Addressing the Growing Overdose and Addiction Epidemic

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
(In order of appearance on the program)

KATHRYN SANTORO, MA is Director of Programming at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to transforming health care through evidence and collaboration. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM’s programs to highlight market and policy innovations, including webinars and Capitol Hill briefings, and directs the organization’s journalism and population health programs.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from George Washington University with a focus on women’s health policy. Ms. Santoro previously served as a Project Consultant for Women in Government where she was responsible for compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her Master’s degree, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant for a health policy consulting firm and a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women’s and children’s policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science.

TOM HILL, MSW is Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), a component of the Executive Office of the President. He joined the National Council for Mental Wellbeing in March 2017 as Vice President of Practice Improvement. Mr. Hill previously served as a Presidential Appointee in the position of Senior Advisor on Addiction and Recovery to the SAMHSA Administrator. As part of this post, he initially served as Acting Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Hill was a Senior Associate at Altarum Institute, serving as Technical Assistance Director for a number of SAMHSA treatment and recovery support grant initiatives. He also served for four years as Director of Programs at Faces & Voices of Recovery.

Mr. Hill is frequently sought out as a national thought leader in the addiction and recovery field; his personal experience of recovery from addiction spans two decades. Reflecting his commitment to the goal of long-term recovery for individuals, families and communities, he has also served on numerous boards of directors, advisory boards, committees and working groups. Mr. Hill received his MSW in community organizing from Hunter College at City University of New York. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Johnson Institute America
Honors Recovery Award, the NALGAP Advocacy Award and a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in the Developing Leadership in Reducing Substance Abuse initiative.

Areas of Expertise: Leadership Development; Operational Efficiencies; Trauma-informed Care; Workforce Development; Peer Services; ROSC (Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care)

CECELIA M. SPITZNAS, PhD is Senior Science Policy Advisor in the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), a component of the Executive Office of the President. She provides policy analysis and scientific advice to the ONDCP Director and Chief of Staff on special matters of concern to ONDCP, such as emerging drug trends and demand reduction, and helps to develop legislative responses to problems of national scope, particularly on Rx drugs, heroin and fentanyl. In 2012, she organized a National Leadership Meeting for ONDCP on Maternal Substance Use and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. From 2000-2012, Spitznas was a program official at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), where her research portfolio concerned developing and testing new screening, brief interventions and treatments for people with substance use disorders, including pregnant women, and developing provider training. She received her clinical and research training in psychology at the University of New Mexico and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine. She worked as a research professor at UAB, conducting research on relapse and treatment for crack cocaine use in homeless cocaine users prior to joining the NIH.

JAN L. LOSBY, PhD, MSW is the Branch Chief for the Health Systems and Research Branch in the Division of Overdose Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Losby works with healthcare systems on quality improvement, electronic clinical decision support tools, linkage to care, and data system integration with electronic health records. In addition, Dr. Losby is responsible for evaluating and advancing the implementation of CDC’s Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, conducting applied health systems research, and building scientific evidence to support state, community, and tribal efforts to address the opioid overdose epidemic.

GREGORY HARRIS, MD is Senior Medical Director of Behavioral Health at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. He is a board-certified adult Psychiatrist with a Master’s in Public Health and over 20 years of practice as an outpatient psychiatrist in primary care, home care and office—based settings. He started his career in integrated primary care and home care practices at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, where he also became an early adopter, using technology in clinical practice. Dr. Harris has been active in organized medicine since residency and has served on many committees, advocating for mental health parity for coverage of mental health and substance use treatments under commercial health insurance. Dr. Harris currently serves as the Chair of the Committee on Interspecialty of the Massachusetts Medical Society and is a Past President of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society. Dr. Harris is also a Representative to the American Medical Association’s Relative Value Update Committee and serves as Chair of the American Psychiatric Association's Committee on RBRVS, Coding and Reimbursement. Dr. Harris teaches a public health course on health policy to fourth year Harvard Beth Israel Deaconess Psychiatry residents. In 2016, Dr. Harris transitioned from full-time clinical practice to full-time
employment as a Medical Director full-time at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. Dr Harris is currently Senior Medical Director for Behavioral Health at BCBSMA and continues to see psychiatry patients in a part-time clinical practice.