

National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day 2019

Panelist Biographies

Elinore F. McCance-Katz,
M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. McCance-Katz is the first Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. She obtained her Ph.D. from Yale University with a specialty in Infectious Disease Epidemiology and is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She is board certified in General Psychiatry and in Addiction Psychiatry. She is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry with more than 25 years as a clinician, teacher, and clinical researcher. Most recently she served as the Chief Medical Officer for the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals and as the Chief Medical Officer for the Eleanor Slater Hospital system which is Rhode Island's state resource for patients with the most serious mental illnesses and medical illnesses requiring long term, inpatient care. She was also Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University. Previously, she served as the first Chief Medical Officer for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Prior to coming to SAMHSA, she served at the University of California, San Francisco as a Professor of Psychiatry, as the Medical Director for the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and as the Medical Director of SAMHSA's Clinical Support Systems for Buprenorphine (PCSS-B) and Opioids (PCSS-O).

Dr. McCance-Katz has published extensively in the areas of clinical pharmacology, medications development for substance use disorders, drug-drug interactions, addiction psychiatry, and treatment of HIV infection in drug users. She served on the World Health Organization (WHO) committee that developed guidelines on the treatment of drug users living with HIV/AIDS. She has been a national leader in addressing the overprescribing of opioid analgesics and in providing consultation on management of patients with chronic pain and opioid overuse. She was a participant in the development of SAMHSA TIP 40 which provided the initial guidance to physicians utilizing buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid use disorder, contributed to the development and maintenance of the legislatively required 8 hours of physician training for prescribing buprenorphine products and has continued to be actively involved in the development and delivery of physician training on office-based treatment of opioid use disorders. She has been one of the architects of Rhode Island's plan for addressing the opioid epidemic including new approaches to treatment in the form of a statewide system of Centers of Excellence in the treatment of opioid use disorder, new approaches to training in the utilization of DATA 2000 (Drug Abuse Treatment Act of 2000) to bring DATA waiver training to medical students, and going forward, nurse practitioner and physician assistant students, and legislative/regulatory work addressing safe use of opioids in acute pain.

Lance Robertson

Lance Robertson was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Aging and ACL's Administrator on August 11, 2017. His vision for ACL focuses on five pillars: supporting families and caregivers, protecting rights and preventing abuse, connecting people to resources, expanding employment opportunities and strengthening the aging and disability networks. His leadership in the fields of aging and disability began in Oklahoma, where he served for 10 years as the Director of Aging Services within the state's

	<p>Department of Human Services. Prior to that, he spent 12 years at Oklahoma State University, where he co-founded the Gerontology Institute and served as the executive director of the nation's largest regional gerontology association. Lance earned his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University and a master of public administration degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, and he is a veteran of the United States Army.</p>
Cherise Knotts	<p>Cherise Knotts is a United States Marine Corps veteran that resides in Cecil County and identifies as a passionate advocate for mental health and the veteran community. Cherise is a person with lived experience. Her support network and the various coping tools learned through the Perry Point VA have supported her recovery journey.</p> <p>As an older veteran herself and through her volunteer work, Cherise has gained valuable knowledge of the local mental health resources provided to the aging veteran community and seeks to help the community in the areas that are lacking. Cherise currently serves as an employee in housekeeping and a volunteer at the Perry Point VA through the roles of whole health facilitator and homeless outreach. Cherise also currently volunteers for NAMI Maryland and advocates for mental illness as a peer-to-peer facilitator and peer mentor. Today, Cherise is working on her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her state certificate to become a peer support specialist. It is her goal to become the first female peer support specialist at the Perry Point VA base within the next few months. She continues to keep her recovery a priority in her life.</p>
Debbie Meyer	<p>Debbie Meyer brings is a consumer, retired healthcare professional, and active NAMI Howard County volunteer. At the age of 40, she pursued academic studies earning a bachelor's degree and master's degree in social work with a focus in mental health. Debbie has worked for the State of Maryland with chronically mentally ill people in various capacities until retirement. In addition, she collaborated with the Howard County Police Department as a member of the Grassroots Mobile Crisis Team. After being assaulted at work, she retired as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW-C).</p> <p>First joining as a member of the Faith Outreach Committee, she grew as a volunteer. She moved into other roles as an In Our Own Voice (IOOV) presenter, giving over 400 presentations in 8 years, and currently a state trainer for this program. Additionally, Debbie became a Peer to Peer teacher, a class focused on how to live our best life with a mental illness. She has been a member of NAMI Howard County for almost 10 years and was elected to sit on the NAMI Howard County Board of Directors in 2013. Her favorite role is an In Our Own Voice presenter. "It is my way of staying connected to others with mental illness/brain disorders and remain focused on recovery." Feeling worthless and believing she had nothing to offer after the assault, NAMI "gave me hope and purpose to my life, and I discovered I do have something to offer - HOPE." In her spare time, spending time with grandchildren has become a new priority, but she also enjoys reading, time with family and friends, and keeping the faith strong as a member of Glen Mar UMC. "My greatest achievement has been my 2 sons, who have known me all their lives as someone who lives with a mental illness. To them, I have always been and still am 'just Mom'.</p>

