



PRESS RELEASE

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The Coalition for Behavioral Health Set to Hold Annual Conference on March 30, 2017: “Turning Challenges Into Opportunities”

New York, NY – Nearly 300 mental health and substance use providers, legislators, government officials, advocacy colleagues, consumers and the business community will convene at The Coalition for Behavioral Health’s 2017 annual conference on March 30, 2017, called “Turning Challenges Into Opportunities.” The event will be held in Manhattan at Congregation Rodeph Sholom (7 West 83rd Street).

Coalition Board Chair **Tino Hernandez**, and President & CEO of Samaritan Daytop Village, expressed his excitement for this year’s conference, “given the preeminence of healthcare in national and state policy agendas, The Coalition’s 2017 conference is an opportunity not to miss. Our board and staff have assembled an exceedingly relevant and timely program with noteworthy speakers from the health and behavioral health fields.”

Coalition President & CEO, **Christy Parque** stated that “the community-based behavioral health sector is embarking on a new path forward to ensure that individuals and communities receive vital services. Our sector is poised to embrace new business and practice models, as well as form new partnerships to further enhance behavioral services for strong communities and healthy individuals. We are committed to using new technologies and experience gained from the health and business sectors to meet the opportunities ahead.”

Conference Highlights

In the aftermath of the House pulling its healthcare bill, our Keynote Speaker, **Rebecca Farley**, *Vice President, Policy & Advocacy, National Council for Behavioral Health*, will provide perspective on the impact of possible changes to the New York State Medicaid program in **“Looking Through the Federal Lens (Albeit Foggy!).”**

The conference encompasses three expert panel discussions. First, **Kristin Woodlock**, *CEO, Woodlock & Associates, LLC*, will facilitate an in-depth conversation about how the behavioral health sector is adapting to the movement of healthcare towards a performance model of service, focusing on inherent strengths and challenges in **“Understanding Value in Integrated Behavioral Health.”**

Followed by a panel on fostering new partnerships and envisioning new ways to sustain strong communities and healthy New Yorkers, in **“The New Partnership Paradigm in Integrated Behavioral Health,”** led by **Bruce Feig**, *Senior Consultant, Sachs Policy Group*.

The third group of panelists will demonstrate cutting-edge informational dashboards to boost provider performance and innovation in the **“Use of Data, Information and Technology for Informed Decision Making,”** moderated by **John Kastan**, *Chief Program Officer, The Jewish Board*.

The Coalition for Behavioral Health represents over 140 of New York’s community-based behavioral health nonprofits. They serve more than 450,000 clients in the New York City metropolitan area. The advocacy agency was founded in 1972 and specifically focuses on advocacy, training and technical assistance projects.

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