

MHA Welcomes New Board President, Mission and Vision Statements



MHA Board President Kimberly Lombard

The staff of the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County (MHA) is so excited about their recently adopted new mission and vision statements that they want to display large framed posters of them in both their Jamestown and Dunkirk centers.

“The MHA board has captured the passion of what we do and are capable of doing, and we are excited to share this with the community,” said MHA Executive Director Steven Cobb.

The mission statement of an organization is a concise explanation of its reason for existence, a summary of its goals and values. The vision statement for a nonprofit describes how the world would look if it completed its mission.

The process of updating these statements was begun under previous board president Ian Eastman (*see below*) and completed under the leadership of new board president Kimberly Lombard. Kimberly is Associate Vice President, Grants Management, for Evergreen Health and has served on the MHA board since 2017. She received the Zonta Club of Jamestown’s Leadership Award for 2020-2021. Kimberly holds a Masters’ degree in nonprofit management. As the mother of two high school girls, she is also a band, dance, and chorus mom and an avid reader.

MHA Vision Statement

The Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County envisions a time when the peer recovery model is widely relied upon as a foundation of support and advocacy to address the total needs of all individuals and their families challenged by the effects of mental health and/or substance use disorders. We will persevere in changing our local culture to one of hope, kindness, and justice, redefining and expanding the possibilities for a rich and satisfying life for people in recovery.

MHA Mission Statement

The Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County commits to radical acceptance, empowerment, and advocacy for our community members who struggle with mental health and substance use.

Former MHA Board President Receives Business First IDEA Award

Congratulations to Ian Eastman, Evergreen Health Services’ Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) coordinator and longtime MHA board president. Nominated by colleagues for his championing of diversity and inclusion, Ian is the recipient of a 2022 Buffalo Business First IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Award in healthcare.

When asked for his proudest accomplishment, Ian cited bringing low-threshold immunizations to Evergreen’s SEP during a serious outbreak of Hepatitis A in Chautauqua County in 2020. “Within a few days of the outbreak, we educated patients about symptoms and prevention, and the Chautauqua County Department of Health was onsite providing walk-in immunizations. The effort was a huge success – and effectively ended the outbreak.”

Ian joined the MHA board in 2016. He assumed many additional responsibilities at SEP when it moved from within MHA’s facility to Jamestown’s Prather Avenue and Evergreen launched their new buprenorphine program. While that meant giving up his MHA responsibilities, he looks forward to being back in the future. Thanks so much for your service, Ian!



MHA Happenings



Jamestown native **Lindsey Erickson** returned from her home in Maine for **A Cut Above: Art Reception with Silent Auction**, an installation of her cut paper art in St. Luke's Episcopal Church on April 27. The silent auction of five of her art pieces benefited the MHA's Art in Recovery program.

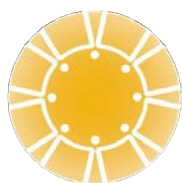
On April 14, **WRFA Community Conversations** focused on Healthcare in Jamestown and Chautauqua County and the impact COVID-19 has had on area healthcare services. The discussion included (from left) Cecil Miller, UPMC Chautauqua; Breeanne Agett, Chautauqua County Department of Health; Steven Cobb, MHA; and moderator Julia Ciesla-Hanley, WRFA.



It's exciting to be part of **Strong Starts Chautauqua**, building new systems of care in the county to support children and their parents who are impacted by substance use or mental health challenges. We are committed to giving everyone the chance to fulfill their inherent potential. In April at the Athenaeum Hotel at Chautauqua Institution, the team from the MHA met with others who are working to make the future of our county strong.



The **Spring Fling** on May 10 marked the first in-person recovery community gathering post-COVID, with hot dogs and burgers to celebrate. Enjoying the perfect weather were (from left) recent Intern Sierra Owles, Jail Outreach Peer Brian Mayo, and Strong Starts Navigators Jessica Crooks and Carrie Clarke.



