



## 2018 Education Conference

October 26-28

The Wolf Road Marriott Hotel, Albany

### Moving Forward

*Moving Forward: Identifying and Advocating for the Latest Breakthroughs in Research and Treatment of Mental Health Issues and Neurobiological Disorders*

## Agenda (as of 9/18 contents could be subject to change)

### Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

9am **Registration and Exhibit Area Opens**

9:30-10:15am **Featured Author Session: Nyna Giles author of the Bridesmaid's Daughter**



Nyna's book, [\*The Bridesmaid's Daughter: From Grace Kelly's Wedding to a Women's Shelter - Searching for the Truth About My Mother\*](#), recounts her moving search to understand her mother, Carolyn Scott—once a bridesmaid to Princess Grace and one of the first Ford models—who later in life spent years living in a homeless shelter. In her journey to uncover her mother's past Nyna relives a story as classic, familiar, dark and dangerous as any fairy tale.

Copies of the book will be on sale and Nyna will be doing a signing after her talk.

9:30-10:00am **Mindfulness Session in the Wellness Room**  
[Jeannie Thomma](#)

10:20-11:20am **Focus Track Workshops Session 1-Trauma Focused**

### **A-Children's Mental Health-The Impact of Trauma in Children and Recognizing Potential and Existing Trauma**

This workshop will detail the findings from the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES) and detail the long-term impact of trauma on a child's physical and mental health. The session will also explain how to identify potential trauma in children and how to intervene if you believe a child may be traumatized.

Kenneth Oclatis, Ph.D. Program Administrator, Tele-psychiatry and Special Projects, Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley

### **B-Criminal Justice-Understanding the Trauma Faced by Families of Those Incarcerated**

This session is designed to detail the unique trauma and stigma faced by families of people who are incarcerated. It will feature the leaders of [Children of Promise](#), a New York City program which provides afterschool and day camp programs with mental health support for children who have incarcerated parents and [Prison Families Anonymous](#), a Long Island organization which supports parents, spouses and other family members of those incarcerated.

Barbara Allan, Founder, Prison Families Anonymous

Sharon B. Content, Founder & President, Children of Promise, NYC

### **C-Veterans and Military Families-Introduction to the Joseph Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program**

This session will detail New York State's Innovative Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Program. It is not always easy for family and friends to understand the demons haunting some of our soldiers when they return from combat. The value of the Dwyer Program lies in the unique Vet-to-Vet approach that connects our returning service members with those who can relate and who can draw from their own experiences to help one another cope. This session will feature both veterans and VA staff.

Sharon Bailey

Eric Hardiman

Amy Hughes

Chuck Marra

Lance Stenfeldt

Robert Volk

Moderated by Ann Canastra, MS, NCC, LMHC, ACS, MSW, LPC, Syracuse VA Local Recovery Coordinator and Board Member, NAMI-NYS

11:30am-1:00pm **Lunch Served Buffet Style**

Lunch will be set up in the exhibit area and attendees will bring their lunch into the ballroom.

Noon **Welcoming Remarks**

12:05-12:30 **Presentation of Criminal Justice and Max Gabriel Veterans Award**

**2018 HONOREE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AWARD**



**THE HONORABLE MATTHEW J. D'EMIC**  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, NOON**

NAMI-NYS is thrilled to present our 2018 Criminal Justice Award to the Honorable Matthew J. D'Emic, Administrative Judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District in Brooklyn. Judge D'Emic presides over the King's County Mental Health Court and has been a true advocate for connecting those with a mental illness with appropriate recovery oriented services.

The recipient of the Max Gabriel Award will be announced shortly.

**12:30-2:15pm Afternoon Featured Session- Exploring Different Mental Health Models and How to Integrate Mental Health in Existing Systems**

“What’s the difference between a crisis center and a respite center? How do you incorporate mental health services in schools?” This panel discussion will explain different types of community-based psychiatric programs introduced throughout the state and answer many questions families, schools, first responders and the military community have about these services. The session will also showcase the unique partnership between schools in Delaware and Otsego counties and Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley which has led to the formation of mental health clinics in the schools of this rural community.

