



**36<sup>th</sup>**  
annual **Tuerk Conference**  
on Mental Health & Addiction Treatment

# Tackling The Addiction Crisis

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

7:30 am to 5 pm

Baltimore Convention Center

*Pratt and Sharp Streets*



## *Plenary Speakers*

**Christopher Welsh, MD,**  
*Addiction Psychiatrist, Associate Professor,  
University of Maryland School of Medicine,  
Department of Psychiatry*

**Kurt Schmoke, Esq.,**  
*President, University of Baltimore*

**Susan Sherman, PhD, MPH,**  
*Professor, Department of Health, Behavior,  
and Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg  
School of Public Health*

[www.ncaddmaryland.org](http://www.ncaddmaryland.org)

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University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry,  
Division of Addiction Research and Treatment

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- White Deer Run Treatment NetworkPark West Health System

## Program Schedule

7:30 – 8:20 am **Registration Opens**  
 Sponsor booths open

7:20 – 8:30 am **Welcome**

**Rob White, LCPC**, *Chairman, Director External Affairs and Business Development, University of Maryland, Baltimore Department of Psychiatry*

8:30 – 9:30 am **PLENARY 1: Pink, Iso, Brorphine, Tranq, Krokodil, Dragonfly, Tia & Trash Can: The New Language of Drugs**



**Christopher Welsh, MD**, *Addiction Psychiatrist, Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry*

Over the past few years, a number of newer substances have appeared in the illicit drug landscape, both nationally and locally. Some are similar to the more established substances; others are unique. This presentation will provide attendees with an overview of some of the newer substances of abuse, “street” terminology, what they look like, how they are used, what kinds of effects to look for and possible medical consequences of their use.

9:30 – 10:30 am **PLENARY 2: Perspective on Decriminalization**



**Kurt Schmoke, Esq.**, *President, University of Baltimore*

Kurt Schmoke was the Mayor of Baltimore in 1988 when he addressed the conference of mayors and suggested that drug use was not a police problem, it was really a public health problem. He was vilified in the media and his speech probably ended his political career. Now, 36 years later, his position on drug policy is seen as progressive and enlightened. His talk will focus on the progress we have made since 1988 and what directions we should take going forward

10:30 – 11:00 am *Coffee Break*

11:00 – 12 noon **PLENARY 3: Harm Reduction in the Age of an Ongoing Crisis: Listening to the Evidence**



**Susan Sherman, PhD, MPH**, *American Professor, Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; joint appointments, Depts of Population Family and Reproductive Health, Mental Health, Epidemiology, and Health, Policy and Management*

Globally, harm reduction philosophy and associated programs have been implemented

for over four decades. Yet the U.S. continues to lag behind in implementing harm reduction interventions despite a large body of evidence to their effectiveness of reducing the burden of epidemics among people who use drugs including HIV, HCV, and overdose. As the illicit drug supply is increasingly adulterated and toxic, the need for investing in low barrier harm reduction programs (*e.g., syringe service programs, buprenorphine, broad naloxone distribution, overdose prevention*) is urgent. The symposium will define and explore the political resistance to harm reduction, evidence for a range of harm reduction implementations, and the policy shifts necessary to implement life saving programs.

Noon – 12:30 pm **Opioid Epidemic Policies and Issues in the U.S. Congress**

**David Trone**, *Congressman, Maryland 6th District, United States Congress*

Congressman Trone serves on the Appropriations, Veterans’ Affairs, and Joint Economic Committees in the United States Congress. He joins us today to speak in his capacity as a Member of Congress who has passed a significant number of bills on many of the issues and policies that are being addressed at today’s conference.

