National Dialogues on Behavioral Health Conference

New Orleans, November 8-11, 2026

HARNESSING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:
Innovation, Integrity, Impact

<u>CONFERENCE OVERVIEW</u>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping the landscape of behavioral health. Across the field, AI tools are already being deployed to support early intervention, diagnostic decision-making, care coordination, patient engagement, clinical skill development, and operational efficiency. As behavioral health organizations continue to navigate workforce shortages, rising demand, and complex regulatory requirements, the strategic adoption of AI is becoming increasingly essential for delivering effective, high-quality care.

Within substance use treatment specifically, AI offers new opportunities to personalize care. Emerging tools such as digital coaches, therapeutic chatbots, adaptive treatment planning systems, and relapse-prevention technologies can help tailor interventions to individual needs and provide support between clinical encounters.

AI's growing role will also redefine—not replace—the behavioral health workforce. Professional responsibilities are expected to evolve, giving rise to new roles such as digital mental health specialists, AI-informed care coordinators, clinical supervisors overseeing AI-enabled services, and clinicians trained to interpret and apply AI-generated insights.

At the same time, the integration of AI introduces critical ethical and implementation considerations. Issues related to data security, confidentiality, transparency, and equitable access require thoughtful governance, clear regulatory frameworks, and robust ethical guidelines. Organizations must balance innovation with responsibility to ensure that AI enhances care without compromising trust or safety.

This conference will explore these opportunities and challenges at every level of the behavioral health ecosystem—from consumers and clinicians to provider organizations and state agencies. The central focus will be on practical implementation: how to incorporate AI into behavioral health systems in a responsible and effective way that strengthens care delivery and supports the workforce of the future.