On the Front Line of Treatment: SAMHSA Best Practices and Agency Updates

Hosted By
Congressman Joe Courtney

Featuring
Kathryn Power, M.Ed., Regional Administrator

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

Event will include:
- Critical update on SAMHSA tools and resources pertinent to region
- Question and answer period

Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Eastern Connecticut State University, Theatre
Parking Available at the Cervantes and Shakespeare Parking Garages
400 High Street, Willimantic, CT 06226
9:00-11:00am

Please RSVP to Egzon Balidemaj at Egzon.Balidemaj@mail.house.gov or 860-886-0139
Kathryn Power Biography

Kathryn Power, M.Ed., is the Regional Administrator, Region One for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In that role, she represents the Administrator at the regional level in fulfilling the agency’s mission of reducing the impact of mental illness and substance abuse on America’s communities. She provides authoritative advice and assistance on behavioral health policies and innovations for use in the delivery and financing of prevention, treatment and recovery services, develops regional perspectives on SAMHSA initiatives, and is a visible advocate for individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders within the federal government and across the region.

In addition, Director Power serves as the SAMHSA Initiative Lead on the Strategic Priority for Military Service Members, Veterans and Their Families, focusing on collaboration and coordination to ensure that behavioral health needs for this population are met in a timely and effective manner. In 2012, she was honored for this work when the Department of Defense awarded her The Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

Prior to her appointment as Regional Administrator, Power served for over 8 years as the Director, Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), at SAMHSA. Director Power provided national leadership in mental health promotion, development and dissemination of effective treatments, services and supports, and prevention efforts in reducing mental illnesses through facilitating the transformation of our nation’s behavioral health care system. She participated in the first ever SAMHSA Executive Exchange and served for 6 months as the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

During her tenure, she received three HHS Secretary’s Distinguished Service awards for her outstanding efforts in disaster response, elimination of seclusion and restraint, and creation of the federal partners in transformation.

Prior to her appointment as Director of CMHS, Ms. Power served for over 10 years as the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, a Cabinet position reporting to the Governor, responsible for four systems of care serving individuals with serious disabilities: mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders and addiction, developmental disabilities, and long-term medical needs requiring hospital level service. From 1993-2003, she led the state to high achievements in recovery focus, deinstitutionalization, reduction of seclusion and restraint, behavioral health approaches, trauma informed services, emotional competency agenda, the development of mobile treatment teams, and expanded supported employment to competitive employment opportunities. The department had an annual budget of over $480M and over 2,000 employees. She previously directed the Rhode Island Office of Substance Abuse, the Governors Drug Program, the Rhode Island Anti-Drug Coalition, and was Executive Director of the Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Centers.