Conference Overview: The future of the behavioral health workforce is dire. By 2025, shortages are projected for psychiatrists, behavioral health social workers, psychologists, school counselors, and marriage and family therapists. The workforce crisis exists today, and the current situation is alarming if not unacceptable. Besides the issue of shortages, the current BH workforce is characterized as being part of an aging population with high turnover rates, maldistributed, and inadequately compensated. At the same time, behavioral health systems are evolving so that there is a priority on the delivery of evidence-based services, a recovery orientation, quality and accountability, and integration with primary care. These system inadequacies have resulted in shifting the responsibility to other social service and law enforcement agencies. So, the question is: What is to be done to address this behavioral health workforce disaster?

The goal of the 2018 National Dialogues on Behavioral Health Conference is to address this, and other questions emphasizing best practices in these areas and issues of implementation. The objective is also to use the conference presentations and discussions as building blocks for designing models of the future behavioral health workforce.

Conference Rates:
Only $175.00 Sunday Pre-Conference or Single Day Fee
Only $325.00 Conference Fee (Monday-Wednesday)

For more information and to register for conference, go to our website:
www.nationaldialoguesbh.org

Conference Venue:
Renaissance Arts Hotel
700 Tchoupitoulas Street
New Orleans, LA
Single/Double Rooms: $148 per night exclusive of tax
To reserve hotel rooms, go to:
https://aws.passkey.com/go/WELCOMENDBH or call 1-877-622-3056


Conference Site meets ADA requirements. Please contact the Renaissance Arts Hotel for more information. Continuing Education Credits Pending
The last decade has seen the development of numerous applications (apps) that use AI to support or carry out many tasks in arguably more efficient and effective ways than ever before. The behavioral health field is not exempt from the use of AI. Participants attending this session will have an opportunity to see demonstrations of a variety of applications that have been developed to address and/or support behavioral healthcare needs. Discussion will focus on the use of such applications that have expanded the ability of individuals to access care.

Speakers: James Dunaway (MS) Brian Grady (VA), Rini Gahir (PA), Beacon Health Options, Magellan Health, Optum, TBA

Monday, October 29, 2018

8:30 - 8:40  Welcome and Introductions
Mary E. Smith (IL), NDBH President

8:40 – 9:00  Conference Overview

9:00 – 12:00 How can one “resource shift” and better utilize the current workforce?
This session will focus on strategies that are being used to better utilize the skills and competencies of the current behavioral health workforce with an eye toward using these strategies and lessons learned to address behavioral health workforce needs of tomorrow.

Speakers: Gary Belkin (NY), Alison Malmon (DC), TBA

12:00 – 1:30 LUNCH (on your own)

1:30- 4:30  How can one use technology and telehealth as workforce extenders, especially in rural areas?
This session will focus on the following questions: What strategies can we implement to extend the reach of existing behavioral health care providers? How can we enhance the capability of other services systems to effectively meet the behavioral health needs of individuals that they serve? What role can technology play in accomplishing these goals?, and How do we “think outside the box” to address workforce strategies (e.g. self-help apps, social media)?

Speakers: Brian Grady (VA), John Straus (MA), TBA

4:45- 6:00  Reception- Renaissance Arts Hotel Art Gallery

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

8:30 – 11:45  Session 1: How can one optimize the use of peer specialists, family caregivers, school counselors, primary care providers, and providers in the child welfare and criminal (and juvenile) justice systems?
The focus of this session is on building and expanding community behavioral health competence, expanding the traditional clinical behavioral health workforce and implementing public behavioral health awareness and education programs.

Speakers: Harvey Rosenthal (NY), Beacon Health Options, Magellan Health, Optum

Session 2: Workforce Skills needed to address the opioid epidemic
The opioid epidemic affects every stratum of the United States population. What skills are needed by the behavioral health workforce to provide effective treatment? Are there new practice methods that provide alternatives to pain management other than the use of opioids? How is treatment best provided in urban and rural settings? What is the role of harm reduction from a medical standpoint?

Speakers: Rochelle Dunham (LA), Logan Kinamore (LA)

11:45 – 1:30 LUNCH (On your own)

1:30 – 4:30  How can one build effective behavioral health community collaboratives?
This session will provide an overview of behavioral health community collaboratives operating across the country. The session will address issues of involvement and engagement of key stakeholders, use of data to set agendas and monitor outcomes over time, and define the core elements that have contributed to their success.

Speakers: Gina Brimmer (CO), Grant Drawve (AR), Trina Ita (TX), Connie Goodson (LA), Kathy Coenson (LA)

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

8:30 – 12:00  What are effective funding and reimbursement strategies to support needed workforce initiative?
This session will focus on emerging practices and partnerships assisting provider entities in gaining access to needed resources to support workforce development.

Speakers: Beacon Health Options, Magellan Health, Optum, Janice Petersen (LA)

12:00 – 12:15 Final discussion, wrap-up and adjournment