



The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force is the voice of the community on issues related to the quality and responsiveness of mental health and substance abuse disorder services.

Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force 2019 Karen Avery Forum Pathways to Employment: Opportunities, Rights and Resources

-Awards Presentation-

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

IndependenceFirst, 540 S. 1st • 2 – 5:30 PM

Register online at www.milwaukeeemhtf.org/2019forum/

Employment can be an important part of recovery. The forum seeks to increase awareness of work opportunities and employment supports for people who live with a mental illness and / or a substance use disorder, and highlight some important resources.



OPENING SPEAKER: Work as Recovery

Dani Rischal, MSW - Executive Director, Chrysalis

workwithchrysalis.org/

Our opening speaker will share the work of Chrysalis, a non-profit that promotes mental health recovery by supporting work opportunities that encourage hope, healing, and wellness. Chrysalis has been serving the Madison community since 1980, with a focus on providing community-based vocational support services, including the Supported Employment and Vocational Peer Support Programs. *Dani Rischal has been working in the community mental health field for nearly 15 years. Before returning to Madison, she spent four years in Washington, DC providing housing services to people experiencing homelessness and mental illness.*

Employment and Benefits Counseling

Lauren Grudzinski, Benefits Specialist, WIPA project IndependenceFirst

Employment may impact eligibility for public benefits. Benefits counselors who have special expertise in employment concerns can help people with disabilities understand benefits and the effect that working will have on continued eligibility and reach their employment goals. We will hear from one of Wisconsin's experts.

Community Voices

Shirley Drake, CPS, Supervisor - Office of Consumer Affairs, Wisconsin Community Services

will facilitate a panel of community members who will share their employment journey and lessons learned.

Panel Members:

Marie C. Perry, CPS, Supervisor, Community Linkages and Stabilization Program (CLASP), La Causa, Inc.
J. B. Reid, Grand Avenue Club member who works as a Kitchen Assistant at colour palate, a downtown eatery
L.T. Austin, Employment and Education Specialist at WCS' Coordinated Opportunities for Recovery and Empowerment (CORE) Program

Employment Rights

Monica Murphy, Managing Attorney School and Civil Rights, Disability Rights Wisconsin

It's important to understand your workplace rights and responsibilities. Attorney Monica Murphy will address employment rights such as accommodations, disability related legal protections such as Wisconsin's Fair Employment Law, and the American with Disabilities Act, disclosure, and other concerns.

Presentation of the 6th Annual Karen Avery Award & Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force Emerging Leader Award



Karen Avery Award:

Annually recognizes an individual whose work and values align with the legacy of Karen Avery, who was an outstanding advocate, mentor, peer, friend and leader in the fight for disability rights. As Associate Director of Independence**First**, 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. Karen was a leader in the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force. She was generous in sharing the challenges of her own lived experience and recovery journey. After Karen's passing in 2013, the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force established this award to honor her important and enduring legacy.

Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force Rising Leader Award:

This new award has been established to recognize visionary leadership by an individual who is a rising and/or young leader in the Milwaukee area mental health community. It is an effort to highlight outstanding leadership to advance mental health and recovery values in our community.



Network reception with refreshments from Chrysalis Pops.

In 2016, Dani and her team started Chrysalis Pops, a local, organic, frozen fruit pop social enterprise, that provides meaningful paid work experiences to individuals with mental health challenges. A delicious and meaningful way to end our forum!

To request disability related accommodations, send your request by October 18 to Pilar Gonzalez at pilarg@drwi.org or call 414-773-4646.

- For information about sponsorship opportunities, or other questions, contact Barbara Beckert at barbara.beckert@drwi.org or 414-773-4646
- Environmental/Chemical Sensitivities: For the safety and comfort of those with chemical sensitivities, Independence**First** requests that people visiting our agency refrain from using any perfumed products and not smoke near the building.

Continuing Education

- Certified Peer Specialists can receive 3.0 Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) by attending the entire training and submitting a completed evaluation.
- All Participants can request a Certificate of Participation for 3.0 hours by attending the entire training and submitting a completed evaluation.

