



NORTH CAROLINA PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE MENTAL HEALTH - DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES - SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Community Inclusion for Persons with Serious Mental Illness in North Carolina

Bios

February 20, 2018

Jason Vogler, Ph.D. , CSSBB has been the Senior Director of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) since June 2016. Under the delegation by the Secretary of DHHS, Jason serves as the federally recognized State Mental Health Commissioner, State Developmental Disabilities Director, and Substance Use Single State Agency Director. He also serves as a co-chair of the Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members, and their Families; a member of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities; a member of the Council for Educational Services for Exceptional Children; and is part of many other community coalitions and committees related to behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jason's professional involvement has included membership in the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), the North Carolina Psychological Association, and consulting as an expert in the assessment and treatment of serious mental illness, mental health policy, program development, and supported employment. Dr. Vogler is a Licensed Psychologist and Certified Six Sigma Black Belt.

Walt Caison, Ph.D. is Section Chief of Community Mental Health at the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. He and his staff work to monitor and improve child, adult and geriatric mental health systems of care statewide, and integral components of the treatment and supports service array. Dr. Caison holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from UNC-Chapel Hill, a master's degree in clinical psychology from Appalachian State University, and a doctoral degree in community psychology from NC State University. Since 1977, he has served in a variety of managerial, clinical, research, and teaching capacities in psychiatric and behavioral healthcare. Finally, Dr. Caison harbors a passion for informal and naturally occurring supports.

Mark Salzer, Ph.D. is professor and former founding Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at Temple University. He is also the Principal Investigator and Director of the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities, a rehabilitation research and training center (RRTC) funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. Dr. Salzer has more than 100 scholarly publications and is an internationally-recognized expert on community living and participation of adults with serious mental illness.

Garron Rogers currently serves as Youth Transition Director for North Carolina Families United in Graham and is also one of the adult supports for Youth MOVE North Carolina. In his current role, he focuses on statewide policy for youth and young adults and also provides RENEW mentoring services for youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs. Garron also works with young adults to improve their leadership and advocacy skills, as well as trains professionals on how to better engage and partner with youth. He has previous professional experience in adult corrections, secondary education, and youth mental health. Garron has received multiple awards for his work with young adults including the Alamance Burlington School System's Classified Employee of the Year Awards in both the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years, as well as the 2016 Youth MOVE National Rockstar Award for Health Equity sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He has served as a presenter for various state and national conferences as well as a keynote speaker.

Annie Smith, LPC is the State Director for Youth Villages in NC where she has worked for 21 years. She completed her undergraduate degree at West Virginia University in Recreational Therapy and her master's

degree in Counseling from the University of Maryland. She oversees 9 offices across NC and has a strong history of bringing up evidenced-based practices and expanding them statewide. Most recently, she worked with the State through legislation to expand YVLifeSet, Youth Villages' transitional living program, across NC through a public/private partnership. Youth Villages' YVLifeSet program participated in the largest clinical trial in the country for youth in transition.

Lyn Legere, MS, CPSS is a person in long term recovery from substance use and mental health challenges. She has a long history of involvement with peer support, dating back to the early 1980's and the implementation of the Certified Alcohol Counselor (CAC) in Massachusetts. In more recent years, she has been deeply involved in the development, training and implementation of peer support. She was the Director of the Peer Support Training and Certification Program in Massachusetts for 8 years, and has done similar work in North Carolina for the past 4 years. Lyn consults nationally and internationally on best practices in peer support training, supervision and roles within and beyond the behavioral health system. She is also a consultant to SAMHSA and BRSS TACs on recovery and peer support.

Ken Schuesselin, MPA is the Associate Director for Consumer Policy for the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. He directs the development of policies and DMH initiatives that increase opportunities for community inclusion, self-determination, and recovery. Mr. Schuesselin serves as the key policy advisor for consumers across the substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, and mental health systems. During his tenure, Mr. Schuesselin has provided expertise in development of the Peer workforce, the elimination of stigma and discrimination across all disability groups, and creating future advocates and leaders to have an impact on their own communities. Previously, he served as the Supportive Services Coordinator for Liberty Center Connections in Wooster, Ohio, where he directed the development and implementation of the agency's Peer workforce. His career reflects an ongoing commitment to ensuring policies and initiatives address the whole person in a way that promotes a healthy and full life.

Tara L. Alley, MA, CESP, is an Adult Mental Health Program Manager in the Community Mental Health Section of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. Her undergraduate degree is in Community and Human Services and obtained her graduate degree in Health Education from East Carolina University. She has worked in the field of community human services since 1997. She has held roles including: Supported Employment Program Manager, Operations Director, and Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program Regional Director. Her experience has encompassed work with children and adults from diverse backgrounds and cross disabilities. She has worked with the Community Mental Health Section since 2013 where her focus has concentrated on adults living with mental illness and the importance of employment and recovery. She conducts fidelity evaluations and provides training and technical assistance to providers implementing the evidence-based practice of Individual Placement and Support. She has developed and facilitated multiple trainings on Individual Placement and Support in North Carolina and believes all working age people should have opportunities for employment.

Stacy A. Smith, LPC-S, LCAS, NCC, is the Adult Mental Health Team Lead in the Community Mental Health Section of North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. She has her undergraduate degree in Music Therapy and obtained her graduate degree in Counselor Education from North Carolina State University. She has worked in the field of adult mental health since 1998, in settings that include in-patient and community based settings. Stacy has worked closely with the Transitions to Community Living Initiative (TCLI) on developing plans to ensure that the systems and services available to adults in North Carolina with serious mental illness are recovery based

and community focused. She has developed and facilitated trainings on TCLI, Assertive Community Treatment, Individual Placement and Support-Supported Employment, Recovery and Community Inclusion, and Harm Reduction.

Jo Ann Coco-Ripp, Ph.D., LRT, Associate Professor, Human Services Studies, Winston-Salem State University, currently teaches Therapeutic Recreation courses and is the co-chair of the Human Service Studies Department at Winston-Salem State University. Although she has been in higher education for the past 20 years, she still relies on her practitioner background of many years serving persons with developmental disabilities as well as persons with severe, chronic mental health issues. She maintains her NCTRC certification and licensure in the state of NC to practice recreation therapy. Her background includes service in Utah, Illinois, and Oklahoma. She currently supervises recreation therapy interns across a variety of settings. Inclusion, health disparities, social justice, and outdoor recreation are some of her areas of interest for research and service.

Gretchen Snethen, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at Temple University in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and the Assistant Director for the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion. Her research focuses on developing intervention strategies to support independent participation in community-based recreation activities and to better understand factors that facilitate or prevent community participation among individuals diagnosed with serious mental illnesses.