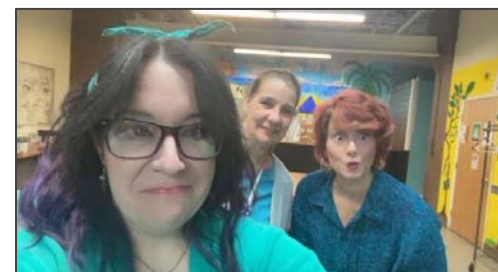
**NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

The MHA was honored to receive an \$11,000 grant from the **Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation** for expansion of the MHA's North County program services at Grace Lutheran Church, 601 Eagle Street, Dunkirk.

In partnership with Dwyer Chautauqua, the MHA has a new **Veterans Support Group** that meets on **Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon**, in Jamestown. MHA staffer and U.S. Air Force veteran Jill Marsh is facilitator, and all veterans are welcome to participate. **Dwyer Chautauqua** is part of the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project, named for the Iraq combat medic who returned from the war with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a brain injury (TBI). It helps veterans meet with other veterans in a secure, comfortable atmosphere to help each other cope with the effects of PTSD and TBI.



The MHA is proud to be a member of the **Chautauqua County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**, an amazing team of dedicated agencies and partners working together. For Sexual Assault Awareness Month, in April we created decorative masks for the Zonta Tree in Baker Park, wore teal on Tuesdays, and had other activities to honor Sexual Assault Survivors.



Every Tuesday MHA partners and staff wore teal, including (from left) Jenny Rowe, Jill Marsh, and Allison Murphy.

The work of the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County is made possible by funding from Appalachian Regional Commission ♡ Chautauqua County Departments of Mental Hygiene and Health & Human Services ♡ Chautauqua Region Community Foundation ♡ Hultquist Foundation ♡ Lenna Foundation ♡ NYS Office of Mental Health ♡ Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation ♡ Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation ♡ The Tower Foundation ♡ United Way of Southern Chautauqua County ♡ UPMC Chautauqua ♡ and others...

Partnering With the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County



The Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County hosted a United Way of Southern Chautauqua County site visit on March 11. On its Facebook page, the United Way reported, "Our allocations volunteers from M&T Bank, Lockwood Agency, Tim Hortons Cafe and Bake Shop, Community Bank NA, and Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County learned so much. Thanks for all you do!"

March 16 was the first opportunity in two years for the United Way to have in-person Community Partner Roundtables, and the MHA was thrilled to participate. At the Resource Center, Executive Director Steven Cobb kicked off the morning for 28 funded partner agencies. In addition to touching on what the MHA is doing to support people in recovery, he trained 36 people to administer NARCAN to reverse an opiate overdose. The MHA has free trainings available to businesses, nonprofits and community organizations. For NARCAN training, Mental Health 101, or information about treatment and recovery options, reach out to the MHA [#harmreductionworks](#) [#recoveryispossible](#) [#narcantraining](#).

Chautauqua County OD2A (Overdose Data to Action) Team



Pictured is Chautauqua County's OD2A Team (left to right): Steven Kilburn, Grant Director, HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Implementation grant, Chautauqua Co. Dept. of Mental Hygiene; Breeanne Agett, Epidemiology Manager, Chautauqua Co. Dept. of Health and Human Services (CCDHHS); Kelly Whitver, RN, CCDHHS; Captain Randy Boland, Chautauqua Co. Sheriff's Office; **Allison Murphy, Peer Responder, MHA**; Shelly Wells, Public Health Planner, CCDHHS; Doug Sanderson, Coroner, CCDHHS.

Chautauqua County is not immune from the national drug overdose epidemic. In 2021, the County experienced 56 confirmed or suspected fatal overdoses, a 27% increase over 2020, and a 75% increase over 2019.

