



Growing Challenges of Substance Use, Treatment & Recovery During COVID-19

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.

CARLOS BLANCO, MD, PhD, MS is the Director of the Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). His accomplishments include, among others, a detailed examination of the course of substance use disorders, the development of methods to examine the generalizability of clinical trials, and the development and testing of interventions that combine motivational interviewing with cognitive-behavioral therapy. Prior to joining NIDA, Dr. Blanco was Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Blanco has authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications.

GARY MENDELL is the founder and CEO of Shatterproof, a national nonprofit dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in the United States. After losing his son Brian to addiction in 2011, Gary founded Shatterproof to spare other families the tragedy his had suffered.

Since founding Shatterproof, Mr. Mendell has been recognized as a national leader in the addiction space, working to transform how opioid and substance use disorders are treated. His priorities include advocating for state and federal policy change, ending the harmful stigma of addiction, and supporting and educating our communities.

Mr. Mendell has testified in front of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis and his opinions are frequently reflected in the media. He also serves on the Executive Advisory Board of the University of Pennsylvania's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, is a member of the National Quality Forum's Technical Expert Panel for Opioid and Opioid Use Disorder, and is an advisory member of The Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

Before Shatterproof, Mr. Mendell spent decades as an entrepreneur. He founded HEI Hotels & Resorts, a multi-billion-dollar company that oversees a portfolio of approximately 70 first class hotels.

Mr. Mendell received his B.S. from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and his MBA with distinction from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

HERBERT PRICE, MD, DLFAPA is Corporate Medical Director for Internal Affairs at Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield. Dr. Price completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Arkansas, his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and completed his psychiatric residency at Eisenhower Army Medical Center. After residency he spent four years in West Germany, two as Division Psychiatrist for the 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Bad Kreuznach, and two as Chief of Psychiatry at the 34th General Hospital in Augsburg. After Army service he returned home to Jonesboro, Arkansas where he practiced general psychiatry for 24 years. He served as Medical Director for St Bernards Behavioral Health, the only inpatient psychiatric unit in Northeast Arkansas. He twice served as Chief of Medicine at St Bernards Medical Center. He taught Behavioral Health in the UAMS Family Practice Residency at St. Bernards.

In addition to his inpatient and administrative work he maintained an interest in individual psychotherapy. He trained as a Jungian Psychoanalyst through the Inter Regional Society of Jungian Analysts. He has served as President of the Inter Regional Society. He is active in teaching Jungian trainees in the Memphis Atlanta Jung Seminar.

He joined Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield in 2011 serving as Regional Medical Director for Northeast Arkansas. He moved to Little Rock in 2016 to assume his present duties.

He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the Arkansas Psychiatric Society and the Arkansas Medical Society.