



## The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Successful Strategies to Support Individuals with Complex Needs to Improve Outcomes

November 3 - November 6, 2024

Renaissance Arts Hotel  
New Orleans, Louisiana



National Dialogues on Behavioral Health Partners with:  
The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Behavioral Health Program  
The National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors

# Conference Overview

Join us in our 65th year of the National Dialogues on Behavioral Health conference in New Orleans to learn how to operationalize and implement strategies to treat individuals with complex needs. Learn how collaboration, integration, and the engagement of community resources from across systems and providers, improves treatment outcomes and the quality of care for individuals with complex needs. Hear about the roles of mental health, substance use and behavioral health specialists within integrated and collaborative care approaches. Presentations and dialogues will focus on individuals with serious behavioral health conditions, intellectual/developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, complex maternal care needs, and approaches to treatment from infants through older adults. Outcomes for a range of collaborative care approaches will be presented and discussed during each session.

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## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### SUNDAY, November 3, 2024 - PRE-CONFERENCE

9:00 – 9:30 AM Registration and Coffee

9:30 – 1:30 PM Cutting Edge Peer and Family Support Approaches for Adults and Children with Complex Needs

Peer and family support are critical and often unrecognized contributors to positive outcomes for persons with complex needs. Innovative population-specific models are emerging which are filling a much-needed gap, including peer programs in schools and for older persons experiencing a range of mental health substance use problems. At the same time, new programs have also been developed for families that are providing support: again, for children/adolescents, for older adults, and persons with complex healthcare and behavioral health needs. The preconference will provide an overview of these cutting-edge programs: How such programs were developed, what they do, their accomplishments, and issues related to implementation, including barriers and challenges that came up, and how they were addressed.

*Speakers: Rob Walker- Massachusetts Dept of Mental Health (MA), Justin Volpe -National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (VA); Susan Teare, MFA- Yellow Tulip Project (ME); Pat Hunt- Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association (ME)*

MONDAY, November 4, 2024

**8:00 – 8:30 AM      Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 8:45 AM      Welcome and Overview – Jan Kasofsky, PhD. President NDBH**

**8:45 – 10:15 AM    Supporting Women with Complex Perinatal Needs**

The urgency of rapid access to integrated services could not be more crucial than during the prenatal period, both for the mother and unborn child. Mental illness and substance misuse during the pre- and post-natal times in a woman's life, can and does have devastating effects on her life and that of her child. This session will discuss state-wide collaborations, from Connecticut and Iowa, that not only focus on early access to medical specialists, but also establish a connected constellation of integrated behavioral health providers, access to stable housing and to other social determinants impacting healthy outcomes for women and their children. Speakers will present concrete programmatic and policy changes necessary to fully support these women with complex needs.

*Speakers: Ira Chasnoff, MD – University of Illinois, College of Medicine (IL); Shelly Nolan, MS- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Service (CT)*

**10:15 – 10:30 AM Break**

**10:30 – 12:00 PM Addressing Complex Behavioral Needs with Youth**

Youth faced with complex behavioral health needs encounter multifaceted challenges that often transcend individual and familial contexts, necessitating comprehensive interventions within broader systems. This panel will explore both historically proven and innovative approaches in addressing the needs of youth with behavioral health challenges. This will include key ideas around collaboration, lessening barriers, and overcoming other challenges in complex care approaches. Our panelists will share insights garnered from their diverse experiences in the field encompassing community and state-based initiatives. Through interactive discussions and state and local examples, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the interconnected systems impacting the well-being of youth people, including behavioral health services, education, justice system and other social support networks.

*Speakers: Elizabeth Manley, MSW - Innovations Institute (CT); Monica Stevens, PhD – Tulane University School of Medicine (LA)*

**12:00 – 1:30 PM    Lunch on Your Own**

**1:30 – 3:00 PM      Complex Needs and System Responses to Substance Misuse**

This session will shed light on the latest advancements, research-driven interventions, and collaborative efforts aimed at improving outcomes for individuals struggling with substance use. Panelists will discuss various interventions, including, but not limited to: integrated care models, technology solutions, policy driven change, community engagement, and more. Through engaging dialog with our panelists, participants will gain valuable perspectives on how healthcare systems can better prevent, intervene, and support individuals on their journey towards recovery and wellness.

*Speakers: David G. Stewart, PhD – California School of Professional Psychology (CA); Johanna Braud- Louisiana Supreme Court Specialty Courts Program (LA)*

**3:00 – 4:00 PM      Facilitated Dialogues**

## 4:30 – 6:00 PM Reception and Networking

Join us for lite Hor d'oeuvres and Beverages in a relaxed and collegial atmosphere while having an opportunity to dialogue with today's speakers to learn more about the interventions and collaborations discussed during today's sessions.

## TUESDAY, November 5, 2024

### 8:00 – 8:30 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast

### 8:30 – 10:00 AM Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD): Working Across Systems to Provide Person-Centered Care

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are at high risk for co-occurring mental health conditions and have a broad spectrum of unique needs. A strong coordinated continuum and system of care is key to providing appropriate person-centered care. This session will highlight best-practice initiatives to address the unique needs of this high-risk population. This session will include information about The Link Center, which is funded by the Administration for Community Living and works to improve supports available to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), brain injuries, and other cognitive disabilities with co-occurring mental health conditions. The Link Center provides training and technical assistance and advances systems change that will increase access to effective services and supports for people with co-occurring conditions.