Beth Alter, LCSW, Director, Office of Diversion and Community Consultation, Dutchess County

Robert Dempsey, Regional Advocacy Specialist, Western New York Field Office, New York State Office of Mental Health

Robbie Martin, LCSW

Sabrina May, CRPA, NYCPS, Program Manager, Affinity Place, East House

Kenneth Oclatis, Ph.D. Program Administrator, Tele-psychiatry and Special Projects, Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley

**2:30-3:30pm Focus Track Workshops Session 2-These Focus Session Will Include the First of Two FaithNet Sessions**

**A-Children’s Mental Health-The Connection Between Cannabis & Psychosis**

As New York State ponders legalizing marijuana for recreational use, this session will answer many questions parents and schools have about marijuana and the impact it can have on adolescents and people who may have an underlying psychiatric issue. The effects of different forms of the drug, including the more dangerous synthetic version, will be discussed.

Marc W. Manseau, MD, MPH, Associate Medical Director, Adult Services, New York State Office of Mental Health

## **B-Criminal Justice-The Sometimes Forgotten Part of CIT Programs: Transforming Crisis Response Systems**

Join Don Kamin, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Police, Mental Health & Community Collaboration as he and a panel of experts to discuss measures to augment CIT and improve crisis response systems in order to generate the most positive outcomes. These include: Broome County's 911 Call Diversion Project and Westchester's Stabilization Center Hubs.

[Ray Florida, Executive Director of Rockland Paramedics](#)

[Mark Giuliano, LMSW, Program Director Community Support at Westchester County](#)

[Lt. Mike Hatch \(Ret\), Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator, Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier](#)

[Don Kamin, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Police, Mental Health & Community Collaboration](#)

## **C-Veterans and Military Families-Whole Health with Veterans**

This session will explore numerous health issues impacting our veterans. As NAMI-NYS often says, “You cannot have health, without mental health,” and this is especially true when it comes to veterans. Learn about the innovative work being done to meet the physical and mental health needs of veterans.

[Speakers to be announced](#)

## **D-FaithNet-Introduction to NAMI FaithNet**

This session will introduce [NAMI FaithNet](#), an interfaith resource network of NAMI members, friends, clergy and congregations of all faith traditions who wish to encourage faith communities who are welcoming and supportive of persons and families living with mental illness. NAMI FaithNet strives to encourage welcoming, caring congregations as well as to promote the vital role of spirituality in the recovery journeys of many who live with mental health conditions, those for whom faith is a key component.

[Rev. Daryl Bennett, NAMI Buffalo](#)

## **3:45-5pm Focus Track Workshops Session 3-These Focus Sessions Explain How NAMI-NYS and Our Affiliates Can be a Community Partner to Different Systems**

### **A-Children’s Mental Health-Understanding the New Mental Health Education Law and How to Use NAMI-NYS to Teach Mental Health**

This session will explain New York’s new Mental Health Education law and how schools can utilize NAMI-NYS programs such as [Ending the Silence](#) to educate students on mental health. Participants can meet both lead and young adult *Ending the Silence* presenters and hear from a teacher who will discuss the impact *Ending the Silence* had on her students. The session will be followed by a full *Ending the Silence Presentation*.

[Erin Doyle, Health & Physical Education Teacher, Stissing Mt. Middle/High School](#)

[Eleni Gogos, Student, Rochester Institute of Technology, Ending the Silence Presenter, Recipient of the 2018 NAMI Young Leader Award](#)

[Tina Lee, Community Education and Outreach Manager](#)

### **B-Criminal Justice- How NAMI-NYS and Our Affiliates Can Partner With Criminal Justice**

In communities throughout New York State, NAMI-NYS affiliates are serving as valuable partners in improving the mental illness-criminal justice interface. Examples will include participation in CIT trainings and the NAMI Queens/Nassau Re-Entry program.

[Kristin Adduci, LMHC, Program Supervisor and Crisis Intervention Team Training Coordinator](#)

Lt, Brian Gould, Cheektowaga Police Department  
Leah Gitter, NAMI-NYC Metro  
Marcy Rose, Board Member, NAMI Buffalo  
Moderated by Jayette Lansbury, Chair, NAMI-NYS Criminal Justice Committee

## **C-Veterans and Military Families- How NAMI-NYS and Our Affiliates Can Support Veterans and Military Family Members**

NAMI-NYS and our affiliates can offer several programs designed to support both veterans and military families. These include [NAMI Homefront](#), designed to address the unique needs of family, caregivers and friends of those who have served or are currently serving our country.

[Pam Solomon, NAMI NYC-Metro](#)

[Speakers to be announced](#)

## **D-FaithNet-Examples of NAMI-NYS Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations**

In communities throughout New York State, NAMI-NYS affiliates are serving as valuable to clergy and religious institutions in helping their congregations understand mental health and social justice issues. NAMI-NYS affiliates are also a resource for clergy when trying to address mental health issues of the members. The session will also explain the benefits of holding NAMI Signature programs such as Family-to-Family in religious institutions.

