



# Conference on Behavioral Health Parity: *What Is It and How Can We Make It Work?*

August 18, 2017 • Quest Community Church  
410 Sporting Court • Lexington, KY 40503

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) has been law since 2008. MHPAEA provided that health plans could not limit mental health or substance use disorder benefits in any way that was more restrictive than how medical/surgical benefits were limited. This sounds simple enough...but why do so many people still have limited access to behavioral health care? The conference will explore this question, and give you the opportunity to hear from experts on how to work within the parity law, to better understand it and to benefit from it.

**Who Should Attend:** Hospital leaders, behavioral health advocacy groups, consumers, family members, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, therapists, counselors, addiction specialists, chief medical officers, nurses, policy makers, insurance providers, administrators.

## Keynote Speaker

### Mark J. Covall

**Mark J. Covall** is president and CEO of the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS). Founded in 1933, NAPHS advocates for behavioral health and represents provider systems that are committed to the delivery of responsive, accountable, and clinically effective prevention, treatment and care for children, adolescents, adults and older adults with mental and substance use disorders. In this role, Covall oversees policy for the association. He is an expert in Medicare/Medicaid issues and has founded and helped to lead a wide variety of coalitions working to improve the lives of individuals with mental and addictive disorders. He has played a central role in advocacy successes on issues such as parity, the Medicare inpatient psychiatric prospective payment system, and health care reform, among others. Prior to becoming NAPHS president/CEO, Covall served as the executive director of the American Managed Behavioral Healthcare Association (now known as the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness)—an association representing the nation's leading managed behavioral health care companies. Covall also served for nine years as the director of government relations for NAPHS. Covall has worked on Capitol Hill for the House Aging Committee's Health and Long-Term Care Subcommittee. Overall, Covall has more than 30 years of experience in healthcare policy.

## Speakers

### Gabrielle R. de la Guéronnière

**Gabrielle R. de la Guéronnière** co-directs policy advocacy, including work with Congress and the Administration, for

the Legal Action Center, which is a 40-year-old non-profit law and policy organization that fights discrimination against people with histories of addiction, criminal records and/or HIV/AIDS. She led the Center's federal advocacy toward successful inclusion of strong addiction and mental health provisions in the Affordable Care Act. She coordinates and directs strategy for the Coalition for Whole Health, a group of over 100 national and state addiction and mental health organizations. She directs federal grassroots and grassroots advocacy for a national health care provider association as well as managing the Center's Washington, D.C. office. de la Guéronnière promotes the Center's national policy priorities through presentations and participation at conferences and meetings, and contacts with the media. She helps to secure funds for the Center's national policy work and manages contracts for work completed through the D.C. office. de la Guéronnière received a BA in Political Science from Boston University and a Juris Doctorate from Washington College of Law, American University in 2004. She is a published author and works tirelessly to de-stigmatize addictions and stop the revolving door of prisons being utilized for addiction treatments.

### Stephen P. Miller

**Stephen P. Miller** is a CPA and serves as Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services. Prior to assuming that position, Miller had spent 24 years as Vice President of Finance with the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) where he assisted in the development of KHA's position on pending legislation and monitoring federal and state reimbursement issues. In his role, Miller interacted with Medicaid and Cabinet leadership on many issues related to hospital reimbursement and regulatory issues. Prior to his work with KHA, Miller served as Executive Director of Ten

Broeck Hospital in Louisville, Chief Operating Officer of Our Lady of Peace Hospital in Louisville, Chief Financial Officer of Our Lady of Peace Hospital in Louisville and Regional Controller of American Healthcare Management in Dallas. Miller is a graduate of the University of Louisville, where he received a Bachelor's degree in accounting.

### Andrew Sperling, JD

**Andrew Sperling** is the Director of Federal Legislative Advocacy for NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In this position, he leads NAMI's legislative advocacy initiatives in Congress and before federal agencies. Sperling works on issues affecting the mental health community with a focus on improving the lives of people with severe mental illnesses. Prior to joining NAMI, Sperling held the position of deputy director of government relations for the National Community Mental Healthcare Council and was a legislative assistant for U.S. Representative Dick Swett (D-NH). Sperling earned his BA from Tulane University. After graduating from Tulane, Sperling attended George Washington University where he received a Masters of Arts, and in 1992, he earned a law degree from the Franklin Pierce Law Center.

## Panel Members

### Nina Wanchic Eisner

**Nina Eisner** is the Chief Executive Officer for the Ridge Behavioral Health System, a 110 licensed behavioral health hospital and outpatient system. Eisner has been a health care executive for over 43 years in not-for-profit and for-profit systems, with extensive experience in inpatient and outpatient continuum of care. She serves as Chair for the Kentucky Hospital Association's Psychiatric and Chemical Dependency Forum. Eisner is a strong advocate for behavioral health in the political arena and serves as the Chair for the Kentucky Hospital Association's Legislative Committee. Eisner earned her BA in Social Work from the University of Kentucky and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Illinois.