*Speakers: Mary Sowers- National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (VA); Brian Hart- CEO, ShiftAbility Transformation Consulting (OH)*

### 10:00 – 10:15 AM Break

### 10:15- 11:45 AM Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Behavioral Health Conditions

Individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI) often go undetected across behavioral health systems. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a common neurological condition that can affect a person's ability to regulate cognition, emotion, and behavior. Recognizing individuals with TBI in the context of behavioral health treatment is key to accurate diagnosis and providing appropriate treatment and accommodations. This session will provide information and data on the link between TBI and behavioral health conditions. Presenters will include recommendations based on clinical experience about how behavioral health programs and professionals can better meet the needs of their clients who also have had a TBI. Further, resources will be highlighted for working across systems to ensure individuals with traumatic brain injury and behavioral health conditions receive appropriate person-centered care.

*Speakers: Kim Gorgens, PhD - University of Denver (CO); Rebecca Wolfkiel, MPP – National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (VA)*

### 11:45 – 1:30 Lunch on Your Own

## **1:30 – 3:00 PM Collaborative Approaches for Older Individuals with Complex Needs**

The needs of older individuals can be very complex, not just due to normal physiological and cognitive changes due to aging, but also their higher risk for more complex pathological changes, loss of natural supports, and more barriers to transportation and finances. The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), an evidence-based proven, collaborative care approach for older individuals with complex needs, does not uniformly include treatment for mental health and substance misuse. This session will present how behavioral health care was added to a PACE team and their integration as a collaborator was achieved and improved patient outcomes. In addition, this session will present work done by the National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging that provides opportunities for professional, consumer and government organizations to work together towards improving the availability and quality of mental health, preventive and treatment strategies to older Americans and their families through education, research and increased public awareness.

*Speakers: Susan Nelson, MD, FACP, FAAHPM - Ochsner Health Network (LA); Kathleen Cameron, MPH- National Center for Healthy Aging (VA)*

## **3:00 – 4:00 PM Facilitated Dialogues**

### **WEDNESDAY, November 6, 2024**

## **8:00 – 8:30 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast**

## **8:30 – 10:00 AM Cross Cutting Strategies for Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care**

There is growing awareness for the need to work across systems to provide person-centered care for the unique needs of individual who have co-occurring behavioral health and physical health issues. Using First Episode Psychosis programs as an example, this session will provide strategies for how a best practice that involves multi-system collaboration can evolve from an idea – to implementation – to sustainability. Further, this session will include information on the recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Innovation in Behavioral Health Model (IBH) demonstration, which is a state-based model, led by state Medicaid Agencies, with a goal of Aligning payment between Medicaid and Medicare or integrated behavioral health and primary care services.

*Speakers: David Shern, PhD – National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (VA); Karin E. Bleeg, MPH, Acting Division Director, Division of Health Innovation & Integration, State and Population Health Group | Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation | CMS*

## **10:00 – 10:15 AM Break**

## 10:15 – 11:45 AM Healthy Blue: A Value-based Contract (VBC) Promoting a Collaborative Model for Individuals with Complex Medical and Behavioral Care Needs Addressing the Social Determinants of Care

The primary goal of the Integrated Collaborative Care Model (ICCM) is to ensure that members receive holistic treatment throughout the full spectrum of care and gain the value of integration of physical and behavioral healthcare through a community navigator. The model adopted by Healthy Blue VBC addresses the need for person-centered, integrated care using evidence-based supports, and services for its members. This presentation will present data on the ICCM model that has been implemented in a Federally Qualified Health Center setting with a focus on plans for individuals with psychiatric and substance use disorders.

*Speakers: Chatrian Roberson, MPH- Access Health Louisiana (LA); Cheryll Bowers-Stevens, MD - Healthy Blue Louisiana (LA)*

## 11:45 – 12:00 Discussion and Wrap-up

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### Suggested Audience:

Psychiatrists, Social Workers, Nurses, Psychologists, Counselors, Addiction Counselors, Case Managers, Administrators, Policy Makers, Behavioral Healthcare Providers, State/County Behavioral Healthcare Administrators, Peer Recovery Workforce, Members of the Judiciary Justice System Administrators, Law Enforcement/Justice System Stakeholders Departments, Emergency/Disaster Response Professionals, Educators and School Based Counselors

*Continuing Education Credits Are Pending*

## CONFERENCE RATES

Pre-Conference (Sunday): \$225.00

Full Conference (Mon – Wed): \$375.00

Single Day (Mon, Tue or Wed): \$225.00

[For more information and to register for the conference, go to our website:](#)

[www.nationaldialoguesbh.org](http://www.nationaldialoguesbh.org)



# NDBH CONFERENCE HOTEL

**Renaissance Arts Hotel  
700 Tchoupitoulas St  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

We are pleased to be able to offer a nightly rate of \$162 plus applicable state and local taxes and a New Orleans Convention & Visitors' Bureau Assessment Fee of 1.75% of the room rate per night. Reservations available for the nights of Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> thru Tuesday, November 5th with a check-out Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

Reservations on Line: <https://book.passkey.com/go/HELLONDBHMEETING>

Reservations by Phone: **1-800-431-8634**. Please ask for the NDBH or National Dialogues on Behavioral Health Conference Rate.

**The Cut-off Date for the NDBH Special Rate: Friday, October 11, 2024**

Hotel Parking: Short-Term 0 – 8 hours: \$18.00 (plus tax); Long-Term/Overnight: \$45.00 (plus tax)

*The conference site meets ADA requirements and has put expanded cleaning protocols in place. Please contact the Renaissance Hotel and/or check the Hotel website for more information.*

**We hope to see you this year!**

