

First National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day
Panelist Biographies

<p>Stephen J. Bartels, MD, MS</p>	<p>Stephen Bartels is the Herman O. West Professor of Geriatrics, and Professor of Psychiatry, Community & Family Medicine, and of Health Policy at The Dartmouth Institute. Bartels is national leader in the fields of aging, mental health services, health promotion, and implementation research. He has a 20-year track-record developing, testing, and spreading new models of care for complex, low socioeconomic populations with a special focus on older adults and individuals with co-occurring mental health and physical health conditions. Bartels' research topics include the integration of mental health and primary care, health promotion, self-management, disease management, patient activation, automated telehealth, and implementation science. Bartels directs Dartmouth's Centers for Health for Aging; the CDC Health Promotion Research Center at Dartmouth; and Dartmouth Institute's program on Innovation, Implementation, and Improvement Science. Bartels is a past president of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry. He earned a BA in English from Amherst College, a MD from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, and a MS from The Dartmouth Institute.</p>
<p>Gilberto Romero</p>	<p>Gilberto Romero has extensive knowledge of the mental health system on the national, state, and local level, strong communications skills, and valued experiential knowledge as an advocate and consumer of mental health services. He hosted a radio program in New Mexico on mental health awareness for 18 years. Mr. Romero has a wide range of expertise on mental health policy issues including education, public awareness campaigns, media, community services, peer support, homelessness, criminal justice issues, cultural diversity, discrimination and social exclusion, and co-occurring disorders. He has a long history of mental health advocacy and has been recognized with prestigious awards from many national organizations (the New Mexico Governor's Recognition of Achievement in Aging Award 2007, National People of Color Consumer Survivor Network, Esperanza Hope Memorial Award, Latino Behavioral Health Institute, New Mexico Public Health Association, American Association for World Health, Parents of Behaviorally Different Children and the National Association of Social Workers, and the Public Citizen of the Year Award). Mr. Romero was appointed by the Governor to the New Mexico Board of Social Work Examiners. Mr. Romero received his Bachelor of Arts from the Northern New Mexico College on May 13, 2017 and currently serves as an Elder Scholar with the Transdisciplinary Research, Equity and Engagement Center for Advancing Behavioral Health (TREE Center) at the University of New Mexico.</p>
<p>Kathleen Cameron</p>	<p>Kathleen A. Cameron has more than 25 years of experience in the health care field as a pharmacist, researcher and program director focusing on falls prevention, geriatric pharmacotherapy, mental health, long-term services and supports, and caregiving. Ms. Cameron is the director of the National Falls Prevention Resource Center. Ms. Cameron was previously the director of a SAMHSA-funded technical assistance center aimed at educating the aging network, mental health providers and policy makers about behavioral health conditions among older adults. She has also held a position at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Foundation. Ms. Cameron received her BS degree in pharmacy from the University of Connecticut and her MPH from</p>