12:30 – 2:00 pm **Lunch Break**

*Please make time to visit the sponsor booths during your lunch break. Our sponsors are important to us for the support they give to our conference. We hope you will take the time to learn more about their programs.*

**Afternoon Workshops**

*Choose one Session 1 and one Session 2 Workshop*

*All Workshops (A —M) are listed on the next three pages.*

2:00 – 3:30 pm **Session 1 Workshops**

3:45 – 5:00 pm **Session 2 Workshops**

Workshops Workshops are repeated at 2 pm and 3:30 pm. Only Workshop G and M will be held at 2 pm only

A

**The New ASAM Criteria**

**Steve Daviss, MD, DLFAPA FASAM, Chief Medical Officer, Optum Maryland, Past President, Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine (MD-DCSAM) and Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS)**

The ASAM Criteria is a textbook about best practices in addiction medicine, containing a set of peer-reviewed, evidence-based, clinical practice guidelines, that many states use as a basis for regulatory compliance and standards of care. The fourth edition of the Criteria was published last Fall, and the state will soon require that providers and payers begin to use the revised guidelines. This Workshop will provide an overview of the changes in the new criteria and will orient attendees about how to be prepared to meet the expectations of these new practice standards.

B

**Update on Psychedelics and Mental Health and Addiction Treatment**

**Scott T. Aaronson, MD, Chief Science Officer, Institute for Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutics Director, Clinical Research Programs, Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland, Sheppard Pratt**

Dr. Aaronson will lead a workshop focusing on his research, which revolves around the application of psychedelics in mood and anxiety disorders. The workshop aims to provide attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the current state of psychedelic research, including their developmental stages, mechanisms of action, associated risks, and efficacy data for transdiagnostic conditions. Moving forward, Sheppard Pratt is collaboratively establishing a substance use track within our psychedelic research program.

C

**Play Therapy with Children Affected by Substance Abuse**

**Jennifer Taylor, LCSW-C, RPT-S, Senior Manager, Clinician Experience and Development, Jewish Community Services; Social Worker Leader and Play Therapist**

Participants in this workshop will explore the impacts of substance abuse on children's emotional and psychological well-being. Gain valuable insights into understanding the specific needs that arise in therapeutic settings and discover innovative play therapy techniques tailored to address trauma, anxiety, and other behaviors exhibited by children who have been impacted by substance abuse. Learn how to navigate the complex relationships between children and their parents/caregivers and the importance of establishing a strong therapeutic alliance with children who may be struggling with attachment and trust-related issues.

D

**TBI/Brain Injury and Individuals with SUD**

**Anastasia Edmonston MS CRC, Traumatic Brain Injury Partner Grant Coordinator, and**

**Martin W. Kerrigan, Partner Grant Consultant Office of Older Adults and Long-Term Services and Supports, Maryland Behavioral Health Admin.**

In 2021 the CDC recorded, 69,473 US civilian deaths due to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and 214,110 hospitalizations. These shocking numbers underestimate the true burden of TBI. Those living with TBI are twice as likely to develop a substance use disorder than those who have not been exposed to brain injury.

Vulnerability to and development of substance use disorders, as well as co-occurring mental health challenges may be rooted in a history of brain injury, often incurred in childhood. Common neurocognitive challenges such as emotional dysregulation and poor memory due to brain injury present obstacles to accessing and benefiting from SUD treatment and recovery that presume a level of cognitive functioning. As a result, even the most motivated individual working with highly skilled clinicians often experience "treatment failure." To be truly person centered when engaging individuals in addiction services and recovery supports, programs, providers, including peers need to be brain-injury informed.

This session will offer simple and accessible screening and accommodations for individuals living with persistent cognitive challenges secondary to TBI and other neurological disorders. Thereby, offering implementation by the individual and their circle of support to enhance engagement with and benefit from treatment.

E

**Elevating Humanity in SUD Care with AI**

**David Whitesock, Commonly Well**

Explore the future of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) where we prioritize the synergy of human insight and Artificial Intelligence. Dive into ethical, AI-enhanced strategies that keep humans at the core of decision-making, ensuring client safety and maintaining the integrity of care. Designed for clinicians at all levels of tech fluency, this session offers simple, impactful ways to integrate generative AI tools like ChatGPT into your practice, reinforcing the balance between innovative care and the human touch. Embark on this journey with us to forge a path where technology serves to amplify our humanity in healthcare.

