



The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force is committed to being a leader in identifying issues faced by all people affected by mental illness, facilitating improvements in mental health services, giving consumers and families a strong voice, reducing stigma, and implementing recovery principles.



The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force Invites You To Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

and

Presentation of *Karen Avery Award* to Melissa Butts

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

3 – 5 PM

IndependenceFirst, 540 S. 1st Street



Featured Speaker:

Darby Penney

Co-author of *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic*

Our program will also include a special tribute to the thousands of community members with disabilities buried at the Milwaukee County grounds

Program will be followed by a reception

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Darby Penney, is co-author of *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic*.

Ms. Penney is a national leader in the human rights movement for people with psychiatric histories. She is a Senior Research Associate at Advocates for Human Potential, Inc., in Albany, NY, where she has worked on SAMHSA-funded projects on trauma, peer support and shared decision-making.

ABOUT KAREN AVERY

Karen Avery was an advocate, mentor, peer, friend and leader in the fight for disability rights. As Associate Director of IndependenceFirst, she was a respected leader in the mental health consumer/survivor movement in Wisconsin and nationally, tirelessly advocating to advance the rights of people with mental illness and ensure a strong consumer voice. She was a founding board member of the Grassroots Empowerment Project and a leader in the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force. Karen spoke about the system and about recovery with such impact and conviction because she lived it. She was generous in sharing the challenges of her experience with mental illness and her recovery journey. After Karen's passing in 2013, the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force established this award to honor her important and enduring legacy.

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Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force

- To request disability related accommodations, send your request by August 23 to elise.cassidente@drwi.org or call 414-773-4646.
- Environmental/Chemical Sensitivities: For the safety and comfort of those with chemical sensitivities, IndependenceFirst requests that people visiting our agency, refrain from using any perfumed products and not smoke near the building.