	<p>Yale University. The topic of her Master’s thesis was medication use and risk of falling among community-dwelling older adults.</p>
Mike O’Donnell	<p>Mike O’Donnell is Executive Director of the Illinois Community Health and Aging Collaborative (December 15, 2015 to present), and A Matter of Balance Project Manager under contract with Rush University Medical Center (August 2016 to present). Mr. O’Donnell served at the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging for over 35 years and retired as Executive Director in 2015. Mr. O’Donnell has extensive experience in evidence-based healthy aging programs to empower older adults to maintain their health and independence, integration of primary healthcare, behavioral healthcare, and long-term care for older adults, integration of community-based long-term services and supports and affordable housing for older adults, and building collaborative relationships to develop livable communities for people of all ages.</p>
Jacque Gray, PhD	<p>Jacque Gray is a research professor for the Department of Population Health and the Associate Director of the Center for Rural Health for Indigenous Programs at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Gray is the principle investigator and director of the Seven Generations Center of Excellence (SGCoE) in Native Behavioral Health and the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI). She is also principle investigator of the NIEJI Innovation grant, Wac’in Yeya: The Hope Project, and the National Institute of Mental Health Outreach Partnership. Gray started the American Indian Health Research Conference in 2002 and spearheaded its continuation for 15 years.</p> <p>Gray is from Oklahoma and is of Choctaw and Cherokee descent. She has worked with tribes throughout Indian Country for more than 35 years in the areas of health, education, counseling, and program development. Gray has research experience in the areas of health and mental health, including suicide prevention, elder abuse, rural veteran health services, spirituality and health, psychometrics, and wellness and nutrition in adolescents. Her research with American Indians includes elder abuse, health, depression, anxiety, veterans' health services, spirituality, suicide, career counseling, and nutrition. She is a licensed professional counselor in North Dakota and was part of a rural health-training grant during her psychology internship at the University of Wyoming that put multidisciplinary teams in rural/frontier settings around the state.</p>
Elena Kravitz	<p>Elena Kravitz is a community mental health provider and advocate. She is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner and an active volunteer and provider who brings a lived experience of recovery. Ms. Kravitz manages a peer-support wellness center for the Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey, a nationally recognized peer-led mental health organization. She also served as coordinator and lead presenter of the Hearts and Minds for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New Jersey and assists NAMI as a trainer in the In Our Own Voice and NAMI Connection programs. A board member of Disability Rights–New Jersey and her county’s Freeholder-appointed Mental Health Board, Ms. Kravitz supports legal protections for people pursuing recoveries. She is one of New Jersey’s leading trainers on psychiatric advance directives, taking a leadership role in her own county on initiatives to bring law enforcement and mental health together, promoting the police crisis-intervention team. As a former staff member of a peer-staffed</p>

	<p>crisis respite house and as a peer worker in a psychiatric emergency service, Ms. Kravitz works to assist people pursuing recoveries move beyond a medication- and hospitalization-based model of mental health care, helping to spread awareness of shared decision-making, trauma-informed care, wellness recovery action planning, and the recovery library.</p>
Brie Riemann	<p>Brie Reimann, MPA is the Director of the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions. Ms. Reimann is an expert in providing technical assistance, training and support to primary care and behavioral health providers on integrated care initiatives. As the Director for the National Council’s Center for Integrated Health Solutions, (CIHS), Ms. Reimann provides leadership, content expertise, and project oversight to inform the training and technical assistance provided to community-based behavioral and primary care organizations. Prior to joining the National Council, Ms. Reimann directed the SBIRT Colorado initiative and provided leadership to the University of Colorado on the Health Professional training grant with the aim to develop curriculum for nursing students and preceptors. A leader on the integration of behavioral health and primary care services and on impacting policies to support sustainability, Ms. Reimann has partnered with hospitals, HIV prevention and care settings, primary care, and behavioral health organizations to train providers on population health management strategies to improve health outcomes. Ms. Reimann is successful in working with public and private payers, businesses, public health agencies, and policy makers to affect system level changes necessary to achieve long-term success.</p>
Shahla Baharlou, MD	<p>Dr. Baharlou is an Associate Professor at the Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Saint Vincent Medical Center in Queens. She then completed her fellowship in Geriatric Medicine jointly at the University of Rochester and the Mount Sinai Medical Center and stayed on at Mount Sinai as a Clinician Educator. Additionally, Dr. Baharlou is board certified in Geriatrics Medicine. Dr. Baharlou’s career interest includes improving mental health in older adults. Her specific focus has been on collaborative management of depression in older adults in primary care. She served as Medical Director of the Geriatric Psychiatry Liaison Service at the Mount Sinai Medical Center for the geriatric psychiatry inpatient unit from 2006-2008. Her current focus is on developing and implementing models of care in outpatient geriatrics practice. In collaboration with Geriatric Psychiatry, Dr. Baharlou has successfully implemented IMPACT: Improving Mood, Promoting Access to Collaborative Treatment, an evidenced-based care model for treatment of depression in outpatient practice within Geriatrics practice. Dr. Baharlou is the medical director of the IMPACT program in Geriatrics Practice. She is currently is an advisor to Internal Medicine Associate (IMA) practice at Mount Sinai Hospital in implementing IMPACT in their program. Dr. Baharlou is the chair of Geriatrics Commission at Society of General Internal Medicine. She is a member of Mental Health interest group at Society of General Internal Medicine.</p>
Joel Miller	<p>Joel E. Miller, M.S. Ed., is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the American Mental Health Counselors Association. He leads over 7,200 clinical mental health counselors who have a critically important impact on the lives of Americans with behavioral health conditions. AMHCA’s mission is to enhance the mental health counseling profession through advocacy, professional development, education and licensing. Mr. Miller is responsible</p>