Workshops Workshops are repeated at 2 pm and 3:30 pm. Only Workshop G and M will be held at 2 pm only

F

**Recovery Friendly Workplaces: An Exciting Opportunity in Maryland**

**Tiffinee Scott, BA, CJA, CPRS, RPS, CHW,** Recovery Community Organizer, NCADD-Maryland  
**Casey Tiefenwerth, MSW,** Peer Programs Expansion Administrator at the Maryland Dept. of Health, BHA Office of Consumer Affairs  
**Casey Saylor, MSW,** Registered Peer Supervisor (RPS), Peer Programs Expansion Administrator, MD Behavioral Health Administration

This workshop will provide an overview of Maryland's developing Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFW) model. Pioneered in New Hampshire, the RFW model has expanded to over 30 states and was recently recognized as part of the federal government's agenda to strengthen whole-of-society response to address the opioid epidemic.

I

**Treating Tobacco Use Disorders in Residential Addiction Rehab: Attraction Not Promotion**

**Michael G. Hayes, MD,** Retired Medical Director, Hope House Treatment Centers  
**George Kolodner, MD, DFASAM, DLFAPA, TTS,** Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Georgetown University School of Medicine; Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Mayo Clinic; Founder and Medical Director, Triple Track Treatment  
**Marc Fishman, MD,** Addiction Psychiatrist, Maryland Treatment Centers, Mountain Manor  
**Albert Soo, LMSW,** Substance Abuse Counselor, Avery Road Combined Care

Addiction treatment outcomes are improved if patients stop use of all addictive substances, including nicotine. Despite this, patient use of tobacco is usually not addressed during the beginning of addiction treatment. Newly admitted smokers typically have no plans to quit but are in fact interested in quitting. The workshop describes how the use of interventions that are familiar to addiction clinicians can capitalize on this interest and assist patients, to achieve a complete recovery from substance use.

G  
2 pm only

**NCADD National – Initiatives throughout the States**

**Nichole Dawsey,** Executive Director, PreventEd, NCADD National Affiliate, St. Louis, MO  
**Denise Kolivoski,** NCADD National, Exec. Director  
 NCADD National is experiencing a resurgence! Learn about the history of the national organization and the status of the efforts underway to resurrect the oldest national organization dedicated to substance use disorders. Network with affiliate directors across the country in a throwback to the former round-robin sessions and hear benefits of joining (or rejoining) the movement.

J

**New Challenges as Legalized Gambling Expands: How to Have the Conversation**

**Kristen Beall LCSW-C, ICGC-I, CAC-AD,** Clinical Manager, Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Medicine  
 Peer Recovery Specialists Will Hinman, Carin Miller, and Jim Nowlin, will participate on a panel to discuss new challenges that come with legalized gambling.

H

**Qigong for Stress Management for Addiction**

**Mary Pinkard,** Qigong Instructor for the Nova Institute for Health, and former instructor at the University of Maryland Medical School  
 This presentation on Qigong will demonstrate the ways in which this ancient health practice can be used as another choice for enhancing and balancing the mind, body and spirit in stress reduction. Qigong is both a moving and stationary meditation that opens meridians, massages internal organs, lengthens and strengthens the musculoskeletal systems. Qigong is beneficial for persons with substance use disorders, as well as those supporting them. Complimentary to the Qigong practice the effective and restorative use of sound will be an integral part of the experience.

