



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 2021 Karen Avery Forum Celebrating Recovery, Ending Stigma, Embracing Possibilities

-Awards Presentation-

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:30 - 5:30 PM

Register online at <https://www.milwaukeeemhtf.org/2021/08/05/2021forum/>

Substance use disorders impact the lives of so many Wisconsinites. Recovery is possible and is happening every day. Yet, limited resources and stigma continue to be barriers.

Extending hope and extending life to people who use drugs and alcohol involves many strategies. Our 2021 Forum will identify opportunities to address substance use disorders as a public health concern and normalize harm reduction strategies. We will present best practices nationally as well as identify effective and non-stigmatizing treatment options that are available in Milwaukee. Forum participants will be asked to look forward and identify new possibilities for our community. Related accommodations, and resources to support consumers with maintaining housing.



OPENING SPEAKERS: Ensuring Equitable Care Through Many Pathways of Recovery & Harm Reduction

Robert Childs, MPH, Technical Expert Lead at JBS International

Robert provides technical assistance on rural overdose prevention projects across the United States. He previously served as North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition's Executive Director, specializing in harm reduction practice, overdose prevention and response initiatives, drug policy advocacy and reform, media affairs, law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) and law enforcement occupational safety & drug overdose response. Robert helped develop the largest syringe exchange network, as well as community & law enforcement-based naloxone distribution programs and LEAD program sites, in the US South. He played a lead role in campaigns that led to the passage of legislation addressing 911 Good Samaritan, naloxone access, partial syringe decriminalization, biohazard collection, syringe exchange, naloxone funding and LEAD funding.



Donald McDonald, MSW, LCAS, Chief Recovery Officer at All Sober

As a person thriving in recovery from severe mental & substance use disorders since 2004, his background includes being a consumer of services, provider of clinical services, health policy advocate, Recovery Community leader, and a war veteran. He has served as the National Field Director of Faces & Voices of Recovery, the Executive Director of Addiction Professionals of North Carolina, and the Director of Advocacy & Education at Recovery Communities of North Carolina. Before coming to All Sober, Donald provided training and technical assistance to rural and underserved communities across the country with JBS International.

COMMUNITY VOICES PANEL

Learn from those who are in recovery, and from service providers about effective and non-stigmatizing treatment options that are available in Wisconsin. Our panel will also identify opportunities to support recovery and expand access to treatment and supports.

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION

Forum participants will have an opportunity to process the information and strategies shared by our speakers in breakout groups. Each group will be asked to look forward and identify new possibilities for our community to support recovery and access to treatment. Breakout groups will report out with their findings which will be used to inform our advocacy and policy recommendations.

CELEBRATING RECOVERY

Our forum is taking place during National Recovery Month, which is observed annually in September. Recovery Month spreads the message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover. We honor and recognize the millions of Americans whose lives have been transformed through recovery. No one is alone in the journey through recovery. Everyone's journey is different, but we are all in this together.

Presentation of the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force 2021 Awards:



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 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. 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.

Marie C. Perry Rising Leader Award: Inspired by the dedication of our inaugural recipient, this award honors Marie's memory and recognizes visionary leadership by an individual who is a rising and/or young leader in the Milwaukee area mental health community. Marie began demonstrating outstanding leadership to advance mental health and recovery values early in her own recovery. The Award recognizes the legacy of this young woman who was truly a visionary leader and gifted educator, making a daily impact in our community. Thank you to Marie's family for the generous endowment that funds the scholarship awarded to recipients of the Marie C. Perry Rising Leader Award.



Annual Membership Drive.

Our annual membership drive is underway! At the forum, we will recognize the Supporting Members of the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force. We need your support to sustain our important work – please join or renew your membership. We welcome organizational memberships as well as “community supporters” – individuals who want to support the task force. Membership materials are posted at <https://www.milwaukeeemhtf.org/2021/07/13/mmhtf-2021-2022-membership-drive/>

Accommodation Requests:

The forum will be captioned and ASL interpreters will be available. To request other disability related accommodations, email barbara.beckert@drwi.org by September 3rd. We will do our best to be responsive to requests received after that date.

Continuing Education

- Certified Peer Specialists and Recovery Coaches can receive 2.5 Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) by attending the entire training and submitting a completed evaluation.
- All participants can request a Certificate of Participation for 2.5 hours by attending the entire training and submitting a completed evaluation.