### Kelly A. Gunning

**Kelly A. Gunning** is the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Lexington. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health

organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Gunning has been working in behavioral health since 1996. She received her M.A. in Community Psychology at the University of Alaska and started her career working in addictions. Gunning began working for NAMI Lexington in 2002 and served as the Executive Director from 2004-2009.

### Kelly Kelly

**Kelly Kelly, RN, BSN**, earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Louisville. For the past nine years, she has overseen the Health Policy and Utilization Review Branch for the Kentucky Department of Insurance, including the implementation of the ACA related to Health Insurance Utilization Review and Quality issues. She has 23 years of nursing experience including public health, insurance, case management, pharmacy benefits, corrections, home health and critical care. For the past seven years, Kelly has served on the Kentucky Cancer Consortium.

### Sheila A. Schuster

**Sheila Schuster, Ph.D.** is the Executive Director of the Advocacy Action Network and the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition. Schuster is a licensed psychologist with 27 years of experience in child clinical work. She now is a full-time advocate for behavioral health, disabilities and access to health care. Schuster earned her BA in Psychology from The Catholic University of America, MS in Clinical Psychology from Purdue University and PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Louisville. She has an honorary degree in Public Service awarded by Spalding University.

### Steve Shannon

**Steve Shannon** is the Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Regional MH/MR Programs (KARP). He represents the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) in the Kentucky General Assembly and with the Cabinet of Health and Family Services, including the Department for Medicaid Services and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. Formerly, Shannon served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services. He received his Master's in Public Administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

## General Information

### Services for Physically Challenged:

We wish to take reasonable steps to ensure no individual who is physically challenged is discriminated against because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. If special arrangements or diet are required for an individual to participate in this program, please contact us at 502-426-6220.

### Continuing Education Credit

Attendees will receive 6.0 CEUs (included in professional fee) for Social Work 102017-0408, LPCC, Psychology, CADC, LMFT, and Nursing 4-0095-12-2018-10. Attendance of the entire program and completion of program evaluation required for CEUs.

### Registration Link and Fees

\$75 Professional

\$25 Consumer or Family Member

**Registration deadline: August 11, 2017**

**Fax to:** 502-814-0355

**Mail to:** Kentucky Hospital Association  
Attn: Sharon Perkins  
P.O. Box 436629  
Louisville, KY 40223

**Online:** [http://www.kyha.com/CM/Events/Evts\\_List.aspx](http://www.kyha.com/CM/Events/Evts_List.aspx)

## Program Agenda - August 18, 2017

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome**
- 8:45 a.m. **Mental Health and Addiction Parity: How Far We Have Come, How Far We Have to Go?**  
Mark Covall, President and CEO  
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
- 10:15 a.m. **Break/Vendors**
- 10:30 a.m. **What Does Parity Look Like in Kentucky?**  
Steve Miller, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
- 11:30 a.m. **Lunch on your own**
- 1:00 p.m. **Strategies to Increase Compliance with the Federal Parity Law and Improve Access to Care**  
Gabrielle R. de la Guéronnière, JD  
Director of Policy  
Legal Action Center
- 2:00 p.m. **The Role of Parity in the Health Care Reform Debate**  
Andrew Sperling, JD  
Director of Federal Legislative Advocacy  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

- 3:00 p.m. **Break/Vendors**
- 3:15 p.m. **Perspectives on Parity – A Panel Discussion**  
*Moderator*  
Sheila Schuster, PhD  
Advocacy Action Network
- Inpatient/Outpatient Perspective**  
Nina Eisner, MSW, CEO  
The Ridge Behavioral Health
- Federal Perspective**  
Gabrielle R. de la Guéronnière, JD  
Director of Policy Legal Action Center
- Consumer/Family Perspective**  
Kelly Gunning, MA, Director  
Advocacy and Public Policy  
NAMI Lexington
- State Regulator Perspective**  
Kelly Kelly, RN, BSN  
Health Policy and Utilization Review Branch  
Kentucky Department of Insurance
- Community Mental Health Perspective**  
Steve Shannon, MPA, Executive Director  
Kentucky Association of Regional MH/MR Programs
- 4:30 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

## Registration Form - Mail form by August 11, 2017

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Lexington, KY 40503

#### Please Complete Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Fee:

The fee for this program is:

\$75 per Professional

\$25 per Consumer or Family Member

Check Enclosed (Make checks payable to KHREF)

**OR register online at:**

[http://www.kyha.com/CM/Events/Evts\\_List.aspx](http://www.kyha.com/CM/Events/Evts_List.aspx)

Checks and registration forms need to be mailed  
by **August 11, 2017** to:

**KHREF**  
Attn. Sharon Perkins  
PO Box 436629  
Louisville, KY 40253-6629

Phone: (502) 426-6220  
Fax: (502) 814-0355



Kentucky Hospital Research and  
Education Foundation, Inc.