**Joanna Franklin Workshop**

*This workshop was established to honor the memory of Ms. Franklin for her outstanding contributions to the field of Gambling Addiction. She was dedicated to helping the citizens of Maryland understand the problems associated with gambling addiction and had trained hundreds of clinicians throughout the state to be effective with gambling addiction clients.*

Over the past year, the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling's Certified Peer Recovery Specialists, have seen an increase in helpline calls to 1-800-GAMBLER for those seeking help at younger ages. It has been one year since the launch of mobile and online legalized sports wagering; nevertheless, Lottery and Casino gaming continue to remain a popular form of gambling in Maryland. Letting someone know you are concerned about their gambling can be difficult and delicate, the Center is here to help!

Workshops Workshops are repeated at 2 pm and 3:30 pm. Only Workshop G and M will be held at 2 pm only

K

### Cannabis and the Workplace

**Christine V. Walters, J.D., MAS, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, Independent Consultant @ FiveLNet Company**

In the last five years, the number of states that have legalized adult, recreational use of marijuana has nearly tripled. Add to that, states and local jurisdictions enacting laws restricting or limiting when, how and for whom employers may conduct related testing or inquiries. All this leaves employers pondering how to provide and enforce a safe workplace, require that employees be fit-for-duty, and navigate conflicting federal, state and local mandates. Join this interactive program as we review the latest trends, statistics, and challenges impacting employment policies and programs, along with proactive practices.

**Phil and Barbara McKenna Institute**  
Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA), Chesapeake Chapter, initiated the Phil McKenna Institute (PMI) in 2001. Established to honor the memory of Mr. McKenna, the first chapter president by bringing awareness and training to professionals who address the needs of employees and their families. To honor Barbara's many contributions to the field during her illustrious career, we are adding her name to this memorial tribute.

L

### NCADD-MD Advocacy Report / 2024 Maryland General Assembly

**Ann Ciekot, Legislative Consultant, NCADD-MD; Partner and Director of Strategic Partnerships, Public Policy Partners**

Ann will report on the outcomes from the 2024 Legislative Session pertaining to the various bills advocated for or opposed by NCADD-MD as part of its public policy agenda. Among the issues addressed during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly were Harm Reduction Initiatives, Peer Counseling, Involuntary Treatment, Crisis Response and Collaborative Care, Data Reporting and Sharing, Private Insurance and Health Care Reform, a range of Crime and Violence Bills, Parity Compliance and Clarity, Re-Entry Issues, and Problem Gambling. NCADD-MD is committed to advocating for a comprehensive continuum of treatment and recovery support services while working to reduce the stigma associated with addiction.

M  
2 pm  
only

### BHA Updates

**Alyssa Lord, MA, MSc, Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH)**

This workshop will provide attendees with behavioral health system and service data and information at the state level. BHA priorities will be spotlighted, including crisis service system development for children and adults, peer recovery specialist activities, harm reduction strategies, efforts to address overdoses and suicides, workforce development and other relevant topics.

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CEUs

Participants will receive six (6) CEUs for attendance for the following disciplines: Certified Addiction Counselors, Dentists, EAPs, Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Peer Recovery Specialists, and Psychologists. Clear instructions will be provided to access your 6 CEUs and certificate. You must complete the surveys after each session you attend in order to receive. No recordings of the conference will be offered. CEUs are for LIVE in-person attendance only.

**American with Disabilities Act**

All sessions will be offered with Closed Captions to accommodate those with special needs. ASL signers will be available to help those with special needs.

**Board Members**



Kevin Amado Board Chair, Jared Rosen Treasurer, Robert White, Jennifer Dorsey, Hal Hathaway



Barbara Hull-Francis, George Kolodner, Keith Richardson, Bedell Terry, Christopher Welsh

**Conference Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of this conference is to increase the participants understanding of current issues in the field of mental health and substance use disorders. This year included are presentations related to: harm reduction policies, decriminalization, new street drugs, the new *ASAM Criteria*, problem gambling, cannabis and the workplace, substance exposed children, brain injury and substance use disorder.

