

Presenter Bios

Tracy J. Plouck, MPA, is the director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and has been a member of Governor John Kasich's Cabinet since January 2011. She brings strong policy background to her role, having served twice as Ohio's State Medicaid Director and also as a deputy director for both the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management. Plouck holds a master's degree in public administration from The Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree from Kent State University. She is the current president of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and also serves as vice chair of the Council of State Governments' Justice Center.

Doug Powley, MA, JD, received an MA from University of Illinois (1973) in Labor Relations and worked for International Chemical Workers Union on pension contracts and corporate research. He received JD from University of Akron (1979). He worked for the Summit county Public Defender's Office during law school and maintained a private law practice for 5 years after being licensed by the Supreme Court. In 1984 he was employed by the City of Akron to do labor and personnel law, and in 1989 he was appointed Chief City Prosecutor. While serving in this position for 23 years, he participated in the formation of four specialty courts - drug, domestic violence, mental health and DUI. He chaired community coalitions for drug prevention and child protection and actively participated in collaborations on mental health, domestic violence and elder abuse. Doug established a first offender diversion program for the Akron Municipal Court and initiated a direct indictment system to expedite the indictment of felonies.

Ruth H. Simera, M.Ed., LSW, is the Director of the Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence and provides consultation and technical assistance to promote jail diversion alternatives to Ohio communities, including enhancement of CIT programs. Ruth is a member of the Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Mental Illness and Criminal Justice for which she serves on the Policy & Legislation sub-committee and is co-chair of the Research and Best Practices sub-committee. She is a member of the Ohio Stepping Up Steering Committee, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction CIT Steering Committee, and she has served on the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Subject Matter Expert (SME) group for revision of the Corrections CIT lesson plan. Her career includes Case Management for court-involved youth and families and 26 years managing and administering community behavioral health services, specializing in crisis intervention, conflict management, program development, quality improvement, and community crisis response. Ruth was also an adjunct faculty instructor with the Center for Applied Conflict Management in the Political Science Department at Kent State University for ten years and is a contracted trainer for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.

Joy Stankowski, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer and Director of the Center for Forensic Excellence Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare. Dr. Stankowski received her medical degree from the Penn State College of Medicine, and trained in both internal medicine and psychiatry at the University of Virginia. After serving as Chief Resident in the combined medicine-psychiatry program, she completed a forensic psychiatry fellowship at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Stankowski maintains board certification in both general and forensic psychiatry. Dr. Stankowski has worked in the state of Ohio's hospital system since 2002. She has been a Chief Clinical Officer at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (NBH) since 2007, and is Director of NBH Forensic Services, overseeing forensic policies, patients, and education. She is

also Director of the new Center for Forensic Excellence, with a focus on regional forensic education and improved practices. Dr. Stankowski is active in both national and regional medical organizations, and is past president of the Midwest American Academy of Psychiatry and Law. She has given numerous presentations in the area of forensic psychiatry, and has published on a variety of topics. Dr. Stankowski has a private practice in forensic psychiatry, which includes work for various Ohio county court clinics, performing independent forensic evaluations in areas including competency to stand trial, sanity, and mitigation of penalty. Her other professional interests include hospital administration, and she has been a psychiatric hospital surveyor for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid since 2005.

Kristen Henry, is an attorney with Disability Rights Ohio. She leads the Abuse and Neglect Team, which investigates abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities, monitors facilities throughout Ohio, and advocates for clients on issues related to the criminal justice system and guardianship. Ms. Henry received her J.D. from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. During her time at Disability Rights Ohio, she has represented individuals with disabilities on cases involving guardianship, civil commitment, and civil rights. In addition, she is a frequent presenter to professionals and the public on issues related to disability rights.

Stephen Noffsinger, M.D., studied Natural Sciences at the University of Akron, earning a bachelor of science in 1983. He entered medical school in September of 1983 at Northeast Ohio Medical University and received his medical doctorate in May of 1987. Dr. Noffsinger maintains board certification in both general and forensic psychiatry. He is an active member in the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, American Psychiatric Association, American Medical Association and the Ohio Physicians Psychiatric Association. Currently, Dr. Noffsinger is an Associate Program Director for the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University; a Psychiatrist at the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas; Forensic Psychiatry Consultant for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; a Forensic Psychiatrist for Stephen Noffsinger, M.D., Inc.; an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; and a Senior Lecturer (Adjunct Faculty) at the University of Akron School of Law.

Megan Testa, M.D., studied Psychology at Youngstown State University, earning a bachelor of science with honors distinction in 2001. She entered medical school in 2002 at Case Western Reserve University and completed the first two years of training before returning to YSU study Bioethics, with a focus on the principle of justice as related to distribution of healthcare resources. She earned a graduate certificate in Bioethics in 2005, and returned to medical school, earning an MD from Case Western Reserve University in 2007. Dr. Testa subsequently completed a residency in psychiatry at University Hospitals of Cleveland in 2011. During residency she was awarded the Outstanding Resident in Community Psychiatry Award in 2010, and the Outstanding Resident Graduate Award in 2011. She was selected for the Ginsberg Fellowship of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, and the Community Psychiatry Fellowship of the American Psychiatric Association. After graduating from residency, Dr. Testa entered fellowship training with the goal of developing specialized skills to work with the criminal justice reentry population in the community mental health setting. She completed the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in 2012, and the Public and Community Psychiatry Fellowship at University Hospitals in 2013. She is now an Assistant Professor at University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, where she teaches and supervises residents and fellows. She spends her clinical time providing psychiatric care to individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, addictions, and criminal justice involvement at Recovery Resources and FrontLine Services. In these community mental

health centers, Dr. Testa works with several specialized multidisciplinary treatment teams including Cuyahoga County's Forensic ACT Team, a Women's Forensic Team, and teams treating individuals with Mental Health Court involvement. Dr. Testa has a passion for organized medicine, advocacy and public policy. She has developed an advocacy curriculum for the psychiatry residency program at University Hospitals. She is involved in the Ohio Psychiatric Physician's Association, currently serving as Chair of the Government Relations Committee. She is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and currently serves on the Membership Committee of the organization. She is a member of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, and currently serves as Secretary of the Midwest Chapter of the organization. She serves on the Policy Committee of the National Physician's Alliance. She is a member of Physicians for Criminal Justice Reform, and serves on the organization's Mental Health and Research Committees. She is a regular presenter at Crisis Intervention Team Trainings with police officers across Cuyahoga County.

Kathryn Zielinski, Manager of Speech/Language Therapy Services, graduated from Cleveland State University with a Master's degree in speech/language pathology and has been employed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities for over thirty years. She has worked with all age groups, and her specialty area is augmentative communication. Kathryn became the manager of the speech/language pathologists and assistive technology specialists for the Board of DD in 2008. She has taught college classes and given numerous presentations on communication and assistive technology.

Tina Moreno, Speech-Language Pathologist, who graduated from Cleveland State University with a Master's degree in speech/language pathology, is employed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Prior to joining the CCBDD in 2015, she worked in hospital, outpatient and school settings where she has specialized in augmentative communication. She is co-founder and co-director of a summer literacy camp for children and young adults who use augmentative communication. Inspired by her own son, she is passionate about ensuring individuals have voices of their own.