[Rev. Daryl Bennett](#)

[Sharon McCarthy, Executive Director, NAMI Westchester](#)

[Rev. Diane Monks, Co-chair, NAMI Queens/Nassau Faith Committee](#)

[Ellen Ritz, RN, President, NAMI Queens/Nassau](#)

## **5:00-6:00pm Ending the Silence Presentation**

Learn firsthand how you can help NAMI-NYS end the silence about mental illness. This session will provide attendees with the opportunity to see an entire *Ending the Silence* (ETS) presentation from two of our leading presenters, Tina Lee, NAMI-NYS's Community Education and Outreach Manager and Eleni Gogos, a Student at Rochester Institute of Technology and recipient of the 2018 NAMI Young Leader Award. ETS presentations can be made at schools, afterschool programs, religious institutions and other community settings. ETS presentations can be specifically tailored to students, teachers and school staff, clergy and families.

[Eleni Gogos, Student, Rochester Institute of Technology, Ending the Silence Presenter, Recipient of the 2018 NAMI Young Leader Award](#)

[Tina Lee, Community Education and Outreach Manager](#)

## **5:15-6:15pm Focus Sessions-These sessions will examine the benefits of employment and the independent living model for the recovery from psychiatric disorders.**

### **A-Maximizing Your Potential**

This session will discuss employment as a whole and explain how obtaining employment may impact other disability and social security benefits. The benefits of the Independent Living model will also be discussed.

[Doug Hovey, President and Chief Executive Officer, Independent Living, Inc.](#)

[Garrett Smith, Regional Advocacy Specialist, New York State Office of Mental Health](#)



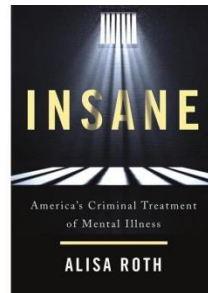
## B- The Importance of Employment for People With Serious Mental Illness

Work is important to many people diagnosed with serious mental illness, yet too few find employment. NAMI-NYS is thrilled to welcome back Dr. Tom Jewell from the Center for Practice Innovation (CPI) to detail CPI's recently [released report](#) on how using a supported employment approach helps people diagnosed with serious mental illness find and maintain meaningful jobs.

Thomas Jewell, Ph.D., Project Manager, Division of Behavioral Health Services and Policy Research, Center for Practice Innovations, New York State Psychiatric Institute

5:15-6:00pm **Meet the Board Candidates**

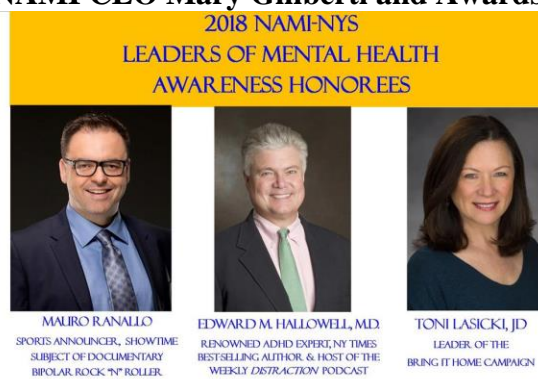
5:15-5:45pm **Featured Author Session: Alisa Roth, author of *Insane: America's Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness***



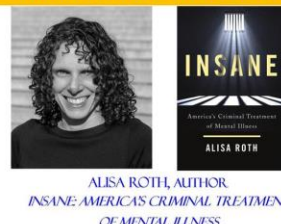
Alisa Roth is the recipient of the 2018 NAMI-NYS Media Award. Alisa's powerful new book, [Insane: America's Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness](#), goes deep inside the criminal justice system to reveal how America's tough-on-crime policies have transformed it into a warehouse for people with mental illness, one where prisoners are denied proper treatment, abused, and punished in ways that make them sicker.

Copies of the book will be on sale and Alisa will be doing a signing following her talk.

6:30pm **Dinner, Address by NAMI CEO Mary Giliberti and Awards Ceremony**



JOIN US IN THANKING LEADERS WHO ARE ADDRESSING ONE OF THE GREATEST SOCIAL INJUSTICES OF OUR TIME!