The Annual Tuerk Conference continues to be the premier conference in the Maryland region for providers, administrators, counselors, and advocates to learn about the latest information on events and changes that will affect them. It is vitally important for professionals in this field to stay informed about these changes and their impact on patient care. Other topics that will be covered include: the future of AI and substance use disorder, recovery friendly workplaces, smoking cessation and an update on the development of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence across the country.

*Upon completion participants will be able to*

- 1 Describe the features of harm reduction policies.
- 2 Explain the progress of decriminalization over the last 20 years.
- 3 Describe the new street drugs and their side effects.
- 4 Identify how a brain injury can affect an individual's vulnerability to substance use disorder.
- 5 Explain how a public health approach can help with addressing problem gambling.
- 6 Describe how employers are handling the legalization of cannabis.
- 7 Describe the future of artificial intelligence (AI) and its effect on substance use disorder treatment.

**Planning Committee**

Robert White, LCPC  
Chairman, Director of External Affairs and Business Development  
University of Maryland, Baltimore, Department of Psychiatry

Laura J. Adler, BSN, RN, CARN  
Director of Nursing, Hope House Treatment Center

Carol Boyer, DSW, LCSW-C  
Chief Strategy and Engagement Officer  
Hope House Treatment Centers

Gina Cook, LMSW  
UMMC EAP

Nancy Rosen-Cohen, PhD  
Executive Director, NCADD-MD

Amy Johnson, AA  
UMMS EAP

George Kolodner, MD  
Georgetown University School of Medicine

Gerald E. Marti, MD, PhD  
MDSAM

Sylvia McCree-Huntley, EdD  
UMMS Dept. of Psychiatry

Susan Pompa, BS  
Associate Director, NCADD-MD

Keith R. Richardson, CAC-AD, CAS  
Warwick Manor Behavioral Health

Christopher Welsh, MD  
University of Maryland School of Medicine

## Faculty

**Kristin Beall, LCSW-C, ICGC-I, CAC-AD**

As Clinical Manager with the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (the Center), Kristen provides consultation and technical assistance to organizations and private practitioners integrating evidenced-based Gambling screening and assessment into their current clinical practice. With 20 years of experience in behavioral health, Kristen works closely with the Center's Certified Peer Recovery Specialists and provides clinical trainings surrounding the topic of gambling disorder. Kristen is dedicated to helping healthcare professionals throughout Maryland understand the importance of having conversations about gambling and incorporating these conversations into their clinical practice.

**Add Ann Ciekot**

is the Legislative Consultant for NCADD-MD and a leading advocate on economic justice, civil rights, and behavioral health initiatives in Annapolis. Prior to co-founding Public Policy Partners, she led the successful lobbying firm of Binderman & Ciekot. Ann began her lobbying career as an advocacy director for several non-profit organizations including the Maryland Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Action for the Homeless, and Center for Poverty Solutions.

**Steven R. Daviss, MD, DLFAPA, FASA**

is the Chief Medical Officer for Optum Maryland. Optum is contracted by the Maryland Department of Health as the Administrative Services Organization to manage specialty behavioral health services of the Maryland Medicaid Program and its 1.7 million Maryland Medicaid participants. Daviss develops programs to promote integration of physical and behavioral health services which support continuity and coordination among all network providers; is responsible for implementation of the Utilization Management program; and monitors behavioral healthcare utilization authorization and claims data for all healthcare services. Optum also provides Consulting and Advisory Services for organizations seeking expertise in the intersection of psychiatry, addiction medicine, and primary care with clinical informatics, data analytics, and healthcare policy.

**Nichole Dawsey**

is Executive Director of PreventEd, the NCADD National affiliate in St. Louis, MO. PreventEd works to reduce or prevent the harms of alcohol and other drug use through education, intervention and advocacy. With over 50 years' experience, formerly under the name NCADA (an NCADD affiliate), PreventEd is committed to guiding all people through tough conversations around alcohol and other drugs. This work is rooted in experience, knowledge of best practices and evidence-informed programs.

