



**AND**



**Webinar Announcement:**  
**LIVING WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS**

**October Is Special Needs Law Month And This Year We Are Partnering With  
The National Alliance On Mental Illness – Massachusetts (NAMI Mass)  
For A Three-Part Virtual Program**

**Wednesdays, October 14, 21, & 28, 2020  
12:00 – 3:00 PM**

***\*\*\*Please note that none of these programs will be recorded\*\*\****

Approximately one in five adults in the United States experience some form of mental illness throughout their life, and yet this diagnosis carries with it a tremendous stigma. It is high time we start talking about mental illness and how to address this stigma! This three-day program will provide the necessary information on how to best advocate for a client with mental illness and ensure their rights are protected and health needs are met. Now, more than ever this issue is being brought into focus and as elder and special needs lawyers this information will be critical to meet the needs of your clients and their families.

**DAY 1: Mental Health Hospitalizations and the role of a Guardian or  
Health Care Agent in Decision Making  
Wednesday, October 14, 2020**

The Acting Commissioner at the Department of Mental Health will provide an update on the services and supports available which enable individuals receiving treatment to recover and thrive in their communities. Our panel will discuss the different types of hospitalization for mental health or substance abuse and recent

developments in the case law. They will also address the role of a Guardian or Health Care Agent in making treatment decisions for a person with mental illness.

### SPEAKERS:



**Brooke Doyle** was appointed Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health Services in January, 2016. Brooke brings over 31 years of experience in the behavioral health field, many of which have been spent with DMH in varying capacities. Prior to being appointed as Acting Commissioner, she served as the Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health Services where she oversaw DMH’s mental health service delivery system, led inter-agency planning and projects, and provided administrative and clinical leadership for all aspects of DMH statewide service compliance monitoring.

Brooke is an alumna of the University of Massachusetts where she received both her M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling and her B.A. in Psychology. Additionally, she holds licensure as a Mental Health Counselor.

Brooke’s capacity to engage in strategic planning around the critical issue of health care reform, her knowledge of the multifaceted behavioral health environment, and her commitment to quality service delivery to individuals served by DMH and their families align perfectly with the Commonwealth’s goals moving forward.



**Attorney John DiPietrantonio** is Deputy General Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. He has over 25 years’ experience in the areas of health law, mental health law and civil litigation. Prior to joining DMH in 2016, he represented the Cambridge Public Health Commission and several other Boston area hospitals in matters such as guardianship proceedings, mental health commitments, general health and hospital law including mental health law, regulatory compliance, patient confidentiality and release of medical records. He also provided representation to individuals under guardianship or subject to a mental health commitment as CPCS counsel and has served as a GAL in probate matters. Mr. DiPietrantonio received a B.A. from Boston University and his J.D. degree from New England School of Law. He is admitted to the Massachusetts State Bar, U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts and First Circuit Court of Appeals.



**Attorney Karen Owen Talley** is the Director of Appeals for the Committee for Public Counsel Services Mental Health Litigation Division (MHLD). The MHLD provides counsel to indigent clients in mental health proceedings such as involuntary commitment, guardianship of adults and court-ordered treatment matters. Recent SJC cases have included *In the Matter of N.L.*, 476 Mass. 632 (2017); *Guardianship of D.C.*, 479 Mass. 516 (2018); *Massachusetts General Hospital v. C.R.*, 484 Mass. 472 (2020). Attorney Talley has practiced mental health law exclusively for over twenty-four years. Prior to working at CPCS, Attorney Talley worked at the Disability Law Center and the Center for Public Representation, representing clients facing abuse and neglect in facilities and discrimination in the community. She is the author of several articles and chapters relating to the rights of persons with mental disabilities. She has presented nationally and internationally on topics such as the role of counsel in representing persons with mental disabilities, ending segregated confinement of mentally ill prisoners and restraint reduction in mental health facilities. Attorney Talley was an adjunct professor in New York Law School’s Online Mental Disability Law program for 8 years until the program ended, and is currently an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School, where she teaches Mental Health Law.

