

Bridgeway's Buddy Garfinkle Featured on NAMI NJ Advocacy Panel

Buddy Garfinkle, Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer at Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services, was featured as a panelist at the 2026 NAMI NJ Annual Conference, held June 12 and 13 at the Crowne Plaza Princeton Conference Center in Plainsboro.

The statewide conference, themed "*Healing, Hope, and Action: Advancing Mental Health Together*," brought together mental health leaders, advocates, providers, families, and individuals with lived experience for two days of learning, discussion, and community connection.

Buddy participated in the Saturday Advocacy Panel, "*Protecting Mental Health Care After the One Big Beautiful Bill*," moderated by Matthew Camarda, Advocacy and Public Policy Director at NAMI NJ. The panel examined how New Jersey can protect community-based mental health care amid federal Medicaid cuts, rising provider costs, and growing pressures on individuals and families.

Following the event, Camarda thanked Buddy for his participation, writing, "Everyone in the audience benefited from your insights on supporting community integration and trauma-informed care."

Buddy's participation reflects Bridgeway's ongoing leadership in mental health policy, crisis response systems, community integration, trauma-informed care, and recovery-focused services across New Jersey.

Bridgeway also recognizes Mark T. Williams, BSN, RN-BC, FMNLI, FCPP, NAMI NJ Board President, who helped open the conference and was honored with the Sylvia Axelrod Award for his years of service and advocacy. Mark is also a valued contributor to Bridgeway's *Bridgeway Beacon*, where his monthly *Trustee Reflections* column offers thoughtful perspective on leadership, recovery, and community.



Photo caption: Buddy Garfinkle (second from left) joins fellow speakers on the NAMI NJ Saturday Advocacy Panel, *"Protecting Mental Health Care After the One Big Beautiful Bill."*

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