<p>Alessandra Scalmati, M.D., Ph.D.</p>	<p>Dr. Alessandra Scalmati is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY, where she is Associate Director of the Fellowship in Geriatric Psychiatry, and Associate Director of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry. She is board certified in General and Geriatric Psychiatry and in Psychosomatic Medicine.</p> <p>Dr. Scalmati received an MD, PhD from the University of Modena, Italy and completed her training in general and geriatric psychiatry at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. Dr. Scalmati's areas of interests include: medical education, the provision of trauma informed care in social service agencies and the medical care system, the long-term effects of trauma, the improvement in delivery of mental health services to trauma survivors, elder mistreatment, intervention to address staff burnout, and the development of training models to improve delivery of care. Dr. Scalmati has worked to develop a curriculum to integrate the knowledge of the field of trauma studies and the field of geriatrics, and to adapt the concept of trauma informed care to geriatrics. She is committed to establishing models of collaborative care between academic institutions and community agencies; and to enhance the collaboration between providers of geriatric medicine and mental health professionals.</p>
<p>Laura Shannonhouse, Ph.D.</p>	<p>Laura Shannonhouse is an assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services. She is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Trainer (ASIST), and a Suicide to Hope (s2H) Facilitator. Her clinical experiences have included working with disaster impacted populations both domestically and internationally. Her research interests focus on crisis intervention and disaster response; she is curious about how people make sense of suffering through their faith. Specifically, she conducts community-based research in K-16 systems and with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to prevent suicide (suicide first aid), and with disaster impacted populations in fostering meaning-making through one's faith tradition (spiritual first aid).</p> <p>Dr. Shannonhouse is the project director Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc.'s Innovation Grant Award. The Atlanta Regional Commission (Atlanta Area Agency on Aging), in partnership with affiliate nutrition service (NS) providers and Georgia State University researchers are working to enhance the identification of, and support for older adults with elevated suicide risk or in mental health distress (ESR/MHD).</p>
<p>Brian Sims, M.D.</p>	<p>Dr. Sims has a 20-plus year background in Trauma Informed Care with subspecialty in Administrative Psychiatry, currently working as the Senior Medical Advisor with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and the NASMHPD Center for Innovations in Trauma Informed Approaches. Dr. Sims provides trainings in multiple venues nationally and internationally. Dr. Sims is skilled in enhancing the understanding of the various biological and neurological associations of trauma and how many life events affect our bodies, through the provision of targeted technical assistance to all skill sets and levels of expertise. In addition, specializes in networking with community based populations.</p>

	<p>Others areas of practice interest, include: health care system analysis; mental health provision of care; forensic psychiatry; trauma-informed care practices; strategies for reduction of seclusion and restraint; co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders; understanding and working with people with opioid use disorder, particularly in older population; cultural competency; enhancement of health and general well-being; administrative networking; direct services; correctional systems; state and local psychiatric inpatient facilities; outpatient practices; and work in communities. Dr. Sims also served in the US Army Reserves working with soldiers with PTSD.</p>
Robert Walker	<p>Rob Walker is the External Consumer Engagement Liaison at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Office of Recovery and Empowerment, responsible for providing a bridge from the Department to provider agencies, persons receiving services, family members and the community at large. Rob is a person with lived experience of a mental health diagnosis, which informs all areas of his work. Areas of involvement include: transitional age youth; older adult; the Deaf community; supporting and expanding the statewide peer workforce; and DMH efforts around race, equity, and inclusion. Rob has worked on developing peer-enhanced, peer-led emergency services, peer bridging from DMH inpatient facilities, Elder Peer Bridgers, Parent Peer Specialists, Buried in Treasures peer-facilitated Hoarding support, Forensic Peer Specialists, developing the Certified Older Adult Peer Specialist program in MA, and on integrating peers in the inpatient acute care psychiatric system. Rob is the Chairperson of the statewide Elder Mental Health Collaborative.</p>
Kimberly Burton	<p>Ms. Burton is a member of the Executive Committee - National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging; and Director of Older Adult Programs at the Mental Health Association of Maryland</p>
Anne Mathews-Younes, Ed.D., D.Min.	<p>Dr. Anne Mathews-Younes is the Deputy Director of the Center for Mental Health Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She completed her doctorate in Counseling and Consulting Psychology from Harvard University; as well as a Master's Degree in Theological Studies and Doctoral Degree in Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Dr. Mathews-Younes has worked in State and Federal mental health agencies for over 30 years in programs designed to prevent school violence and suicide, promote mental health and prevent mental and behavioral disorders, treat child trauma, and support disaster, terrorism and bioterrorism preparedness and response.</p>