Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Behavioral Health Administration
SAMHSA’s 26th Annual National Recovery Month Kick-Off Celebration
September 11, 2015

WELCOMING REMARKS
READING OF THE GOVENOR’S RECOVERY MONTH PROCLAMATION

Dr. Albert Zachik, M.D., Acting Executive Director, Behavioral Health Administration

BHA UPDATES

Dr. Lisa Hadley, M.D., J.D., BHA, Clinical Director
Michael Preston, BHA, Public Relations Campaign Director
Deirdre Davis, BHA, Director of Recovery and Treatment Services
David Barnes, President Maryland Addiction and Behavioral-health Professionals Certification Board (MABPCB)

GUEST SPEAKERS

Lauren Spiro
“This is Our Time: Our Dignity, Our Destiny”

Steven Allbright
“Inside / Outside: A Continuum of Recovery in the Division of Corrections”

Jennifer M. Padron
“The US Peer Workforce and Peer Supports / Services: A State of the State”
Lauren Spiro, M.A., Clinical/Community Psychology, Director, Lauren Spiro and Associates LLC, and Co-founder, Consultant, and Trainer, Emotional CPR

Fueled by a vision of an America where every individual is respected and included as a valued member of the community, Lauren’s work focuses on developing our capacity for appreciating the creativity and resiliency of the human mind and building pathways so everyone may come home. Although she was diagnosed with chronic schizophrenia as a teenager, today she is a visionary thinker, educator, artist, and consultant dedicated to embodying inner peace to create global peace. She is the co-founder and co-director of Emotional CPR, a primary prevention, public health education project which trains people to assist others through an emotional crisis. She co-founded two non-profit corporations and served as the director of the National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery (2006-2014). She provides training and consultation focused on human service systems transformation, social inclusion and trauma-informed approaches. Her memoir, Living for Two: A Daughter’s Journey from Grief and Madness to Forgiveness and Peace was just published.

Steven W. Allbright, Full-Time Student, Stratford University

A person with long term recovery, Steven began his sobriety on May 29, 2007. He served in the Navy from 1980 to 1987, was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and obtained the rank of Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW). After the military he worked in the private sector as the Director of Operations for GSS Security Services. Following an incident, he spent 6 years incarcerated. During that time he was introduced to Buddhism, which he practices today. After his release in 2014, he graduated from the Gaudenzia, Behind the Walls, Intensive Treatment Program. In May, he participated in the Behavioral Health Administration’s 2015 Annual Conference as a panel participant in the workshop, Sharing our Commonalities, Learning from Our Differences, telling his unique recovery story and perspective. He recently accepted a position at Northwest Hospital as the lead cook. Steven is a full-time college student at Stratford University with a GPA of 3.51. He will graduate in December 2015 with an AAS in Culinary Arts.

Jennifer Padron, M.Ed., CPS, PhDc, Associate Director, Principal Investigator and Project Director, The Campbell Center, DC

Jen is a 2015 Doctor of Public Health Candidate. Her subject matter expertise leverages peer services/supports delivery located in urban, frontier and rural public health focusing on integrated physical and behavioral systems of care in the United States. A Study of the Relationship between Physical Health, Whole Health, Wellness, Recovery, and Community Integration for Quality of Life (QOL) in Adults Living with Psychiatric Labels is a secondary data analysis of randomized controlled University of Pennsylvania studies. Padron is a trained WRAP Facilitator, State of Georgia Certified Peer Specialist and State of Texas Advanced Certified Peer Specialist as well as Community Health Worker Promotora. She has received foundational training in IPS, ECPR, advanced peer services/supports, trauma informed peer support social change, trauma healing, mobile crisis intervention and is a national WHAM Coach and Facilitator (Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network and the National Council for Behavioral Health).