As part of the CDC's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A), Chautauqua County is one of 66 jurisdictions nationwide collecting data on fatal and nonfatal overdoses to inform prevention and response efforts. Together with additional community partners, in a respectful and compassionate manner OD2A takes a public health approach to treating people who use drugs, supporting naloxone trainings, expanding access to Medication Assisted Treatment, sustaining a real-time overdose mapping program, connecting people with peer services, and more. MHA OD Response Team staffer Allison Murphy responds county-wide to every known overdose.

Jamestown Pride Festival and Public Market Opening Saturday, June 11



June 11 marks the celebration of the Jamestown Pride Festival and the 2022 opening of the Jamestown Public Market. MHA's Steven Cobb (left) and Sean Jones look forward to selling you [Father Bernard's Blessed Biscuits](#) for your favorite pooch! Market hours are 10am to 2pm Saturdays through October in downtown Jamestown. Father Bernard's is a social enterprise partnership between the MHA and St. Luke's Episcopal Church that aims to get people in recovery back into the workforce.



A Message From MHA's Executive Director: Significant Developments in Dunkirk

...by Steven Cobb

For many individuals with substance use disorder, receiving a daily injection of methadone allows them to live normal lives. But having to get to Buffalo every day for that highly regulated substance makes it incredibly difficult to hold a job, parent effectively, and participate in one's own recovery.

The ribbon-cutting in March for the Safe Point Lighthouse at 305 Main Street in Dunkirk marks an important step in addressing the opioid crisis locally, especially for folks in northern Chautauqua County. The clinic is expected to serve around 500 people annually with integrated behavioral health and addiction services that include medication-assisted treatment, for which methadone has been described as "the gold standard of care."

In another development for Dunkirk, we at the MHA are excited to be deepening our commitment to northern Chautauqua County by partnering with the Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene to provide peer coach specialist services at their Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, 319 Central Avenue.



The goals of this partnership are to assist people with education, housing, child care, conflict resolution, maintaining employment, and lifting themselves and their families out of the cycle of poverty. These supports also help create safe, stable and healthy communities.

Thanks to the County receiving a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Improvement and Advancement Grant, MHA Peer Specialist Morgan Keech is now

full-time at the clinic. Morgan has joined counselors, social workers, nurses, and other staff who are available to use proven harm reduction strategies and deliver trauma-informed, culturally competent care.

For more information, to make an appointment to get help with mental health and chemical dependency challenges or to contact Morgan directly, call (716) 363-3550 in Dunkirk. Call (716) 661-8330 for the clinic at 200 East Third Street in Jamestown.



I want to thank MHA for being here on the unit. It has made a huge positive difference in our patients' treatment and discharge. Thank you! Please pass this on!
 Laurie K. Passet, LMSW, Master CASAC, Counselor
 UPMC Chautauqua Inpatient Chemical Dependency Program

PLEASE SUPPORT MHA through Give Big CHQ - Thursday, June 9, 2022!

Hosted by the Chautauqua Region and Northern Chautauqua Community Foundations, Give Big CHQ is a 24-hour online fundraising event that connects individuals with causes they care about in Chautauqua county.

Give Big has special importance for the MHA because the money it raises can directly assist the participants it serves. Give Big donations can be used for emergency housing, food, transportation... and sometimes even a small treat to celebrate achievements or provide a needed lift.

During the 2022 Give Big CHQ, MHA will be eligible for cash prize incentives throughout the day. To support the MHA in this important way, on **Thursday, June 9**, go to GiveBigCHQ.org, search for **Mental Health Association**, and **Give Big!**

Thank you for your help!!!

MHA Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Elizabeth Kidder, Chair ♥ Chief Timothy Jackson
 Leanna Luka-Conley ♥ Trish McClennan ♥ Cecil Miller
 Dr. Lillian Ney ♥ Andrew O'Brien ♥ Sheriff James Quattrone
 Dale Robbins ♥ Christine Schuyler

MHA Board Members

Kimberly Lombard, President ♥ Sarah Tranum, Vice President
 Sharon Lawson, Treasurer ♥ Jennifer Hickman, Secretary
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 LeeAnn Lazarony ♥ Crystal Surdyk

