sustainable training and career objectives. With a strong commitment to community-centered solutions, Mary works to eliminate barriers to employment for individuals affected by substance use, empowering local economies and supporting community-wide healing.



HOLOCHAK, KYLIE, MS *(she/her)*

Public Health Project Coordinator - Tioga County Public Health

Kylie Holochak, MS, is a Public Health Project Coordinator with Tioga County Public Health, where she contributes to a wide range of department initiatives. She oversees the Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, including the management of nearly 50 Public Access Naloxone Boxes throughout the county. Kylie has been an active member of the Tioga County Advocacy, Support, and Prevention (ASAP) Coalition for nearly ten years and currently serves as the Coalition's Project Director, overseeing its funding streams, including the DFC and STOP Act grants. She is deeply committed to serving the community she grew up in, advocating for the county's most vulnerable residents, and values the strong partnerships that emerge through collaborative coalition work.



HOLTGRAVE, DAVID, PHD *(he/him)*

Senior Policy Advisor to the Commissioner of Health - New York State Department of Health, Office of the Commissioner

David R. Holtgrave, PhD, joined the Department of Health in August 2024 as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Commissioner. From 2022 to 2024, Dr. Holtgrave served in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, a post for which his portfolio spanned public health and translational research aspects of substance use policy. From 2018 to 2022, he was the Dean of the School of Public Health, University at Albany, SUNY. He is now SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus. He has also served under the Obama Administration as a member and then Vice-Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, at the CDC as Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention- Intervention Research & Support, at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he served as Founding Chair of the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society from 2005 to 2018, and is still an Adjunct Professor. Dr. Holtgrave's 35 years of research experience have focused on bringing the highest quality scientific evidence to bear on urgent public health programmatic and policy decisions. This is evidenced, for example, by his translational work in addressing HIV-related health inequities in the U.S., rapid research to inform COVID clinical decision making, and the development of an evidence-based national response plan to confront the emerging challenge of fentanyl adulterated by xylazine.



HUNT, GLYNNIS, MS *(she/her)*

Deputy Director, Office of Drug User Health - AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health

Glynnis Hunt is the Deputy Director of the Office of Drug User Health at the AIDS Institute/New York State Department of Health. She serves as Principal Investigator for the CDC's Overdose Data to Action in States Cooperative Agreement and the New York State Opioid Stewardship Fund, leading statewide efforts to use data to drive overdose prevention and harm reduction strategies. With over two decades of experience in public health, Ms. Hunt has directed numerous complex, multi-sector initiatives at the local and state levels. Her work has leveraged millions in federal funding and helped translate public health data into actionable strategies. Ms. Hunt's personal mission is to improve care and outcomes for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, advocating for integrated, trauma-informed, and person-centered approaches across systems.



JESSA, ALIYA-BEGUM, MPA, MSW *(she/her)*

Policy Research Associate - Legal Action Center

Aliya is a policy research associate whose work sits at the intersection of health and justice. She focuses on expanding access to healthcare, including Medicaid and medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), for incarcerated people. Her work also advances public health approaches as alternatives to criminalization. Aliya holds dual master's degrees in social work and public administration from Columbia University.



JOHNSON, LAUREN, MA, CASAC-M *(she/her)*

Dual Recovery Coordinator - Putnam County Department of Mental Health

Lauren Johnson is an accomplished behavioral health professional and Master Credentialed Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor (CASAC-M) with extensive expertise in strategic planning, cross-systems collaboration, and evidence-based substance use supports and services across the continuum. She currently serves as the Dual Recovery Coordinator for the Putnam County Department of Mental Health, where she leads the county's Co-Occurring System of Care and oversees complex, data-driven harm reduction and opioid settlement initiatives. Holding a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology and Education from Columbia University, Lauren is a seasoned presenter and researcher who has delivered numerous regional and state-level presentations on overdose prevention, population health, and community engagement strategies.



