

Presenter Bios for CASRA 2017 Fall Conference

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1. **Len Statham, MS, CPRP, CBP:** Director of Employment and Economic Self-Sufficiency with the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. Len has worked with people with mental health and substance use issues for more than 20 years, promoting recovery focused services and service provision. Combining his clinical and vocational background, Mr. Statham provides training and technical assistance about employment services and the capabilities of people with behavioral health issues to providers and people in recovery, across New York State and nationally. He has helped facilitate the adoption of the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment statewide in Utah, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Colorado. Mr. Statham also works at a national level on SAMHSA's Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS-TACS) initiatives as well as with Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Critically, Mr. Statham is a person with lived experience in the mental health system, and this experience informs and strengthens his work on employment issues. [Back to Top](#)
2. **Michelle Mullen, MS, CRC, CPRP:** Director of the Center for the Study and Promotion of Recovery (CSPR), Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Michelle is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Rutgers. She is the principal investigator/director of "The Manual and Training Program to

Promote Career Development among Transition-Age Youth and Young Adults with Psychiatric Conditions”, seeking to create an effective vocational strategy to successfully promote the careers of young people by integrating educational and employment approaches. Research on utilization of the manual, *Helping Youth on the Path to Employment (HYPE)*, is concluding and the manual is soon to be released. Michelle has authored multiple papers in the field of psychiatric rehabilitation, as well as having served as the principal/co-principal investigator on many research projects. She is currently involved in consultation, training and technical assistance activities on mental health and well-being on the college campus, factors affecting the ability to modify programs to better serve young adults and service options to reduce the duration of untreated psychosis. [Back to Top](#)

3. **Richard Rosenberg, Ph.D.:** Regional Manager for the CaPROMISE and California Career Innovations Projects. Richard received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in Behavioral Disabilities and Educational Administration. He has over 25 years of teaching and administrative experience and is presently a faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles. He is also currently Vocational and Training Coordinator for Whittier Union High School District’s Career Connection. This special education administrative position coordinates vocational and career support for all students with special education needs for the five high schools and provides technical assistance for Community Advocates for People’s Choice (CAPC), an adult agency providing supported employment and supported living services. Richard has worked for a number of years with Interagency Systems Change grants linking Education, Rehabilitation, and Developmental Disabilities services at a local, state, and national level. [Back to Top](#)
4. **Betty Dahlquist, MSW, CPRP:** Ms. Dahlquist has been involved in the public mental health field in direct service, evaluation, advocacy, administration, organizational development and technical assistance for over 35 years. Since 1981, she has represented the interests of the member agencies of CASRA in the State of California. She has successfully promoted the inclusion of the psychosocial rehabilitation philosophy, services and practices in major mental health policy and funding mechanisms including the Medicaid Rehabilitation option for California and the Mental Health Services Act. She has served on the Board of Directors of the United State Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA) and was recognized as a Dincin Fellow for her contributions to the field. She served as the chair of the community advisory group that helped establish the MSW program at CSU East Bay and is a part-time faculty member. A native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, she received her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan and is a certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP). [Back to Top](#)
5. **Amanda Downing, MA:** Amanda has worked with Felton’s Early Psychosis Programs for over five years, providing support for young adult’s employment and education goals. First as the Employment and Education Specialist on the team in Alameda County and now as the Supported Employment and Education Services Director, Amanda has received extensive training in the IPS model and continues to further develop and strengthen the implementation throughout all our programs. [Back to Top](#)