**Anastasia Edmonston, MS, CRC**

currently serves as the Project Coordinator for the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration's Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Partner Grant. In this capacity she provides coordination of Project initiatives including; training on the topics of brain injury, person-centered thinking and planning to professionals who work in the fields of aging, mental health and addiction (with a focus on the link between addiction and brain injury) and law enforcement. Ms. Edmonston has worked in the field of rehabilitation services for individuals impacted by brain injury

for over 30 years, in both inpatient and outpatient services, as a case manager, program coordinator, advocate and vocational rehabilitation counselor. She obtained her MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Boston University and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. She earned a post graduate certificate in Instructional Systems Development from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2014.

**Marc Fishman, MD**

is an addiction psychiatrist, and leads Maryland Treatment Centers / Mountain Manor, a regional behavioral healthcare provider, which offers programs for residential and outpatient SUD and co-occurring treatment for youth and adults. He is a member of the psychiatry faculty at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His academic and research work has focused on addiction pharmacotherapy; models of care for youth, particularly with OUD; and treatment placement and matching strategies. Dr. Fishman served as a co-editor for the most recent editions of the *ASAM Criteria for the Treatment of Substance-Related Disorders*. He served as a past President of the Maryland Society of Addiction Medicine, and is a current member of its Board.

**Michael G. Hayes, MD**

recently retired after serving 12 years as the Medical Director at Hope House. Dr. Hayes graduated from University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1963, and has been in practice for over 55 years. He has practiced full-time addiction medicine since 1990. Hope House Treatment Center is a non-profit dual diagnosis treatment center with locations in Crownsville and Laurel, Maryland. Hope House is dedicated to providing individuals who are experiencing substance use disorders and mental health challenges with the means to become healthy and productive citizens, equipped with the tools for a life of sobriety and recovery.

**Martin Kerrigan, MA, Ed.S.**

is a special educator in the Montgomery County (Maryland) Public School system. He is also a part-time consultant to the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration's Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Partner Grant. Martin earned his undergraduate degree in Elementary/Middle School Special Education from Towson University and both a Master of Arts and an Educational Specialist degree from George Washington University in Transitional Special Education with an emphasis in Acquired Brain Injury. He has been advocating for individuals impacted by brain injury for over 20 years. Martin has worked with individuals living with brain injuries in different capacities including providing individual support services and jobs development/coaching. Martin serves on the Maryland Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board, and he is active in the Brain Injury Association of Maryland. He is a member of the TBI Advisory and Leadership Group (TAL-Group) and participates in several other National State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) workgroups. Martin regularly presents on brain injury at local, regional, and national conferences. His areas of focus are working with students with brain injuries, employment, and brain injury, accommodating the symptoms of brain injury, person-centered planning, and substance abuse/misuse in individuals with brain injuries. Martin also co-facilitates a weekly support group for individuals with co-occurring brain injury and substance use disorders.

*Faculty continues on next 2 pages*



## Faculty

**Denise L. Kolivoski, MBA**

has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) in December 2023. Selected after a comprehensive national search, Denise brings over 20 years of experience in nonprofit management, leadership, and marketing. As a native of Erie, Pennsylvania, she is committed to leading NCADD to new heights by collaborating with local affiliates to enhance awareness, education, and advocacy for individuals and families facing substance use disorders as well as those in recovery across the country. Denise's impressive track record includes achievements in leadership and development roles at organizations such as the Asbury Foundation, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and United Way.

**George Kolodner, MD, DFASAM, DLFAPA, TTS**

has been working to improve access to effective treatment for people with alcohol and drug problems since 1973, when he established the first outpatient addiction rehabilitation treatment program. That model, now called "intensive outpatient" or "IOP," has become a cornerstone of current addiction treatment in this country. Now extending this work with a focus on addiction to nicotine, he has designed an innovative treatment program that builds on traditional methods of addressing other addictive substances. Dr. Kolodner has been active in professional organizations and was recently appointed the Chair of the Nicotine and Tobacco Special Interest Group of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He is also a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at both Georgetown University and University of Maryland Schools of Medicine.