KERWIN, JOSEPH *(he/him)*

Director - AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health

Joseph (Joe) Kerwin serves as the Director of the AIDS Institute. Joe is a native of Troy, NY. He holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, a Master of Divinity degree, as well as a master's degree in Applied Psychology from Yeshiva University. Joseph has been a Deputy Director in the AIDS Institute since 2018. His portfolio as Deputy Director has progressively expanded over the past four years to now include oversight of the AI's Health Care Programs, Uninsured Care Program, Medicaid Programs and Health Care Financing. Joseph has been with the AIDS Institute for more than ten years. He has been in the progressive roles of Assistant Bureau Director, Section Director, and Deputy Director. Prior to joining the AIDS Institute, Joseph was the Executive Director of AIDS Services at Catholic Charities from 2000 to 2004 and the Administrator of the AIDS Program and Division of HIV Medicine at Albany Medical Center from 2004 to 2011. Mr. Kerwin is responsible for the day-to-day decision making and operations of the AIDS Institute and has represented the AIDS Institute within the DOH, across state agencies and New York State. Priority efforts have focused on the integration of health equity principles to advance ending the epidemics of HIV, Hepatitis C, Congenital Syphilis, and opioid overdose, advancing LGBTQ+ health and wellness, and leading in many areas of the state's outbreak responses including COVID-19 and MPOX.



KHAIKIN, CHRISTINE, JD *(she/her)*

Deputy Director of Health Policy - Legal Action Center

Christine leads LAC's New York State-based policy advocacy to expand access to treatment and harm reduction strategies for people who use drugs, people in addiction treatment and recovery, and people living with HIV with a focus on access to Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT), harm reduction services and the intersection with the criminal legal system. Christine received her JD from Brooklyn Law School.



KNAPP, MARISSA, MST *(she/her)*

Supervising Public Health Educator, Director of Overdose Prevention Program - Broome County Health Department, Overdose Prevention Program

Marissa Knapp is a Supervising Public Health Educator overseeing the CDC Overdose Data 2 Action LOCAL grant and the Opioid Settlement Funds as the Director of Overdose Prevention for the Broome County Health Department. Marissa received her bachelor's degree in human development from Binghamton University and a master's degree of Science, in Teaching from the State University of New York in Cortland. She has 16 years of experience at the Broome County Health Department and has almost a decade dedicated to building the Overdose Prevention Program. Ms. Knapp has worked in the community for 22 years on an array of initiatives that include evidence-based programming, pilot projects and public health initiatives to create policy, systems, and environmental changes. Marissa is the chair of the Broome Overdose Action Collaborative (BOAC) and has fostered meaningful relationships with all types of partners in the field. She's proud to work to reduce the burden of overdose in the community where she was raised.

LOGAN, MICHELLE M., LMSW *(she/her)*

Director, Harm Reduction Unit - Office of Drug User Health, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health

Michelle M. Logan, L.M.S.W graduated Marist College in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She pursued her Masters in Social Work from Fordham University graduating in 2001. In her early career she worked with survivors of domestic violence within the shelter system and later in various healthcare settings focused on Maternal Child Health and HIV/AIDS. In 2004, she joined the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH AI) Harm Reduction Unit. Over the next 14 years she worked closely with the several Syringe Exchange/Harm Reduction program contracts. In 2018, she transitioned into a new role within the NYSDOH AI Office of Drug User Health partnering with 24 local county health departments to address the opioid epidemic on a county level and coordinating the Women Who Use Drugs workgroup. In 2021, she was promoted within the NYSDOH AI Office of Drug User Health to the Director of the Harm Reduction Unit. Together with her team, she oversees the grant funding and programmatic management for 38 syringe service and 12 drug user health hubs throughout NYS.



MADRIGAL, VANESSA, BA *(she/her)*

Clinical Research Coordinator - Weill Cornell Medicine

Vanessa Madrigal (Vassar College '23) first connected with the Dutchess County Department of Mental Health through a community internship during her senior year, which culminated in a literature review on risk factors for opioid overdose. After graduating, she joined an implementation science lab at Weill Cornell Medicine as a research assistant, working on the development and oversight of behavioral interventions for individuals living with rheumatoid arthritis. She now serves as the lab's research coordinator. Looking ahead, she plans to apply to nursing or medical school, with hopes of continuing to pursue qualitative research on barriers and facilitators to accessing healthcare.



MARQUESANO, STEPHANIE, JD *(she/her)*

Founder and President - The Harris Project, Inc.

