

# [The Tides Are Changing in the Behavioral Health System](#)

Details

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The New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (NJAMHAA) has convened experts and leaders from the state and federal governments, as well as its membership, to further examine the implementation and ultimate impact of the Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver, which the establishment of the ASO is a part of, and the managed behavioral healthcare system during its Annual Fall Behavioral Healthcare Meeting, *Changing Tides in the Behavioral Health System: Adapt, Evolve, Thrive*, October 11, 2012 at the Robert Wood Johnson Conference Center in Hamilton, NJ.

“While we consciously planned for this conference to coincide with Mental Illness Awareness Week, it was only a hope that it would also take place right around the time of the state’s Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver application being approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services,” said Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of NJAMHAA. “This event is an important and very timely opportunity for state leaders and community-based behavioral healthcare providers to engage in open dialogue about the many changes that we now know are going to take place, and how the state and NJAMHAA can work together to maximize the effectiveness of this transformation for children and adults throughout the state who depend on the behavioral healthcare system.”

NJAMHAA will host two interactive panel discussions: One focusing on the outcomes and costs of managed integrated care with representatives from three organizations planning to submit proposals to receive the ASO contract and three leaders of NJAMHAA member agencies; the other panel will focus on the Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver with leaders from the Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Families and NJAMHAA member agencies.

The conference will also present a national perspective on two other issues: A National View on the Correlation Between Housing and Social Services, a keynote presentation by Estelle Richman, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and The President's National Drug Control Strategy - The Perspective and Vision, a special guest presentation by R. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

## **NJAMHAA Honors Individuals who Contribute to Positive Change**

In addition to the presentations and discussions about state and national issues, NJAMHAA will also honor individuals who are having a profound impact on the behavioral health community. Dr. Wentz will present the Judy Remington Award for Progressive Leadership in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment to Director Kerlikowske; this award is named after a highly valued colleague, friend and NJAMHAA team member who unfortunately passed away last year.

“We are delighted that Director Kerlikowske is able to join us to receive this prestigious award, as his leadership and dedication to ensuring access to high-quality substance abuse prevention

and treatment and services is critical and certainly goes beyond his direct responsibility for drug control,” Dr. Wentz said.

Dr. Wentz will also present Outstanding Leadership in Advocacy on Fiscal Issues awards to Cheryl Young, CFO at Easter Seals New Jersey, and Brian Hancock, Esq., Chief Operating Officer at Robins’ Nest, Inc.

“Cheryl and Brian have eagerly stepped up to the plate to share their expertise, enthusiasm and determination to ensure that fiscal issues, as well as the financial aspect of behavioral health system initiatives, are addressed as comprehensively as possible. This support is critical to ensure our members’ viability throughout and far beyond implementation of the system changes,” Dr. Wentz said.

For more details on this event and to register, please visit the Conferences section of NJAMHAA’s website, [www.njamhaa.org](http://www.njamhaa.org). Media representatives do not need to register. Materials will be available at the registration desk, and they can contact Shauna Moses, NJAMHAA’s Associate Executive Director, at 609-838-5488, ext. 204, or [smoses@njamhaa.org](mailto:smoses@njamhaa.org).