



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

Community Inclusion for Persons with Serious Mental Illness in North Carolina

Bios

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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 (<http://tucollaborative.org/rrtc-community-inclusion-training/>). 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.

Richard Baron has worked with the Temple University RRTC on Community Living and Participation for the past 15 years, with responsibility for a broad range of training, technical assistance, and consultation services helping state and county mental health offices and local community mental health centers, psychiatric rehabilitation programs, and peer-run services develop policies, programs, and practices that promote community inclusion. He was previously the director of Matrix Research Institute, which focused much of its work on improving employment opportunities for individuals with mental illnesses, and previously worked at one of the nation's oldest psychiatric rehabilitation programs - Horizon House - in Philadelphia developing and directing community oriented services.