6. **Adriana Furuzawa, LMFT, CPRP:** Adriana is the Director of the Early Psychosis Division of the Felton Institute in San Francisco, CA. She oversees the operations and development of Felton Early Psychosis programs (formerly known as PREP) in four counties in the San Francisco Bay Area and California Central Coast, as well as the design and implementation of BEAM (Bipolar Early Assessment and Management) programs in Northern California. She has over 15 years of clinical and leadership experience in community-based organizations, providing direct services to individuals with mental health challenges, promoting integration of recovery-oriented practices, and implementing evidence-based practices with fidelity to respective models. [Back to Top](#)
7. **Barbara Acosta:** A graduate from University of California, Irvine, where she earned her B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior. She is currently a Peer Self-Advocacy Coordinator for Disability Rights, California and teaches her peers, both in the community and in facilities, about their rights and how to advocate for themselves. As an individual with a mental health disability, she advocated for her right to a reasonable accommodation for an emotional support animal in housing. Since joining Disability Rights California, she has also attended trainings to further her knowledge about the mental health system and has presented at multiple conferences throughout California on topics such as psychiatric service and emotional support animals, self-advocacy and self-disclosure. [Back to Top](#)
8. **Patricia Blum, Ph.D.:** Patricia is the Executive Vice President at Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. and is a leader for the California Mental Health and Spirituality Initiative. She has over 36 years experience in mental health services and has family members with lived experience. She has presented at the World Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation, the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (formerly USPRA and IAPSRs), CASRA, Alternatives, New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services and California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions. [Back to Top](#)
9. **Janet Vlavianos:** Janet is Director of Accreditation and Corporate Initiatives at Crestwood Behavioral Health. She is a Reiki Master and certified yoga instructor. Janet has led the mental health recovery initiative at Crestwood. Ms. Viavianos has presented at the following venues: Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (formerly USPRA and IAPSRs), CASRA, New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services and Alternatives. [Back to Top](#)
10. **Pamela Jones:** Directly responsible for the creation and development of Mental Health America's *The Power of Wellness Program*. Pamela has presented to Mental Health America of Los Angeles leadership as well as all Staff Community Meetings and Community Partners. She is continuously creating new materials to disseminate, with the intention to positively impact the lives of staff and members through wellness. As a Personal Service Coordinator, Financial Planner, and Employment Job Developer Specialist for more than eleven years, Pamela has field-tested many wellness practices with clients, using them to develop the interpersonal skills for recovery in the following areas: spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, social, environmental, and financial. [Back to Top](#)

11. **Ana Contreras:** A graduate from California State University, Bakersfield, Ana earned her B.A. in Sociology with a human service concentration. She is currently a Personal Service Coordinator for Mental Health America of Los Angeles, at their Antelope Valley location, in California. She co-developed The Power of Wellness program, which provides coaching, counseling, mentoring, positive reinforcement, and training on areas such as money management, grooming and hygiene, transportation, and healthy meal preparation. For three years, she has coached clients to gain independent living skills through the use of wellness techniques and community engagement. [Back to Top](#)

12. **Bernadette Navarro-Simeon, Ph.D.:** Currently Director of Clinical Services for Progress Foundation, where she has worked in various capacities since 1984, including crisis residential services. She manages the Quality Assurance Program, coordinates the Continuing Education Program and developed the Cultural Competency training for the organization which focused on learning and understanding the self and the impact each of us has on others, rather than just knowing about others. Her love for diversity stems from her own experience as an immigrant to this country. Bernadette holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology from the Center for Psychological Studies. [Back to Top](#)

13. **Guyton Colantuono:** Executive Director, Project Return Peer Support Network. Program Director & Trainer with 20 years' experience in directing and delivering recovery oriented mental health agencies and training programs, with annual budgets of up to \$6.5 Million, in the capacity of Executive Director, Program Coordinator, Director of Programs, Trainer and Chief Operating Officer (COO). To date Guyton has delivered over 60 workshops to agencies, staff and conferences. Typically he supervises staffs of 9 to 50 employees, including nurses, psychiatrists, social workers, therapists, as well as job developers and personal services coordinators. He oversees fiscal oversight and accountability and manages grant applications and reporting. He is the recipient of the CASRA Manager Hope Award in 2007. He was also the facilitator of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health 2014 Connections for Life Conference. He has presented multiple times on Harm Reduction since the 1990's, including at statewide and national conferences, local universities and other social service agencies. [Back to Top](#)

14. **Peter McKimmin, Ph.D.:** Dr. McKimmin has taught and trained in the areas of recovery and cultural competency in San Diego for over 30 years in graduate programs in psychology as well as marriage and family therapy. He retired from San Diego County Behavioral Health after 25 years as a direct service provider, Program Manager and Regional Coordinator in County and Contract Provider organizations. He is a dynamic and engaging presenter, skillful in promoting personal reflection and facilitating experiential learning. He is passionate about the importance of diversity and cultural competence training. [Back to Top](#)

15. **Ruth Gonzales, ALWF:** Ruth has conducted WRAP™ and Recovery-Oriented trainings with mental health staff in New York State in a variety of settings, including Grand Rounds with New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, In-Patient, CPEP and Peer Specialist Training Programs. She presented at the Bronx Psychiatric

Centers Conference “From Fragmentation to Integration: Multidimensional Approaches for Working with Complex Trauma” and served on the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services Executive Seminar Panel “Transforming Psychiatric Emergency Services”. Ruth continues the mission to apply WRAP™ as an Evidence-Based Practice in California with Adult Protective Services clients in Placer County. She also co-facilitates two-day and five-day WRAP™ trainings with the behavioral health staff at Crestwood Behavioral Health facilities throughout California. [Back to Top](#)