Stephanie Marquesano is the Founder and President of the harris project, the only national nonprofit dedicated to co-occurring disorders (COD), the combination of mental health challenges and substance use issues. Since the 2013 accidental overdose death of her 19-year-old son, Harris, Stephanie has become a national leader advancing an integrated system of care across the continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery for individuals and families. Stephanie created CODA (Co-Occurring Disorders Awareness), a peer-led prevention movement that equips youth with knowledge, fosters connection, and promotes early intervention. She also developed the first COD prevention curriculum in collaboration with Partnership to End Addiction, champions Encompass, an evidence-based integrated treatment model for adolescents and young adults with COD, and serves as a national consultant to the Opioid Response Network. Her work includes nationally recognized public awareness campaigns such as You Don't Know The Half Of It and The Missing Issue with Us Weekly, and in 2026 she was named a Woman of Distinction by NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.



MEURLIN, JASON, MPH *(he/him)*

Data Analyst - Erie County Department of Health, Office of Harm Reduction

Jason Meurlin is the Data Analyst for the Erie County Department of Health Office of Harm Reduction. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he earned a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from the University at Buffalo while interning and consulting for the Erie County Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance. His primary focus since joining the Office of Harm Reduction in 2023 is analyzing geospatial trends in overdose reporting to effectively target outreach and resource allocation.



O'CONNOR, JESSICA, MPH *(she/her)*

Addiction Services Program Manager - Monroe County Department of Public Health

Jessica has 18 years of experience advancing community health and currently serves as Program Manager for the 24-member Monroe County Department of Public Health Addiction Services Division. She has managed major grant initiatives, including the NIH-funded Healing Communities Study, and has played an integral role in strengthening Monroe County's opioid response. Jessica is passionate about community-driven initiatives that build partnerships, reduce stigma, and improve outcomes for individuals affected by addiction. She holds a BS in Psychology and a Master of Public Health.



PARKER, AMANDA, CASAC *(she/her)*

Director of Peer Services - Addiction Center of Broome County

Amanda has worked at the Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) for over eight years, beginning her career as a peer advocate and collaborating with law enforcement on community initiatives. She earned her CASAC credential and worked as an outpatient Substance Use Disorder counselor for women before pursuing her passion for harm reduction. With the support of ACBC leadership, Amanda established an unfunded Syringe Exchange Program that eventually became a New York State-funded service. She later expanded the program by integrating peer advocates into syringe services, recognizing the value of lived experience and low-threshold access to care. Today, as Director of Peer Services, Amanda works to integrate harm reduction principles across ACBC's peer service programs and contracts, expanding access to compassionate, person-centered support throughout the community.



PURTELL, EMILY, MSW, MPH *(she/her)*

Public Health Planner - Rensselaer County Department of Health

Emily is the Public Health Planner for the Rensselaer County Department of Health, bringing five years of experience in public health along with a background in social work. In her role, she supports community health planning, overdose prevention, community health education, and the implementation of initiatives addressing key public health priorities throughout Rensselaer County. Prior to joining the Department of Health, Emily worked as a case manager serving individuals experiencing homelessness, helping clients establish stability as they transitioned into permanent housing. She holds both a Master of Public Health and a Master of Social Work from the University of New England.



REYNOLDS, KATHERINE, CASAC, CRPA, CARC *(she/her)*

Team Lead, Family Support Navigator Program - CoveCare Center

Katherine Reynolds is the Team Lead for the Family Support Navigator Program at CoveCare Center, serving Putnam, Westchester, and Dutchess counties. She provides compassionate, trauma-informed support to individuals and families affected by substance use and mental health challenges, helping them navigate resources, strengthen communication, and find hope through evidence-based approaches such as CRAFT and harm reduction. Drawing on both her professional expertise and lived experience, Katherine is passionate about reducing stigma, empowering families, and expanding access to recovery support throughout the community.



RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER, MS, MSW *(she/her)*

Public Health Director/ DCS - Livingston County Department of Health

Jennifer Rodriguez has served as the Director of the Livingston County Department of Health for the past 14 years, providing leadership in public health programming, community health initiatives, and emergency preparedness and response. In addition to her leadership role in public health, Jennifer is an adjunct professor at Nazareth University in Pittsford, New York. She teaches in the Master of Public Health program and serves as an instructor for the senior undergraduate capstone course, supporting and mentoring the next generation of public health professionals. Throughout her career, Jennifer has been committed to strengthening public health practice, developing future public health professionals, and building meaningful connections between public health agencies, healthcare providers, and the communities they serve.