	<p>for all operations of the organization and implementing strategic initiatives in support of the Board of Directors. He is the publisher of AMHCA’s Journal of Mental Health Counseling and its Advocate newsletter. He also serves as a member on the AMHCA Foundation Board of Directors. In his previous position at the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), he led the development and implementation of NASMHPD’s policy agenda and regulatory strategies, which were designed to support State Behavioral Health Agencies and the state public behavioral health systems. At the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Mr. Miller led NAMI’s State Policy team and Public Policy Institute, dedicated to improving the financing and delivery of mental health services at the state level for people with mental illness, and addressing mental health issues across the lifespan. He has published over 50 articles and reports on behavioral health and health care delivery and financing, new delivery models aimed at integrating mental health and physical health, health care reform strategies, Medicare and Medicaid policy, health workforce issues, and information technology implementation. Mr. Miller earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, and his master’s degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.</p>
<p>Lance Robertson</p>	<p>Lance Robertson was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Aging and ACL's Administrator on August 11, 2017. His vision for ACL focuses on five pillars: supporting families and caregivers, protecting rights and preventing abuse, connecting people to resources, expanding employment opportunities and strengthening the aging and disability networks. His leadership in the fields of aging and disability began in Oklahoma, where he served for 10 years as the Director of Aging Services within the state’s Department of Human Services. Prior to that, he spent 12 years at Oklahoma State University, where he co-founded the Gerontology Institute and served as the executive director of the nation's largest regional gerontology association. Lance earned his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University and a master of public administration degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, and he is a veteran of the United States Army.</p>
<p>Arne Owens</p>	<p>Arne Owens is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Owens came to SAMHSA following service on Capitol Hill as health care policy advisor for Sen. Bob Corker (Tennessee) and Sen. David Vitter (Louisiana), and as global health policy advisor for the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Previously, he served in state government as Chief Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Health Professions under then Gov. Bob McDonnell, at SAMHSA as Senior Advisor to the Administrator in the administration of then President George W. Bush, and as Deputy Commissioner, Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, under former Gov. James Gilmore until 1997, Mr. Owens was a career Army officer, retiring as a lieutenant colonel after serving in a variety of executive and staff assignments throughout the world, including Korea and the Persian Gulf and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. He completed his military service in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, supporting the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. Mr. Owens is a graduate of the</p>

	<p>U. S. Military Academy at West Point, and holds a Master of Science Degree from the University of Southern California.</p>
Paolo del Vecchio	<p>Paolo del Vecchio, MSW, is the Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). SAMHSA is the lead Federal agency designed to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. In this role, Mr. del Vecchio provides executive leadership for Federal efforts to improve the nation's mental health service systems. This includes management of the federal/state mental health block grant program and directing a range of programs and activities that address topics such as suicide prevention, children's mental health, homelessness, disaster mental health, HIV/AIDS, and others. Previously, Mr. del Vecchio was the CMHS Associate Director for Consumer Affairs where he directed SAMHSA's precedent-setting programs and activities that advanced consumer participation and education, a recovery orientation for the mental health system, peer support and the adoption of certified peer specialists, wellness and primary care integration, understanding of trauma histories and the social determinants of health and mental health, and led programs to reduce discrimination and prejudice associated with mental illnesses. Prior to joining SAMHSA, Paolo worked for the Philadelphia Office of Mental Health in the areas of policy formulation and the planning of a comprehensive system of community-based mental health services addressing homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and many other issues. A self-identified mental health consumer, trauma survivor, and person in recovery from addictions, Paolo has been involved for over 40 years in behavioral health as a consumer, family member, provider, advocate, and policy maker. He graduated summa cum laude with a Master's Degree in Social Work from Temple University, has published widely, and is a highly sought after national leader and speaker. Paolo has been a leader in many Federal efforts including the Federal Advisory Planning Board for the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, the HHS Multiple Chronic Conditions Initiative, the HHS Living Community Initiative and numerous others.</p>