

Pre-Conference Workshop Presenters 2017

Joseph Coffey

Joseph Coffey retired from the Warwick, Rhode Island, Police Department in May 2016, where he last served as a Captain assigned to the Patrol Division. Joe established and lead his department's Mental Health Crisis Response Team, the first such team in Rhode Island. Joe collaborated with local community mental health agencies to develop and implement a Community Diversion Clinician position, a Probation and Parole Mental Health Monitoring and Intervention Initiative, and other successful programs.

Joe participated in several State and local committees, coalitions, and workgroups focusing on improving the lives of people living with mental illnesses and addictions, including his involvement on the Governor's Drug Overdose Prevention Task Force.

Joe co-authored the Mental Health First Aid (USA), Public Safety module and presents this course throughout the United States. He is a National Trainer and ambassador for The National Council for Behavioral Health. Joe has been an adjunct instructor at the Rhode Island Police Academy since 2008, having trained over 1,200 officers in mental health related topics. Joe lectured in various forums, including the Roger Williams University School of Justice Studies and Rotary International. Joe has testified at Congressional Staff Briefings in Washington and before local legislative committees in an effort to raise mental illness literacy, improve training, and decrease stigma. Joe was instrumental in the State of Rhode Island enacting law that mandates mental health training for police officers, a first in the Country.

Prior to his policing career, Joe worked in Corrections for ten years, concentrating in staff development, crisis intervention, and operations. Joe holds a Certificate of Graduate Studies from the University of Virginia, a Bachelor Degree from Roger Williams University, and is a 2013 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. Joe is a military Veteran, last serving as an instructor at the Rhode Island Military Academy.

Joe has been recognized by Special Olympics Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Commission for the Deaf and Hard of hearing, The Governor's Overdose Task Force, several Congressional leaders, ASIS International, and numerous other groups and agencies for his efforts and commitment to our communities' vulnerable populations.

Joe owns and operates BlueAid Consulting, Inc., where he now dedicates is full time on providing and/or facilitating training, advocacy, risk mitigation, and community relations services.

Joe's community involvement includes Boy Scouts of America, Warwick Rotary member, and neighborhood youth flag football coach. Joe enjoys backpacking and finally learning how to fish.

Retired Justice Stephen Erickson

Awaiting CV

Brad Brockman, JD, Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights

Brad Brockmann, JD, MDiv, is the first Executive Director of the Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, based at The Miriam Hospital in Providence, RI. The Center is dedicated to improving the health and human rights of incarcerated and other justice-involved populations through education, research and advocacy. Key to this goal is bringing a public health lens to the nation's epidemic of incarceration. Today, the Center's work falls into three core areas: 1) raising awareness at the national and state level about the healthcare issues and challenges of justice-involved populations; 2) providing education and training opportunities for college, graduate, and medical students and encouraging student engagement and leadership in justice issues; and 3) collaborating with local justice system stakeholders to identify, develop, and support projects that respond to the intersection of incarceration, recidivism, and public health in the State of Rhode Island.

Brad is a civil rights attorney who previously worked at Prisoners' Legal Services of MA, a public interest law firm that provides free civil legal services to prisoners. He designed and co-teaches courses focused on Prisoner Health at Brown University's School of Public Health. Brad was a Wall Street lawyer for over a decade before moving to Mexico City in 1998 to work at an AIDS hospice. He also did human rights work with indigenous communities in Chiapas, Mexico. He received his JD (cum laude) from Michigan Law School in 1983 and an MDiv from Episcopal Divinity School in 2004.