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The National Association of County  
Behavioral Health and Developmental  
Disability Directors (NACBHDD)

The National Association of State Mental  
Health Program Directors  
(NASMHPD)

The Western Interstate Commission  
for Higher Education (WICHE)  
Behavioral Health Program

# ***RETHINKING AND BUILDING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE***

***Come and Join Us Live and In-Person In New Orleans, LA!***

***63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference***

***NOVEMBER 13 – 16, 2022***

## **CONFERENCE RATES**

**ONLY \$200.00: SUNDAY PRE-  
CONFERENCE OR SINGLE DAY FEE**  
**ONLY \$350.00: CONFERENCE FEE**  
**(MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)**

***Registration Information Coming Soon.***  
***Check our website for updates:***  
**[www.nationaldialoguesbh.org](http://www.nationaldialoguesbh.org)**



## **CONFERENCE VENUE**

**RENAISSANCE ARTS HOTEL**  
**700 Tchoupitoulas Street**  
**New Orleans, LA**

**Single/Double Rooms: \$136 per night, exclusive of  
taxes and fees (Deadline for this rate: 10/21/22)**

***To reserve hotel room(s), go to:***

**<https://book.passkey.com/go/HELLONDBH>**  
**or Call 1-877-622-3056**

**Daily Parking Available: 0 – 8 hrs: \$15/8+ hours: \$39**

**Suggested audience:** Psychiatrists, Social Workers, Nurses, Psychologists, Counselors, Addiction Counselors, Case Managers, Administrators, Policy Makers, Behavioral Healthcare Providers, State/County Behavioral Healthcare Administrators, Peer Recovery Workforce, Members of the Judiciary Justice System Administrators, Law Enforcement/Justice System Stakeholders Departments, Emergency/Disaster Response Professionals, Educators and School Based Counselors

**Please Note:** Attendees are required to provide proof of vaccination at registration and check-in. Please see the full statement on our website. Conference site meets ADA requirements and has put expanded cleaning protocols in place. Please contact the Renaissance Hotel and/or check the Hotel website for more information. Continuing Education Credits Are Pending.

*“At the center of our national mental health crisis is a severe **shortage** of behavioral health providers. We must dramatically expand the supply, diversity, and cultural competency of our mental health and substance use disorder workforce – from psychiatrists to psychologists, peers to paraprofessionals – and increase both opportunity and incentive for them to practice in areas of highest need”. (Briefing, White House Fact Sheet: 3/1/2022)*

### ***Sunday, November 13, 2022\****

**10:00 – 2:00**      **Pre-Conference: Responding to Adult and Child Crises Now. The the Question is How?**

This session will examine behavioral health workforce issues impacting child and adult crisis systems and workforce issues as well as a range of potential solutions.

### ***Monday, November 14, 2022\****

**8:30 -8:45**      **Welcome and Introductions**  
*Vijay Ganju, NDBH President*

**8:45 – 9:00**      **Conference Overview**  
*Vijay Ganju, NDBH President*

**9:00 – 12:00**      **Building a National Framework to Address the Mental Health Workforce Crisis: How Can We Coordinate Our Efforts to Address the Critical Workforce Shortage?**

A priority need identified by national, state, local and professional behavioral health organizations in the focus groups convened by NDBH was a national framework with federal resources to inform, guide and support behavioral health workforce development. This session will cover options for federal action regarding behavioral health workforce, particular concerns of different professional groups/organizations and actions to address them, actions that can be taken at state and local levels to support a national framework and next steps to move forward with developing and implementing a national agenda.

**12:00 – 1:30**      **LUNCH (on your own)**

**1:30 – 5:00**      **Expanding and Extending the Workforce: What Are the New Roles and New Settings?**

The behavioral health workforce shortage requires new ways of thinking with regard to who provides efficient and effective treatment. There needs to be a focus on expanding and extending the use of peers and family members; drawing the workforce pool from new settings such as primary care and community caregivers; using the current workforce in new and innovative ways, including revisiting the roles of social workers, psychologists and nurses; and incorporating technology and artificial intelligence as workforce multipliers. This session will focus on the non-technological interventions that are being used to advance workforce development.

**4:45 – 6:00**      **RECEPTION**

### ***Tuesday, November 15, 2022\****

**8:30 – 10:00**      **Recruiting Non-Traditional and Traditional Providers into Behavioral Health: How Can We Get People To Work in the Field?**

Reframing the delivery system must include a population/public health approach. It is critical that strategies must be put in place to recruit and support individuals who enter the workforce through traditional means and provide incentives such that they see the value in continuing to remain in the field.

### ***Tuesday, November 15, 2022 (Continued)***

**8:30 – 10:00 (Cont'd)**

At the same time, we must also recruit a new cadre of providers (e.g., peers, family members, community health workers, etc.) who may or may not hold advanced degrees who can be trained to successfully initiate early preventive, harm reduction and recovery interventions. This session will focus on emerging strategies for recruiting, training, and financially supporting individuals in traditional roles and non-traditional roles.

**10:00 – 10:15**      **Break**

**10:15 – 11:45**      **Workforce Retention Strategies: Now That We've Got Staff, How Do We Keep Them?**

The Behavioral Health workforce shortage has created intense competition to “hire-up”, forcing managers to compete for experienced, seasoned employees, who can hit the proverbial “ground running”. This session will focus on unique and proven approaches currently being used to retain talented and proven employees, as well as newly recruited staff.

**11:45- 1:30**      **LUNCH (on your own)**

**1:30- 4:30**      **Technology and Artificial Intelligence as One Answer to the Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage: How Can Technology Be Used to Move Forward?**

The use of technology has long been discussed as a means of supporting and/or enhancing the provision of behavioral health treatment and recovery. Given the current workforce shortage as well as trends that emerged during the covid-19 pandemic, we are now at a point in which artificial intelligence harnessed through technological innovation must be considered routinely as a means of extending the workforce. This session will highlight areas in which technology is successfully being used provide treatment and support, thereby addressing the behavioral health workforce shortage, as well as to address the operational issues such as payment and reimbursement, regulation of mobile apps and impact on treatment outcomes.

### ***Wednesday, November 16, 2022\****

**8:30 – 11:30**      **Advocating for the Future System: How Will We Fund and Sustain the Future Behavioral Health Workforce?**

This session will focus on strategies for addressing behavioral health system and workforce sustainability and attaining parity between behavioral health and primary health systems and service delivery. Realistic reimbursement models are required to enable more providers to establish fiscally sound business models, which include evidence based and high quality supports and services with measurable outcomes, with sustainable and equitable staff salaries. The discussion will include strategies to advocate for funding for behavioral health services that is comparable to that for physical healthcare. There will also be discussion of systems/providers that have been able to put sustainable fiscal and treatment models in place.

**11:30 – 12:15**      **Wrap-up and Adjournment**

**A detailed agenda with speakers' names will be available soon on our website**

**\*Note: Continental breakfast available 30 minutes prior to the start of each day**