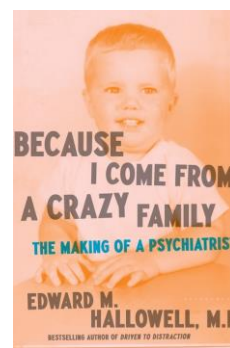
NAMI-NYS is thrilled to use this year's award reception to honor a leader in providing a voice in the fight against the stigma of mental illness, a leader in raising awareness of both ADHD and how mental illness impacts entire families as well as those addressing three of the biggest social justice issues impacting people living with mental illness. We are also delighted to be joined by **NAMI CEO Mary Giliberti**, who will be presenting on how hope starts with you.

Our first Leader of Mental Health Awareness recipient, [Mauro Ranallo](#), has been a part of the CBS Broadcasting family as Lead Announcer for the Strikeforce MMA promotion, and in 2012, was chosen as the play-by-play announcer for Championship Boxing on Showtime and made history as the only sports broadcaster ever to call every major combat sport on national television: Boxing, Kickboxing, MMA, and Professional Wrestling.

Mauro has bi-polar disorder and is the subject of the Showtime documentary [Bipolar Rock "N" Roller](#), which is one of the most honest and gripping films ever made on the experience of living with a serious mental illness. Showtime describes the film as: "A raw and unflinching account of Mauro Ranallo's decades-long struggle with Bipolar Affective Disorder. The voice of WWE and Showtime Championship Boxing, Ranallo has called some of the biggest sports events in history - all the while fighting his own epic battles with mental health. Follow his journey as he combats the stigma behind mental health issues and sheds light on what it's like being at the top of the industry despite seemingly insurmountable odds."

Our second recipient [Dr. Edward "Ned" Hallowell](#) is one of the foremost experts on ADHD. He is the co-author of [Driven to Distraction](#), and [Answers to Distraction](#), which have sold more than a million copies. Dr. Hallowell also discusses his own struggles with ADHD as well as how mental illness has impacted his family in his new memoir, [Because I Come From A Crazy Family The Making of a Psychiatrist](#).

The need for housing with wrap-around mental health services has long been NAMI-NYS's leading advocacy issue and our second Leader of Mental Health Awareness recipient, Toni Lasicki, executive director of the Association for Community Living, is New York's leading crusader for mental health housing. In late 2016, Toni launched the [Bring It Home-Better Funding for Better Care](#) campaign, which has brought much needed attention to this crucial issue.



We will also honor leaders addressing one of the greatest barriers to mental health recovery: insurance providers who have continued to discriminate against mental illness by failing to adhere to mental health

parity and create true network adequacy. While we will celebrate the fact that October marks the ten-year anniversary of the enactment of The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), we will also detail how finding providers who take private insurance remains a daunting task for far too many New Yorkers.

It is our privilege to show our gratitude to both the pioneers and the current leaders in the fight to create true parity. New York led the way in introducing parity through Timothy's Law and we will be joined by **Congressman Paul Tonko** (NY-20), who during his service in the NYS Assembly was the sponsor and a passionate advocate for Timothy's Law. We will also be joined by **Tom O'Clair**, whose family's story inspired the parity law. We will also honor current leaders **Andrew Malekoff**, Executive Director of the North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center, who produced the [Project Access Report](#) which detailed the struggles New Yorkers are experiencing accessing mental health services and **Karla Lopez**, for her leadership of the [Parity@10 campaign](#) in New York State.

NAMI-NYS is thrilled to present our 2018 Media Award to [Alisa Roth](#), author of the acclaimed book [Insane: America's Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness](#). The award acknowledges Ms. Roth's extraordinary work revealing one of the greatest modern tragedies: the criminalization of mental illness.

NAMI-NYS is honored to recognize the commitment of all of these leaders who are giving these issues the attention and scrutiny they deserve.

## Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

### 8:00-9:00 **Breakfast Served Buffet Style**

Breakfast will be set up in the exhibit area and attendees will bring their food into the ballroom.

### 8:15-8:45am **Annual NAMI-NYS Business Meeting**

### 9:00-10:00am **NIMH Update: New Ways to Address Treatment Resistant Depression**



This year's update from the National Institute of Mental Health, will feature Dr. Bruce Luber detailing the work being done to help those with treatment resistant depression and NIMH's newly launched study comparing Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

[Bruce Luber, Ph.D, Staff Scientist, Noninvasive Neuromodulation Unit, National Institute of Mental Health](#)



10:15-11:15am **Focus Sessions on Innovative Research and Treatment Conducted at the New York State Psychiatric Institute**



These concurrent sessions will give attendees the choice to learn about the innovative work being done at one of two of the New York State Office of Mental Health's world class psychiatric centers, the New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI), which is associated with Columbia University. Attendees will receive insight of the work conducted at two of NYSPI's groundbreaking centers; the Center of Prevention and Evaluation (COPE) and the Center for Practice Innovation.

