

Mental Health Crisis Response and Stabilization: Mapping New York's Path to Success

9am-3pm, Wednesday, July 27th, 2022
John Jay College – Moot Court

Event Description:

From Punishment to Public Health (P2PH) is gathering partners in New York to highlight the recent investments in mobile mental health crisis response and clinical stabilization resources at the state and local level. With the recent launch of the 9-8-8 mental health hotline, and several new and expanded service modalities slated for FY23, New York is poised to make a significant impact on the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable residents. This event is designed to share information on these new resources, cultivate discussion around remaining gaps in services, and explore opportunities to create a more integrated behavioral health system.

Agenda:

- 9:00am** **Registration & Networking Breakfast**
- 9:30** **Welcome & Table-Setting** – Jeff Coots, P2PH Director
- 10:00** **Plenary – Overview of 988 Rollout and Q&A**
- Denise Balzer, Director of Crisis Services, NYS Office of Mental Health
- 11:00** **Panel – NYC Crisis Collaborative Interagency Working Group**
- Dr. Michael T. McRae, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner, Mental Hygiene, NYC DOHMH
 - Hazel Phillip, Director for the Office of Crisis Services, NYC DOHMH
 - Laquisha Grant, Senior Director, Crisis Response and Community Capacity at NYC Mayor's Office of Mental Health
 - Denise Balzer, Director of Crisis Services, NYS Office of Mental Health
- 12:30pm** **Lunch Break (catered in-house)**
- 1:30** **Critical Conversation:**
Challenges in Adapting Best Practices in Behavioral Health
- Dr. Kelly Ramsey, Chief of Medical Services, OASAS
 - Dr. Elizabeth Ford, Director of Mental Health and Criminal Justice Initiatives, Columbia University Department of Psychiatry; Medical Director, Justice-Involved Persons, NYC Health + Hospitals' Office of Behavioral Health
 - Tracie Gardner, Senior Vice President of Policy Advocacy, Legal Action Center
- 3pm** **Close**

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Morning Speaker Biographies

Denise Balzer, LCSW

Director of Crisis, Emergency and Stabilization Services, NYS Office of Mental Health

Denise Balzer has worked for the NYS Office of Mental Health for the past 7 years and leads a team that focuses on the development and implementation of a comprehensive crisis response system for all New Yorkers. She has had a long career working with children, families and adults in the community and in residential settings.

Laquisha Grant

Senior Director, Crisis Response and Community Capacity, NYC Mayor's Office of Mental Health

Laquisha Grant has worked with state, local and national organizations/ agencies on mental health systems, policy and program development for over a decade. As the Senior Director of Crisis Response and Community Capacity for the Mayor's Office of Community Health, she oversees the implementation of the office's mental health crisis programs, initiatives and policy work. Her work has been centered on improving equity by bridging the gap between large systems (i.e. health and criminal justice) and local communities to address drivers of poor health outcomes, such as housing, justice-involvement, and employment. She has worked both in New York City health and human services and with other counties and states nationally to develop and design community based mental health programs.

Michael McRae, M.D.

Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Mental Hygiene for NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Dr. Michael McRae is a clinical psychologist and oversees NYC DOHMH initiatives related to mental health, substance use, developmental disabilities, and criminal legal system. He previously served as the Assistant Commissioner of the NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP), which aims to reduce the negative social and health consequences of justice system involvement through evidenced-based policy and practice change. Anchoring his work in a trauma-and-resilience-informed framework, Dr. McRae centers relationship building, racial and social justice, and inclusion to serve the most marginalized individuals and their communities, particularly with respect to behavioral health. Dr. McRae views these as fundamental to his history of effective program development/implementation as well as his approach to policy change, with the ultimate goal of achieving health equity.

Hazel Phillip, LCSW

Director for the Office of Crisis Services, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Hazel Phillip is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Ms. Phillip has over 10 years' experience as an Adjunct Faculty and over 20 years in social service administration and direct practice, working with justice-involved people, survivors of trauma, co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders and individuals experiencing homelessness. In her role at NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, she provides oversight and support to adult mental health crisis programs.

Afternoon Speaker Biographies

Elizabeth Ford, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Director, Mental Health and Criminal Justice Initiatives, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Medical Director, Justice-Involved Persons, NYC Health + Hospitals Office of Behavioral Health

Dr. Elizabeth Ford has spent much of her 20-year career in direct care and leadership positions working to improve psychiatric treatment, and reduce the harms of incarceration, for people with mental health needs in the NYC criminal justice system. The city's jail system experienced its lowest suicide rates and became a national model for providing comprehensive mental health treatment and re-entry services during Dr. Ford's six-year tenure there as Chief of Psychiatry. She teaches extensively to varied audiences about the intersection of the mental health and criminal justice systems. She is also the author of a critically-acclaimed memoir, *Sometimes Amazing Things Happen: Heartbreak and Hope on the Bellevue Hospital Psychiatric Prison Ward*.

Kelly S. Ramsey, MD, MPH, MA, FACP, DFASAM

Chief of Medical Services, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports

Dr. Kelly S. Ramsey is an internal medicine physician who has treated substance use disorder since 2004. She is board certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine. She worked as Medical Director of an academic center-based OTP in the South Bronx before working for nearly a decade for a large FQHC in the Hudson Valley where she created and grew a MAT program for OUD and AUD. Prior to being appointed as CMO in July 2021, she was the Associate Chief of Addiction Medicine at NYS OASAS. Dr. Ramsey has provided expert advice to the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute by serving on numerous committees for over a decade, including the Vice-Chair of the Substance Use Guidelines Committee for the HIV Clinical Practice Guidelines (a collaboration with Johns Hopkins University) and Co-Chair of the Office of Drug User Health's NYS Buprenorphine Advisory Group. Dr. Ramsey was the recipient of the NYS DOH Commissioner's Special Recognition Award for contributions to drug user health in NYS in December 2018. Dr. Ramsey serves as the HCV and Drug User Health Champion for the Capital District for Mount Sinai to provide educational support for CEI (Clinician Education Initiative) on HIV, HCV, PEP, PrEP, and Drug User Health (MAT, opioid overdose prevention, harm reduction) through the NYS DOH (live presentations, webinars, planning initiatives). Dr. Ramsey is the President for the NYSAM BOD. Dr. Ramsey sits on the ASAM National BOD, as the Region I Director, representing NYS.

Tracie Gardner

Senior Vice President of Policy Advocacy, Legal Action Center

Tracie Gardner oversees both the New York and Federal policy advocacy work on LAC's core issues related to substance use, harm reduction, and criminal legal system reform. Tracie has worked more than 30 years in the health and social services policy arena as a policy advocate, trainer, and lobbyist. From 2015-2017, Tracie served as the Assistant Secretary of Mental Hygiene for New York State, where she oversaw the State's addiction, mental health, and developmental disabilities agencies. Tracie received a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College.