**Alyssa Lord, MA MSc BIO**

is the Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). She brings more than 20 years of experience in community and population health. Ms. Lord has focused her efforts on working collaboratively across local, city, state, and federal entities to improve the health outcomes across the lifespan. Prior to joining MDH, Ms. Lord served in a number of leadership positions that combined direct service, advocacy, policy, and strategy in New York and New Jersey. Most recently she was Vice President, Healthcare Strategy at a large (\$120 million+) housing, healthcare, and workforce development nonprofit where she was responsible for setting the vision for healthcare, behavioral health, and substance use services for homeless and unstably housed New Yorkers. In previous positions she led the implementation of care coordination services for clinically, behaviorally and socially complex Medicaid, dually enrolled, and special needs plans beneficiaries. Ms. Lord earned Master's degrees from New York University and the London School of Economics.

**Mary Pinkard**

has expertise in multiple wellness domains. She has studied under Qigong experts Dr. Kevin Chen from the University of Maryland, Daisy Lee, and Lee Holden. She is certified as a Level II Professional with the National Qigong Association. She also holds certifications in Feng Shui, and obtained training certificates in Yoga and Tai Chi. Mary teaches Qigong classes locally and has worked on wellness projects with

GBMC, McDaniel College, University of MD Medical School, The Turck Conference, The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services, St. Joseph's Hospital, the Institute for Integrative Health, and Walter Reed Hospital. She continues her affiliations with the American Aerobics and Fitness Association, National Qigong Association, and the American Dowsers Association. She has a degree in Music Education from Skidmore College and a graduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Towson University. The integration of music and wellness education influence her practice and teaching.

**Casey Saylor**

is the Peer Programs Expansion Administrator at the Maryland Department of Health, BHA Office of Consumer Affairs. In this role, she plans and manages projects that expand the availability of peer services into new and innovative settings across the state. Casey holds a Master's in Social Work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work with a Human Services Management Competency Certificate from the Network for Social Work Management. She holds the Registered Peer Supervisor credential and has been providing mentorship and education to CPRS interns for the past 5 years. She is a passionate collaborator informed by her experience in the counseling, peer support, aging, and adult education fields.

**Kurt Schmoke, Esq.**

is President of the University of Baltimore. Even before he took over as president of the University of Baltimore in July 2014, Kurt Schmoke had enjoyed a long, successful career in high-powered, high-profile jobs. Schmoke earned his bachelor's degree in history from Yale University, spent a year as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and then earned his law degree at the Harvard University School of Law. He worked in private practice as an attorney and was dean of the Howard University School of Law before launching his political career by winning election as mayor of Baltimore in 1987. He ended up serving three four-year terms as mayor. After his political career, Schmoke spent time as the dean of the Howard University School of Law, in Washington, and later as the school's vice president and general counsel.

**Tiffinee Scott, BA, CJA, CPRS, RPS, CHW**

is the Recovery Community Organizer for NCADD-MD; and a member of the Maryland Peer Advisory Council, MPAC. Tiffinee is dedicated to fostering positive change and empowerment within our community. With a passion for advocacy, social justice, equality, policy, and recovery, Tiffinee strives to create inclusive spaces where diverse voices are heard and valued. Through collaborative efforts and grassroots initiatives, Tiffinee aims to address systemic issues and advocate for meaningful solutions that benefit all members of our community.