**A-Research Session:** This session will begin with the presentation of the 2018 NAMI-NYS Research Award to Ragy Girgis, MD, Director of the Center of Prevention and Evaluation: COPE. Dr. Girgis will then present on his recent landmark study on *A Longitudinal Study of Violent Behavior in a Psychosis-Risk Cohort* and discuss the work being done at COPE, an outpatient research program for teenagers and young adults experiencing changes in thoughts and feelings that have led to problems in relationships, school or work and their research focusing on the causes and course of these symptoms.

[Ragy Girgis, MD, Director, Center of Prevention and Evaluation: COPE, New York State Psychiatric Institute](#)

**B-Treatment Session:** NAMI-NYS is pleased to welcome Sapana Patel, PhD, Director of Strategic Planning and Curriculum Development at the Center for Practice Innovations (CPI) who will detail the cutting edge work being conducted at CPI. CPI supports the New York State Office of Mental Health's mission to promote the widespread availability of evidence-based practices to improve mental health services, ensure accountability, and promote recovery-oriented outcomes for consumers and families. Programs facilitated by CPI include OnTrackNY (New York's early intervention program) and Wellness Self-Management.

[Sapana Patel, PhD, Director of Strategic Planning and Curriculum Development at the Center for Practice Innovations, New York State Psychiatric Institute](#)

11:30am-12:30pm **ZERO Suicide Sessions**

## **ZERO SUICIDE SESSIONS**

**Saturday October 27th 11:30am-12:30pm**

### **Session 1**

#### ***Family Role in Suicide Prevention***



**Perry Hoffman, Ph.D.**  
**President, NEA-BPD**

### **Session 2**

#### ***Connect Suicide Prevention Program***



**Ken Norton**  
**Executive Director NAMI New Hampshire**

NAMI-NYS is committed to providing our members and conference attendees with the tools necessary to help combat suicide. These two concurrent sessions will explain the roles that families and NAMI can play in preventing suicide. We understand that this is a difficult and possibly painful subject ; for attendees uncomfortable with discussing suicide there will be an alternative session taking place featuring Dr. Ned Hallowell. There will also be a suicide healing session following these sessions.

**A-The Role Families Can Play in Suicide Prevention:** There are many ways family members and caregivers help individuals struggling with suicidality. This presentation will focus on how the importance of engaging and including families whose loved ones are in suicidal crisis or have attempted suicide. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Perry Hoffman, the director of the National Education Alliance on Borderline Personality Disorder to discuss the Family Connection program which is geared towards families of individuals who have attempted suicide and Silvia Giliotti, from the NYS Suicide Prevention Office to discuss how families can help prevent suicide.

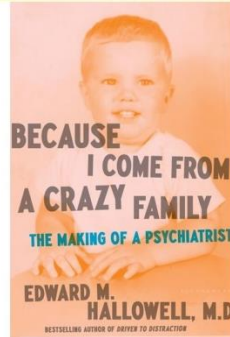
[Silvia Giliotti, PhD, New York State Suicide Prevention Office](#)

[Perry Hoffman, Ph.D, President, National Education Alliance on Borderline Personality Disorder](#)

**B-An Introduction to the Connect Suicide Prevention Program and The Power of NAMI in Preventing Suicide:** NAMI-NYS is thrilled to welcome Ken Norton, Executive Director of NAMI New Hampshire to discuss their innovative suicide prevention program. NAMI NH has received national and international acclaim for its Connect Suicide Prevention Program. Connect is designated as a National Best Practice training program in suicide prevention, intervention and response to a suicide death. By working with and training key service providers and community members, Connect promotes a community based approach to early recognition of mental illness and improved access to care. When people are educated about the risks and warning signs of suicide and ways to prevent it, lives can be saved!

[Ken Norton, Executive Director, NAMI New Hampshire](#)

11:30am-12:15pm **Featured Author Session: Dr. Edward Hallowell, author of *Because I Come From a Crazy Family: The Making of a Psychiatrist***



This special session will allow attendees to get to know the remarkable story of 2018 NAMI-NYS Leader of Mental Health Awareness Award winner, renowned ADHD expert and best-selling author, Dr. Edward (Ned) Hallowell

Ned's new memoir, [\*Because I Come from a Crazy Family: The Making of a Psychiatrist\*](#) recounts how at eleven years old a voice out of nowhere told him he should become a psychiatrist. A mental health professional of the time would have called this psychosis. But young Ned took it in stride, despite not quite knowing what "psychiatrist" meant. With a psychotic father, alcoholic mother, abusive stepfather, and two so-called learning disabilities of his own, Ned was accustomed to unpredictable behavior from those around him, and to a mind he felt he couldn't always control. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Copies of the book will be on sale and Dr. Hallowell will be doing a signing following his talk.