RUSSELL, KRISTIN, MPH *(she/her)*

Public Health Educator - Tioga County Public Health

Kristin Russell, MPH, is a Public Health Educator with Tioga County Public Health, where she coordinates the Tioga ASAP Coalition and leads data-driven prevention initiatives. She has extensive experience in overdose prevention, grant management, and community partnership development across Tioga County. Her work includes coordinating countywide prevention coalitions, developing data collection tools, managing grant-funded initiatives, and fostering cross-sector partnerships. Through her work, Kristin has contributed to successful federal and state grant awards supporting substance use prevention, harm reduction and suicide prevention.



SALVAS, VERONICA, MPH *(she/her)*

Epidemiologist - Greene County Public Health

Veronica Salvas, MPH, has worked in public health and harm reduction for two decades, with extensive experience integrating local data with overdose prevention and harm reduction capacity-building efforts. She began her harm reduction career at New York Harm Reduction Educators (now OnPoint), a NYC-based syringe service program and has since worked with the NYS Office of Mental Health, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and multiple local health departments. She currently works with the Greene County Department of Health, where she focuses on applying grassroots harm reduction principles within local public health practice. She is passionate about building public health programs that are informed by community experience, local data, and the expertise of people who use drugs.



SENECAL-REILLY, MARIAH, MPA *(she/her)*

Director of Substance Use Initiatives - Onondaga County Health Department

Mariah Senecal-Reilly is a public health professional based in Syracuse, New York, with over ten years of experience in behavioral health and human services. She holds a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and currently serves as the Director of Substance Use Initiatives at the Onondaga County Health Department. In this capacity, Mariah has had the opportunity to establish the Division of Substance Use Initiatives from its inception, facilitating the development of comprehensive and responsive strategies to address substance use within Onondaga County. Her work encompasses community-driven programming, harm reduction, crisis response, and peer engagement initiatives.



SIEGEL, JESSE, CPSS *(he/him)*

Outreach Specialist - Community Action for Social Justice (CASJ)

Jesse is a Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) and works as an Outreach Specialist for a Syringe Exchange program. He has advocated for youth in the justice, mental health, and foster care systems. Having experienced many losses due to overdose, Jesse is driven to help end the stigma around mental health and drug use.



SORRELL, RYAN *(he/him)*

Mohawk Valley SEP Coordinator - ACR Health

Ryan Sorrell is a 44yo man that has been in Harm Reduction for over a decade. Ryan has a lifetime of lived experience and started his journey in Harm Reduction as a backpack peer. Due to his dedicated commitment to getting people lifesaving resources, he advanced into making this mission his career. Today, Ryan lives on a farm with his wife and 4 kids and is close to 10 years of abstinence from opiates.



STRENO, CHRISTOPHER *(he/him)*

Retired Law Enforcement Professional, Public Health Public Safety Liaison - Broome County Health Department, Overdose Prevention Program

Christopher Streno is a seasoned law enforcement professional with over three decades of public service in Broome County and the Southern Tier. Throughout his 33-year career, he has served in many roles from Corrections Officer, Investigator, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and ultimately Captain with the Vestal Police Department. He is highly experienced in leadership, crisis negotiation, training, accreditation, crime prevention, and community engagement. Christopher is deeply committed to public safety and helping the community. He brings his knowledge to help reduce overdoses in Broome County.



WALLACE, TRUDY *(she/her)*

Drug Checking Coordinator - ACR Health

Trudy spent many years struggling with drug use and knows firsthand how hard it can be to ask for help. Today, she works at ACR Health in the syringe exchange program, helping people who are still where she once was. Her lived experience gives her a different understanding of what PWUD are going through, while meeting people where they are without judgment. “I’m proud to use my own experiences to help other feel supported, respected, and understood.”



ZAMBONI, LUCILA, PHD *(she/her)*

Director, Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology - Office of Drug User Health, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health

Dr. Zamboni is a Research Scientist and the Director of the Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology Unit (DOSE) in the Office of Drug User Health, AIDS Institute, NYS Department of Health. Her portfolio includes overseeing the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), activities related to monitoring emerging drug threats, and the NYS Drug Checking Programs. Through these activities the DOSE Unit provides accurate, timely and relevant information for overdose prevention and response program development, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring. Dr. Zamboni has over 15 years of experience in Public Health.

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Thank you for helping us continue to stregthen and grow this symposium. We truly value your voice and experiences!

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