



MID SHORE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

RESOURCES, GUIDANCE, WHOLENESS, & HOPE

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26th ANNUAL CALIBER AWARDS CEREMONY CELEBRATES LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERS IN THE MID-SHORE

Easton, MD – The 26th Annual Caliber Awards was hosted by Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. (MSBH) on May 17th, 2024, at the Temple B'nai Israel in Easton MD and featured catering by Blue Heron Catering. This annual event honors the exceptional work and dedication of dozens of community leaders working to enhance the mid-shore region's behavioral health system.

Approximately one hundred people attended the 2024 Caliber Awards Ceremony. The event opened with a welcome from MSBH's Executive Director, Kathryn Dilley, followed by Board President Susan Adams, offering a welcome to the group and acknowledgement of the MSBH board members in attendance. Additionally, Senator Johnny Mautz also spoke to the profound impact behavioral health workers have in the State and thanked the award winners for their dedication. Following opening remarks, thirty-seven local leaders were honored for their unwavering commitment to enhancing behavioral health services for the community's benefit.

Executive Director Dilley shared this regarding the award ceremony: "Caliber was conceptualized to bring the community together with a purpose of providing recognition for public mental health programs, providers, and initiatives that use innovative approaches to address the needs of the behavioral health system. It is the opportunity to celebrate excellence, innovation, advocacy, stewardship, and service. Caliber is historically celebrated in the month of May in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. This year's national theme of mental health awareness month is "Where to Start" when it comes to taking care of your own well-being and acknowledging the support needed to understand how to navigate accessing support for behavioral health needs. This is something we strive to support at MSBH as a resource to the community and in our work to ensure access to, support growing resources in the region, and the Caliber is an opportunity to highlight all the amazing work of our partners and providers supporting the community".

First to be honored was Dr. William Cerrato, Chief Medical Officer with For All Seasons, Inc. and Charlene Jones, Director of Programs for the John & Janice Wyatt Foundation, both receiving the *Child and Adolescent Award* for their work with children. Next, the *Forensic Mental Health Award*

was presented to Donielle Davis, of the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services, Leigh Dillon, of the Queen Anne's County State's Attorney Office, and Kirby Kimble, of the Queen Anne's County Department of Health. The *Roundtable on Homelessness Award* was presented to Stefanie Johnson, Executive Director of His Hope Ministries for her work to eradicate homelessness, and the *Adult and Older Adult Advocacy Award* was presented to Jonte M Holliday, Crisis Services Coordinator of Channel Marker, Inc. and Sharon Mohr, MICH Case Manager for the Queen Anne's County Department of Health.

The recipients for the *Special Recognition* category award included Devon Beck, Facilitator for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Talbot County Public Schools, Matt Watkins, of the Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, Rebecca Redmer and Tracy Peterson, of the Mobile Response Stabilization Service Eastern Shore Crisis Response, Affiliated Sante. Grace Hopkins, Client Support Specialist for Crossroads Community, Inc. Wala-Neh Labala, of Peace of Mind Mental Health Services, LLC. Farley Salazar, Administrative Specialist for the Talbot County Health Department, Kimberly Schindler, RRP Manager of Crossroads Community, Inc, Kristy Mirando, Director of Victim Services at For All Seasons, Inc. Cathy Cassell, Chief Executive Officer of Channel Marker, Inc. Beth Spencer, Program Manager for the Dorchester County Health Department, and Brandy James, CIT Coordinator Manager for the Eastern Shore Crisis Response Services, Affiliated Sante Group.

Several members of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) were also recognized for helping persons with mental needs and/or PWUD (persons who use drugs) use access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness-related behaviors. Those honored included Cara Calloway, Behavioral Health Services Coordinator for Caroline County Public Schools, Tina-Marie Brown, Director of the Eastern Shore Crisis Response Services of Affiliated Sante, Neal Lichter and Glen Myers, both of Pathfinders for Autism, Melissa "Missy" Banks, Community Health/Nursing Program Supervisor for the Worcester County Health Department, and Marc Junkerman, of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation Headquarters.

Chrissy Bartz and Vicki Rahenkamp of Choptank Community Health, Inc. along with Jessica Tuel and Sarah Lepore from Caroline County Behavioral Health received the *Achieving Excellence through Effective Programming Award*. Anne Marie Demby, Team Supervisor of the Family Peer Support Program for Maryland Coalition of Families, and Rachel Stoyanov of Talbot Family Network both won an award for *Achieving Excellence through Consumer Empowerment*. The *Achieving Excellence through Interagency and Community Collaboration Award* was presented to Shari Blades, Director of the Caroline County Department of Social Services. And the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Champion award was presented to Tina Grace Jones, Co-Founder and Treasurer of Delmarva Pride Center. Jennell Sutton, Director of Client Services at For All Seasons, Inc. and Brianna "Bree" Lentell, School Social Worker for Queen Anne's County Public Schools both received the *Mary Beth Brennaman Award* for their unwavering positive attitudes in support of their organizations and consumers served. And finally, the *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to Jen Short, Founding Member of Peace of Mind Mental Health Services, LLC for her twenty years of work as a psychotherapist.

The ceremony ended with Kathryn Dilley honoring the memory of former Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. board member Andrew Pons with a statement to his lasting impact on the field of behavioral health, and by presenting an award to his wife Marva Jones.

Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. (MSBH) is the region's Core Service Agency charged with continually improving the provision of behavioral health services for residents of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties through effective coordination of care in collaboration with consumers, their natural support systems, providers, and the community at large. For more pictures from the event, please "like" MSBH on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. For more information about MSBH, visit www.midshorebehavioralhealth.org or call [410-770-4801](tel:410-770-4801).



Senator Johnny Mautz speaks to the 26th Annual Caliber Award attendees, commenting on the achievements of the behavioral health community as a whole and congratulating the award winners for their commitment and dedication to their work.



MSBH CEO Kathryn Dilley delivers a speech Honoring former MSBH Board Member Andrew Pons, and presents Andrew's wife Marva Jones with a memorial award for his lasting impact on the behavioral health community.



J Howard, MSBH Behavioral Health Coordinator/DEI & Specialty Programs, presents the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Champion Award to Tina Grace Jones for her work as a founding member and Treasurer of Delmarva Pride.



Gregory Gibson, MSBH Workforce Development Specialist, presents a special recognition award to Wala-Neh Labala, LCSW-C, for his work as a school-based therapist and commitment to serving the youth community of Talbot County.