12:30-1:30pm **Suicide Healing Session**



This session will provide a forum for healing from feelings that may have arisen during the suicide discussion. We are thrilled to welcome back Brett Scudder to lead this session.

[Brett Scudder, Executive Director, Scudder Intervention Services Foundation, Inc.'s Abuse and Suicide First Aid Response and Wellness Centers](#)

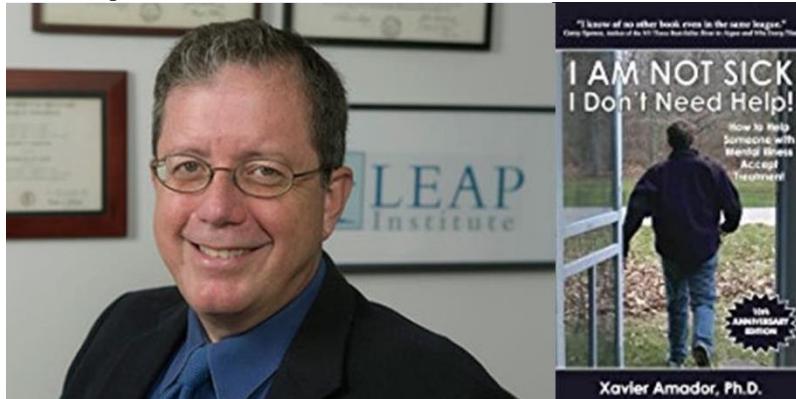
12:45-1:15pm **Featured Author Session: Dr. Xavier Amador, author of *I Am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help***

This session will allow attendees to have their copies of Dr. Amador's landmark book, [\*I Am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help\*](#) signed. Due to time constraints, Dr. Amador will not be able to sign books following his afternoon featured presentation. Copies of the book will be sold onsite.

**1:15-2:30pm Lunch Served Buffet Style**

Lunch will be set up in the exhibit area and attendees will bring their lunch into the ballroom.

**1:45-2:45pm Featured Presentation Dr. Xavier Amador**



NAMI-NYS is honored to welcome back Dr. Xavier Amador, founder of the LEAP Institute.

Dr. Xavier Amador is an internationally renowned clinical psychologist and leader in his field. His books, authoritative clinical research, worldwide speaking tours and extensive work in television news and entertainment make him truly unique among his peers.

His work as a leading individual, family, child and couples' therapist has been featured on PBS NOVA, ABC Prime Time Live, and NBC Bravo where he has been filmed doing psychotherapy with couples and individuals.

Author of many popular books including I am Right, You're Wrong, Now What?; I am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help!; When Someone You Love is Depressed: How to help without losing yourself; Being Single in a Couples' World: How to be happily Single and Open to Love; Dr. Amador draws on thirty years of experience as a therapist, his personal story, and solid research when giving advice.

His expertise has been called upon by government, industry and the broadcast and print media. This will surely be a presentation you will not want to miss.

[Xavier Amador, PhD, President, The LEAP Foundation for Research to Practice](#)

**3:00-4:00pm Disease Focus Workshop Sessions.** These workshop sessions will provide insights on research and treatment of specific psychiatric disorders from leading experts.

**A-Schizophrenia**

[Stephen J. Glatt, Ph.D., Director, Psychiatric Genetic Epidemiology & Neurobiology Laboratory \(PsychGENe Lab\), SUNY Upstate Medical University](#)

**B-Bi-Polar/Depression**

[Diana Samuel, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center](#)

**C-Anxiety Disorders**

[Speaker TBA](#)

**D-Borderline Personality**

[Matt and Ann Costello, Family Connection Trainers](#)

Meg Macchi, Administrator, Family Connections/Teleconnections, National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder

### **E-Geriatric Psychiatric Issues**

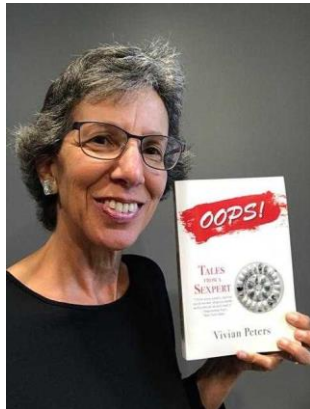
Nabil Kotbi, MD, Unit Chief of The Haven and The Retreat, New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Payne Whitney Westchester, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Weill-Cornell Medical College.

