2019 Cities Thrive Conference Panels and Programs

CHANGE THE CULTURE PANEL

Date: Monday, November 18th
Time: 10:00-11:15am
Room Location: Main Auditorium

Description: Too often, stigma and lack of knowledge about mental illness prevent people from seeking care. Local governments can help change this by inspiring open, supportive conversations about mental health and empowering residents to care for one another. This panel will focus on ways to dismantle stigma and promote wellness through education, storytelling and public awareness campaigns.

Panelists and Programs:

Moderator: Dr. Torian Easterling

Geriatric Mental Health Initiative (New York, NY)
- Presenter: Tobi Abramson
- Title: Director of Geriatric Mental Health

Bartenders as Gatekeepers (Ventura County, CA)
- Presenter: Sevet Johnson
- Title: Director of Behavioral Health

Problem Solving Booths (London, UK)
- Presenter: Daniel Barrett
- Title: Lead of Thrive London

ACT EARLY PANEL

Date: Monday, November 18th
Time: 10:00-11:15am
Room Location: Classroom 401

Description: The evidence is clear: early intervention and prevention strategies help ensure healthy brain development and contribute to long-term mental and emotional wellness. This panel will showcase how local governments can act early to prevent and treat mental illness, and help all children build a healthy, resilient foundation for the future.

Panelists and Programs:

Moderator: Brandon Cadet-Hernandez

Social Emotional Learning and Restorative Justice Initiative (New York, NY)
- Presenter: LaShawn Robinson
- Title: Deputy Chancellor of School Climate and Wellness
Comprehensive Behavioral Health Screening Model (Boston, MA)

- **Presenter:** Andria Amador
- **Title:** Senior Director of Behavioral Health Services, Boston Public Schools

The Martinsburg Initiative (Berkley County, WV)

- **Presenter:** Maury Richards
- **Title:** Chief of Police, Martinsburg Police Department

**PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES**

**Date:** Monday, November 18th

**Time:** 12:00-1:15pm

**Room Location:** Main Auditorium

**Description:** There are no better ambassadors for mental health than community leaders, clergy members, teachers, and frontline responders. Community-based leaders and organizations are essential partners in the movement to end stigma, promote wellness, and improve access to care. This panel will explore how local governments can work with neighborhood and community organizations to reach people where they are with behavioral health services.

**Panelists and Programs:**

**Moderator:** Susan Herman

Crime Victim Assistance Program (New York, NY)

- **Presenter:** Terri Tobin
- **Title:** Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Mental Health

Community Outreach and Stabilization Unit (St. Paul, MN)

- **Presenter:** Sgt. Jamie Sipes
- **Title:** Program Coordinator, C.O.A.S.T

Community Crisis Response Program (Toronto, Canada)

- **Presenter:** Scott McKean
- **Title:** Director, Community Safety and WellBeing Toronto
CLOSE TREATMENT GAPS

Date: Monday, November 18th
Time: 12:00-1:15pm
Room Location: Classroom 401

Description: For many Americans, finding adequate mental health care is a challenge made even more difficult by language, cost, and cultural barriers. Some people simply do not know about the resources that are available to them. Local leaders can change this. This panel will spotlight opportunities for local governments to close gaps in service delivery and create a mental health system that reaches everyone.

Panelists and Programs:
Moderator: Sarah Shih
NYC Well (New York, NY)
  • Presenter: Myla Harrison
  • Title: Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Mental Health
The Mental Health Technology Suite (Los Angeles County, CA)
  • Presenter: Dr. John Sherin
  • Title: Director of Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Initiative (Bernalillo County, NM)
  • Presenter: Margarita Chavez-Sanchez
  • Title: Assistant Director of Behavioral Health Services

STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT’S ABILITY TO LEAD

Date: Tuesday, November 19th
Time: 9:45am-11:00am
Room Location: Main Auditorium

Description: Local governments are in a unique position to be at the forefront of mental health reform. Even with limited financial resources, they have the convening power and policy-making ability to make real, lasting change for their communities. This panel will highlight the role government leadership plays in bringing communities together to tackle pressing challenges and implement evidence-based solutions.

Panelists and Programs:
Moderator: Jennifer Paez
Weekend of Faith for Mental Health (New York, NY)
  • Presenter: Gagan Kaur
  • Title: Community Engagement Organizer
P.A.C.E Strategic Framework (Philadelphia, PA)
  • Presenter: David Jones
  • Title: Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities
Behavioral Health Policy Council (Larimer County, CO)

- **Presenter:** Laurie Stolen
- **Title:** Director of Behavioral Health

**USE DATA BETTER**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 19th

**Time:** 9:45am-11:00am

**Room Location:** Classroom 301

**Description:** All major public health victories have relied on the smart use of data. By using data better, we can more accurately understand the mental health challenges in our communities and deploy solutions with precision. This panel will showcase how local governments can use data to address key inequities, treatment gaps, workforce needs, and opportunities for prevention.

**Panelists and Programs:**

**Moderator:** Sarah Solon

**Connections to Care (C2C) (New York, NY)**

- **Presenter:** Sinead Keegan
- **Title:** Director of Strategy and Operations

**Opioid Wastewater Dashboard (Tempe, AZ)**

- **Presenter:** Joel Navarro
- **Title:** City Councilor, City of Tempe

**Data Driven Justice Initiative (Polk County, IA)**

- **Presenter:** Annie Uetz
- **Title:** Program Planner, Polk County Health Services