**Attorney Joseph Robinson** is the Trial Panel Director for the Mental Health Litigation Division (MHLD) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS). MHLD provides attorneys to defend clients in Civil Commitment and Guardianship Petitions. The Trial Panel Director provides support and oversight to 300

private attorneys who represent clients throughout Massachusetts in Commitment and Guardianship proceedings. Prior to this position Joe was a trial attorney in CPCS's Bridgewater State Hospital Commitment concentrating on defending clients in forensic commitment cases filed by the Bridgewater State Hospital or District Attorneys. Joe worked extensively with both public defenders and private practitioners on cases involving competence to stand trial and mental health evaluations and treatment of criminal defendants and clients committed to the Massachusetts Treatment Center. Prior to joining CPCS, Joe spent 26 years in private practice both as a solo practitioner and in small firms, including 14 years as a member of the MHLA private attorney panel. Joe has represented Hospitals, Respondents, Family Members and Fiduciaries in Guardianship cases. He has argued appeals in the before the Supreme Judicial Court, the Appeals Court as well as the Appellate Division of the District Court.

## **DAY 2: NAMI Mass: In Our Own Voice and First Responders** **Wednesday, October 21, 2020**



Two speakers will share their personal experiences from the onset of their illness, finding treatment, setting goals, and achieving those goals. This is a powerful presentation that aims to change attitudes, assumptions, and stereotypes about people living with mental health conditions. The presenters will bring home the challenges they faced and help us understand how to challenge misconceptions.

In addition, we will learn about the Criminal Justice Diversion Project and Sequential Intercept Model and the training provided to first responders to assist them to identify and properly intervene in a mental health crisis in order to prevent unnecessary arrests and detentions.

### **SPEAKERS:**

**MODERATOR: Michelle A. Ward, Ed.M.,** *Assistant Director Community Education & Training, NAMI Mass*  
Michelle has worked in education for nearly 10 years and joined NAMI Massachusetts in 2018. She manages mental health awareness education programs in schools and the community, including In Our Own Voice. Informed by her own personal and professional experiences, Michelle believes in the importance of education about mental health issues, and the power of storytelling as part of that education.

**Timothy E. Burton, MSB** *Criminal Justice Diversion Program Coordinator, NAMI Massachusetts*  
Tim joined the NAMI Massachusetts team in March 2020, with more than 35 years of experience in the criminal justice system and building community partnerships. He is a twice retired police chief, once after a 26-year career in Portland, Maine and a second time after 10 years as the chief in Odessa, Texas. As police chief, he worked closely with NAMI state organizations and brought Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to both of the police departments under his command.

## **DAY 3: NAMI Mass: COMPASS Helpline: Navigating the Storm** **Wednesday, October 28**

The mental health system is complicated. Finding the right services – for your client, your family member, or yourself – can feel like trying to weather a hurricane. The staff at the COMPASS Helpline can help you navigate the storm. In this presentation, you'll hear about common challenges and scenarios you may face, and the resources and strategies that can address these. The speakers bring a wealth of information and resources to

answer our most challenging questions regarding applying for services, learning how to be an effective self-advocate, and finding housing. Several fact patterns will be analyzed with a review of some of the common themes of the calls to the Helpline so that we know what to do when we get the panicked calls from potential clients.

### **SPEAKERS:**

**Jill Gichuhi** *COMPASS Helpline Director, NAMI Massachusetts.* Jill has worked for NAMI Massachusetts since 2016. She has more than 10 years of experience in information and referral, and has worked in peer and family support roles. She is passionate about suicide prevention and the idea that housing is an essential first step to wellness.

**Takeya Faison** *COMPASS Justice System & Diversion Navigator, NAMI Massachusetts.* Takeya recently joined the COMPASS Helpline team in February 2020. She has more than 10 years of experience in human services, with previous experience in the criminal justice field.

## FEES

**General Registration Fee: \$20.00 for Each Session/Day**

### REGISTRATION

#### **Step One: Online Registration**

Please register online at [www.massnaela.com](http://www.massnaela.com) or at the link provided in the e-mail. You must register online, whether or not you pay online. **To receive your program materials electronically prior to the meeting, please register at least two days before the program you will be attending. Materials will not be available at the meeting.**

#### **Step Two: Payment**

**Option 1: Online Payment:** Submit credit card payment information when prompted and complete the registration process.

**Option 2: Off-line Payment by check:** After completing Online Registration, please complete and return the following form with your check. (This form should not be used in lieu of registering online.):

### **Off-line Payment by Check:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Firm \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Check One:**

Check payable to MassNAELA enclosed

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**After registering online, please submit completed form by:**

- US Mail Only to: MassNAELA; P.O. Box 600046; Newtonville, MA 02460

**For more information: Call Clarence Richardson at (617) 566-5640**