### **F-Wellness**

Madeline Kennedy, Kennedy Coaching

4:00-4:30 **Break and visit exhibitors**

4:00-4:30 **Featured Author Session, Vivian Peters, author of *Oops: Tales of a Sexpert***



Take a journey with Vivian Peters and her book [\*Oops Tales From a Sexpert\*](#). As an Outreach Educator for her local Planned Parenthood, she spent fifteen years providing sexual health education—and so much more—to people in rural poverty, where generational teen parenting and large families are the norm. There are a myriad of mental health impacts on this generational struggle.

The books will be on sale and Vivian will be doing a signing following her talk.

4:30-6:30pm **Performance of Every Brilliant Thing and Focus Sessions:** New this year attendees will get to choose between a performance of the one person play *Every Brilliant Thing* or one of two focus sessions that will take an in-depth look at crucial issues.



### **A-Every Brilliant Thing**



We are thrilled to include a special performance of *Every Brilliant Thing*. The one person play by Duncan Macmillan strikes a delicate balance between sobering loss and cathartic laughter as the protagonist recounts a life lived in the shadow of suicide. The play will be performed by Lori Schneider, Executive Director of NAMI Sullivan County, who performed the show throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley and Catskill region during Mental Health Awareness Month.

A review in the Middletown Times Herald Record states: "Everything about this production, directed and starring Lori Schneider, is indeed brilliant...Schneider knows her subject well, and she offers it in a manner that is both engaging and witty."

### **B- Understanding All Facets of Mental Health Housing**

The availability of mental health housing with wrap-around services has long been a priority for NAMI-NYS and our members. NAMI-NYS has assembled a panel of experts to answer many of the questions people have about mental health housing. These include: What are the different types of mental health housing programs? How do you access mental health housing? What are individual's and family's legal rights following discharge from a psychiatric facility? How can family members advocate for housing for their loved ones? What is happening on the federal level that is impacting mental health housing in New York State?

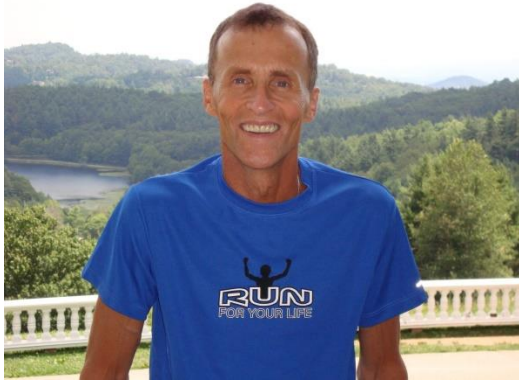
[Denise Duncan, LMHC, CASAC, NCC, Director, Supported Housing, Concern for Independent Living](#)  
[Carolyn Reinach Wolf, Executive Partner, Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone, LLP and Director of the Firm's Mental Health Law practice](#)  
[Andrew Sperling, Director, Legislative and Policy Advocacy, NAMI](#)  
[Chris Syracuse, Executive Director, Residential Programs, Depaul](#)

### **C- Introducing Resources to Underserved Communities**

While accessing mental health services remains a challenge for many people across New York State, there are certain populations that are more underserved than others. It is NAMI-NYS's goal to ensure that mental health services are accessible to all. This session features a panel of experts who will detail the obstacles faced by traditionally underserved populations including, those in rural areas, inner-urban areas, multicultural communities, the LGBTQI community and the deaf community.

[Antoine B Craigwell, Founder, President and CEO DBGM, Inc.](#)  
[Meghan Fox, Psy.D., LMHC, Licensed Psychologist & Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Rochester Medical Center, Board Member, NAMI Rochester](#)  
[Meg Macci, Administrator, Family Connections/Teleconnections, National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder](#)  
[Kai Macci, Advocate](#)  
[Lynda Martin, LCSW Therapist, Talkspace](#)  
[Ellen Stewert](#)

## 6:45 **Dinner, Awards and Featured Presentation by Dick Beardsley**



The evening's featured presentation will be delivered by marathon great Dick Beardsley. As a competitor Dick was a part of two of the most legendary close outcomes in marathon history as he tied for first place with Inge Simonsen in the inaugural 1981 London Marathon and he took a close second to Alberto Salazar in the 1982 Boston Marathon, which was the subject of the book, *Duel in the Sun: Alberto Salazar, Dick Beardsley, and America's Greatest Marathon*. Dick's most difficult challenges happened off the race course as he lost a son to suicide and faced his own mental health and substance abuse issues. Dick is now an advocate for both physical and psychological wellness, which he will detail in this inspiring presentation.