**Susan Sherman, PhD, MPH**

is a Bloomberg American Professor of Health in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with joint appointments in the Departments of Population Family and Reproductive Health, Mental Health, Epidemiology, and

## Faculty

Health, Policy, and Management. For over two decades, her research has largely focused on examining the environmental structural drivers of and developing interventions to address health disparities among people who use drugs and women who sell sex in both domestic and global settings. She founded a low barrier drop-in Center for women in southwest Baltimore, the SPARC Center, which provides medical, legal, harm reduction, and social services in a fixed site and mobile van. Her research has informed a number of policies, including the decriminalization of drug checking in Maryland and elsewhere, and she currently is evaluating a mobile drug checking and wound care intervention. She has served on a several local, state, and national committees overseeing harm reduction programs.

#### Albert Soo, LMSW

is a substance abuse counselor at Maryland Treatment Centers. Under that organization, he has worked in both inpatient detoxification and long-term residential programs. He has experience providing clinical and case management services to adults experiencing substance use and co-occurring disorders. He earned his Master's Degree in Social Work in 2022 from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

#### Jennifer Taylor, LCSW, RPT-S

is a clinical social worker, play therapist, supervisor, and consultant for mental health professionals who specializes in complex trauma. Jen is an EMDR Approved Consultant, Certified Journal to the Self Instructor, an international play therapy teacher, a published writer of multiple play therapy chapters and the creator of the original 2017 Play Therapy Summit and many other innovative programs for mental health professionals. As a clinical psychotherapist, her experience also includes children who have been abused or neglected, diagnosed with a chronic or terminal illness, or who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability. Jen uses writing therapy, play therapy and expressive arts for her clients and for other mental health professionals so they can lead more joyful and meaningful lives.

#### Casey Tiefenwerth

is the Special Grants Program Manager at the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor), Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning. In this role, she manages state and federal funding for initiatives that support job seekers impacted by the addiction and overdose crisis and/or homelessness. Drawing on her experience in the nonprofit sector, private sector, and state government, Casey specializes in workforce development program design for individuals with substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders. Her subject matter expertise includes supported employment, homelessness, peer support, and recovery. Casey currently chairs the Workforce Data Advisory Committee as part of the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland and serves on the Board of the Balance of State Continuum of Care as MD Labor's representative. Casey holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's in Social Work with a concentration in Management and Community Organization from the University of Maryland School of Social Work. .

#### Christine V. Walters, J.D., MAS, SHRM-SCP, SPHR

Ms. Walters has more than 25 years' combined experience in management, HR administration, employment law practice, and teaching. She has presented at conferences across the country, been engaged as an expert witness, and testified before U.S. Congressional and state legislative committees on employment issues. Her book, *"From Hello to Goodbye: Proactive Tips for Maintaining Positive Employee Relations"* is in its 2nd edition and has been one of the SHRMStore's "Great 8" best-sellers for eight consecutive years. Today, Ms. Walters works as an independent consultant doing business as Fivel Company, *"Helping Leaders Limit their Liability by Learning the Law."*<sup>SM</sup>

#### Christopher Welsh, MD

Addiction Psychiatrist, Faculty Member, UMB School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry. Division of Addiction Research & Treatment Dr. Welsh's main area of clinical work is in the areas of addiction and dual diagnosis. He works in various in- and out-patient settings, including methadone and buprenorphine maintenance. He also has an interest in the medical complications of addiction and is the medical director of the UMMC Substance Abuse Consultation Service. He has also worked with the Baltimore City Department of Health and the MD DHMH on opioid overdose prevention initiatives.

#### David Whitesock, Esq.

has led innovative and entrepreneurial programs in addiction, recovery, and technology since 2004. While designing new approaches to peer coaching, he developed the Recovery Capital Index® (RCI). David founded Commonly Well in 2020 to broaden the reach and impact of the Recovery Capital Index and to improve how data is used to enhance the recovery process. Through Commonly Well, David also works with healthcare systems and behavioral health clinics to design and implement improved patient experiences. David is a regular speaker and advocate for addiction and mental health. He focuses his advocacy on improving wellbeing for fellow attorneys and reducing impaired driving.