

MINDS ON THE EDGE: FACING MENTAL ILLNESS

Morning Panel Discussion - *Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness*

Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness is a one-hour television program which first aired on PBS in October 2009. It connects the dots between personal dilemmas facing individuals and families who are living with mental illness, medical practices that can be obstacles to treatment, and public policies that all too often fall short in providing support that could make a positive difference. During this panel discussion, participants will view featured vignettes from *Minds on the Edge* and then experience a lively debate among representatives from the mental health community. A variety of perspectives will be included, from consumers and family members, to psychologists and members of the judicial system.

Minds on the Edge considers the case of Olivia, a college student who develops mental illness while at school. Her professor knows something is wrong, but is unsure how to approach her and whether it is even legal to contact her parents. Upset and confused when they see their daughter, her parents do not know where to turn and are shocked to discover how limited their options are when they try to seek medical help. The program focuses on the issues related to treatment at the hospital emergency room.

The program also explores the circumstances of James, an adult who has coped with his mental illness until his mother dies, and then he is left without critical support. As his mental health unravels, and he is unable to get treatment or maintain his home, he is arrested for a minor crime and absorbed into the criminal justice system. For him, it is the beginning of a merry-go-round of homelessness and jail that has become all too common for many individuals who are living with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other severe mental illnesses.



Moderator: Edna McCutcheon, ACSW, LSW

Edna McCutcheon is the Chief Executive Officer at Torrance State Hospital, where she began her tenure in 1981 as a social worker. She has held many subsequent positions at Torrance State Hospital until her appointment as CEO in July 2004. Edna graduated from West Virginia University in 1978 with a Master's Degree in Social Work. Her undergraduate degree was a double major in Psychology and Sociology from Indiana University of PA. Edna is a member and Past President of the NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania Board of Directors.

Minds on the Edge Panelists



Charma D. Dudley, PhD, FPPR

Dr. Charma Dudley, a native Pittsburgher, is a licensed psychologist and the Clinical Director at Family Resources, a private non-profit agency that provides prevention and treatment services to families affected by abuse and neglect. She is also a Peer Advisor for Value Behavioral Health of Western Pennsylvania. In private practice, Charma specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents with affective disorder illnesses (depression, anxiety) and behavioral problems.

Charma is the author of *Treating Depressed Children*, published by New Harbinger, and has achieved diplomate certification in Psychopharmacology from the Prescribing Psychologist Register. She is a member of the American Psychological Association and Pennsylvania Psychological Association, serves as President of the Board of Directors of NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania and is on the Board of Directors for Allegheny Family Network.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

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Pete Earley

In a *Washingtonian* Magazine cover story titled, *Top Journalists: Washington's Media Elite*, Pete Earley was described as one of a handful of journalists in America who "have the power to introduce new ideas and give them currency." A former reporter for *The Washington Post*, he is the author of nine nonfiction books and three novels. His first book, *Family of Spies: Inside the John Walker Spy Ring*, was a New York Times bestseller and was made into a five-hour miniseries shown on CBS television.

CRAZY: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness, tells two stories. It describes Pete's attempts to help his college-age son, Mike, who becomes ill with bipolar disorder and is arrested. It also describes a year Pete spends at the Miami Dade County Jail, where he follows people with mental disorders—who had been in jail—out into the community to document what types of services and assistance they receive. This book was one of two finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 and has won awards from Mental Health America and the American Psychiatric Association.

Pete is a lifetime member of NAMI and received its Outstanding Media Award for Advocacy in 2007 at the NAMI National Convention. He also is a board member of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, a national, innovative program that develops creative ways to fund supportive housing for homeless persons.



Joan Erney, JD

Joan Erney, JD, was appointed Deputy Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services by Governor Edward G. Rendell in April 2003. Prior to that, she was the Director of the Bureau of Operations and Quality Management. Before her position in state government, she was the Chief Executive Officer of the Community Behavioral HealthCare Network of Pennsylvania (CBHNP), a non-profit network of community providers engaged in managed care contracting. Her previous experience includes legislative and policy development with the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association and direct staff work at Dauphin County Crisis Intervention. She received her Juris Doctor from the Widener University School

of Law in 1994. Her undergraduate degree and graduate credits are from Penn State University.



Frederick J. Frese III, PhD

Frederick J. Frese III, PhD, is a psychologist with more than 40 years experience in public mental health care and is presently coordinator of the Summit County Recovery Project, serving recovering consumers in the Akron, Ohio area. For 15 years, until his retirement in 1995, Fred was Director of Psychology at Western Reserve Psychiatric Hospital. He is also a consumer, diagnosed with schizophrenia as a young Marine Corps officer. Despite his disability, he earned a degree from the American Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix, AZ, and a doctorate in psychology from Ohio University.

Fred founded the Community and State Hospital Section of the American Psychological Association and is Past President of the National Mental Health Consumers' Association. He currently holds a clinical faculty appointment in psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University and is an associate professor of psychology in psychiatry at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM). Fred is on the Board of *Scientific Advisors for Schizophrenia Bulletin* and a former Board member of NAMI. Fred was a panelist on PBS's *Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness*, which aired October 2009. He has authored many articles and book chapters and has lectured widely on the subject of schizophrenia.

Carol Horowitz, Esq.

Carol Horowitz, Esq., is the managing attorney of the Pittsburgh office of the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh and has since practiced exclusively in the area of civil rights for individuals with disabilities. She has represented clients in a variety of matters related to housing, employment, public accommodations and access to health care by using individual and systemic advocacy, and class action litigation. She works with many advocacy organizations addressing statewide issues that affect the rights of these individuals and has been particularly active in advocating for state-wide policy that supports mental health recovery.



Dr. Suzanne Vogel-Scibilia

Dr. Suzanne Vogel-Scibilia is a practicing clinical psychiatrist who has had bipolar disorder since the age of 15. She founded and operates an independent mental health clinic in Western Pennsylvania. Dr. Vogel-Scibilia completed her residency at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic where she was a Laughlin Awardee for her teaching and public service. She is a clinical assistant professor at Western Psychiatric Institute and serves on the faculty of two community hospitals. She is also a consultant for psychopharmacology projects at the National Institute of Mental Health and is a grant reviewer for SAMSHA. As well as being Chair of The Child-Adolescent Policy Subcommittee, she oversees projects involving support and education for young families. She established a Roman Catholic mental health nonprofit organization that provides seed money for programs and undertakes projects in the United States. She is a past president of NAMI, and a former member of the NAMI Pennsylvania and the NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania boards of directors.



Judge John A. Zottola

John A. Zottola is a 1979 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. From 1982 to 1989, Judge Zottola served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, where he primarily prosecuted sexual assault cases. From 1989 until his election to the Court of Common Pleas, Judge Zottola was employed as an associate at the law firm of Robb, Leonard and Mulvihill. During this same period, he was appointed by then Mayor Sophie Masloff as Chairman of the City of Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Vice Chairman of the City of Pittsburgh Planning Commission. Judge Zottola has served as an executive board member of The Center for Victims of Violent Crime. He has received awards from The Center, as well as Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, and other civic and community organizations. From 1994 until the present, Judge Zottola has served in the Criminal Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. He currently supervises Allegheny County's Mental Health Court, which has received national recognition. He is also the supervising judge of the County's Veterans' Court. Since 2007, Judge Zottola has been a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and chairs the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee of the Commission.