Prior to Dick's presentation, we will be presenting the award to NAMI-NYS members and affiliates.

## **Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

### 8:00-9:00am **Breakfast Served Buffet Style**

Breakfast will be set up in the exhibit area and attendees will bring their food into the ballroom.

### 8:15-8:45am **Interfaith Service**

### 9:00-10:15 **Presentation of the Inaugural Dr. Lewis Opler and Memorial Award and Featured Presentation on The Importance of Engaging Families in Recovery**



This year's conference will be bittersweet as it will be the first in more than 30 years not to include Dr.

Lew Opler, who passed away earlier this year. To honor Dr. Opler's memory and commitment to NAMI-NYS, we have created the Dr. Lewis Opler Memorial Award which will be presented to psychiatric providers who share Dr. Opler's dedication to partnering with NAMI-NYS and/or our affiliates.

There is no better candidate to receive this award than Lisa Dixon, MD, MPH, Director of the Center for Practice Innovations at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Dr. Dixon's work on the importance of engaging families and exposing the struggles of care-givers is truly legendary as is her consistent support of NAMI, NAMI-NYS and NAMI NYC-Metro. She headed the research study that led to the Family-to-Family program being deemed an evidence based practice by SAMHSA . She has also been a constant source of support and guidance to NAMI-NYS on a myriad of issues. We are privileged to thank Dr. Dixon for her constant friendship and recognize her devotion to NAMI-NYS and our members.

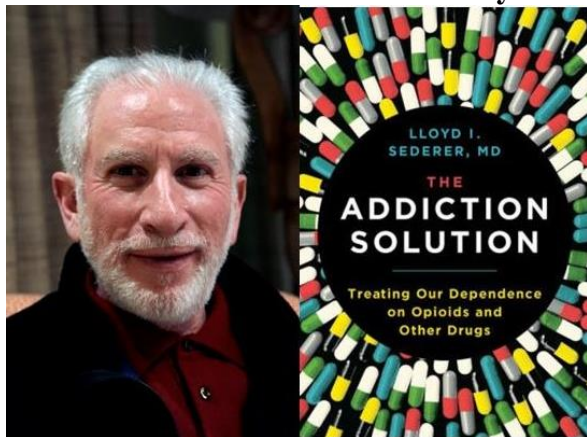
Dr. Dixon will then present on the importance of family engagement in the recovery process and detail the benefits of forming a recovery team between individuals with an illness, their family and their providers. Dr. Dixon will also explain how the Center for Practice Innovations' programs support this model. Following Dr. Dixon's presentation we will hear from one of our NAMI-NYS families as Christine Robinson Cooley (a Family-to-Family teacher) and her brother Curtis (an In Our Own Voice presenter and Peer-to-Peer teacher) will detail how family engagement advanced and has helped sustained Curtis' recovery. This is sure to be an inspirational celebration of Dr. Opler, partnerships and family engagement that you will not want to miss.

[Lisa Dixon, MD, MPH, Director, Center for Practice Innovations, New York State Psychiatric Institute](#)

[Christine Robinson-Cooley, NAMI Rensselaer](#)

[Curtis Robinson, NAMI Rensselaer](#)

#### 10:15-11:15am **Town Hall with Dr. Lloyd Sederer**



Dr. Lloyd Sederer's annual Town Hall session is always a highlight for conference attendees. This year Dr. Sederer will be discussing his newest book [The Addiction Solution](#) and detail the overlap of mental illness and substance abuse. Written with warmth, accessibility, and vast authority, the book is a practical guide through the world of drug use and abuse and addiction treatment. As is tradition, the Town Hall will allow participants to interact with Dr. Sederer and ask questions. The book will be on sale and Dr. Sederer will be signing copies following the presentation.

[Lloyd I. Sederer, MD, Medical Editor, Mental Health, The Huffington Post, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University, Chief Medical Officer, New York State Office of Mental Health](#)

#### 11:15am-12:15 **Ask the Doctor**



The conference will conclude with the Ask the Doctor session. NAMI-NYS is delighted to welcome Dr. Donna Anthony, Chief Medical Officer of Gracie Square Hospital. Dr. Anthony will offer up her perspective on many of the topics discussed during the conference and answer questions from participants.

[Donna Anthony, M.D., Ph.D, Chief Medical Officer, Gracie Square Hospital](#)