

Local Panelist “Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness”

❖ Charles and Ann Allen - Family members

Colonel (ret) Charles D. Allen culminated his 30 year Army career as Director of Leader Development and is currently the Professor of Cultural Science at the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA. His wife, Ann, taught 3rd through 6th grade for ten years in the Salem, Oregon Bilingual Program and in the Department of Defense Schools in Schweinfurt, Germany. She is now a Registered Nurse. Their son was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2004 and has been a consumer of mental health resources since that time. The Allen’s attended the Family-to-Family workshop program and are involved with NAMI support group

❖ Taylor P. Andrews, Esq.

Attorney Andrews has been Chief Public Defender of Cumberland County since 1976. He has been active with NAMI. He has been president of NAMI PA as well as NAMI PA Cumberland and Perry Counties. He served as Special Counsel to the Treatment Advocacy Center in Arlington, VA from 1999 through 2000. The Treatment Advocacy Center advocates changes to mental health commitment laws across the country. Once a year attorney Andrews lectures on forensic issues [competency to stand trial, insanity, death penalty mitigation, medication during trial] in the Law and Mental Illness class at George Mason Law School. Attorney Andrews also has a general law practice in Carlisle. His firm is Andrews and Johnson.

❖ David Anderson Brown – Moderator

David Brown began his motivational speaking career in 1977. Through speaking engagements and coaching his Commonwealth Forum clients, his wit and wisdom has helped countless business men and women to reach personal and professional goals they never thought possible. Taking the lessons he has learned in the business world and the passion he has found in the experiences with his daughter and her illness, he travels the country speaking to parents from all backgrounds on how to put the pieces back together. David authored the book, *Duct Tape and WD-40*, which shares his story. David is currently active in NAMI PA board and past president of NAMI PA C/P.

❖ Thom Fager

Thom is fifty-one years old and a graduate of Bloomsburg University and Penn State. He has worked at drop-in centers and/or a psychosocial rehab center for the past nine years. Thom is a Certified Peer Specialist and a Certified Psych Rehab Practitioner. He has been a member on NAMI PA C/P for the past nine years and is its current president. Thom is a person in recovery from mental illness, is a military veteran and a former homeless person.

❖ Silvia Herman - Administrator

Silvia Herman is the Cumberland and Perry Counties' Mental Health and Mental Retardation Director. She has been with the County since 1998, working first as the MH Specialist, then MH Director to her present position. She has been working in the field of Behavioral Health since 1979. She started her career in Early Intervention. From there she has worked with children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Family involvement, education and support has always been a strong focus for Silvia. Recovery philosophy is the key to transforming Mental Health services and supports. Silvia has her Masters degree in Community Psychology from Penn State Capital Campus.

❖ Dr Ben Tegene, M.D.

Dr Ben Tegene graduated from medical school and practiced as a general medical practitioner for six years. Later he completed a residency in Psychiatry and a Fellowship for a specialty in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. Dr. Tegene has been in practice in Harrisburg and Carlisle for seven years. Now Dr. Tegene is in private practice in Camp Hill, PA as an Adult Psychiatrist and as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. His practice is Premier Psychiatry Associates, P.C.