

FORUM ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

988: It is NOT just a number

Webinar 1: January 20, 2023

Speaker Bios

Margarita Alegría, PhD, is the Chief of the Disparities Research Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital and a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. From 2002-2015 she was the Director of the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research at Cambridge Health Alliance, and was previously the Director of the Center for Evaluation and Sociomedical Research at the University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Alegría has been a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School since 2004. Throughout her career, she has remained dedicated to generating knowledge that can be used to increase equity in health outcomes and healthcare services for disadvantaged and minority populations. Dr. Alegría's research has integrated three methods: a multidisciplinary and multisectorial approach to research; a multi-level framework which gives necessary consideration to environmental and social context, the individual and family system; and a strong focus on which aspects of culture and context need to be addressed to improve health, as well as service delivery for diverse populations. Dr. Alegría is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) of three National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research studies: Building Community Capacity for Disability Prevention in Minority Elders; Mechanisms Underlying Racial/ Ethnic Disparities in Mental Disorders; and The Impact of Medicaid Plans on Access to and Quality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment. She is also the PI of a grant funded by the William T. Grant Foundation, entitled Using the Experience of Majority and Minority Status Through Photovoice. Dr. Alegría has published over 200 papers, editorials, intervention training manuals, and several book chapters, on topics such as improvement of health care services delivery for diverse racial and ethnic populations, conceptual and methodological issues with multicultural populations, and ways to bring the community's perspective into the design and implementation of health services. In October 2011, she was elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine in acknowledgement of her scientific contributions to her field. She has also been a recipient of notable awards, such as the Mental Health Section Award by the American Public Health Association (2003), the Health Disparities Innovation Award by the National Institutes of Minority Health (2008), and the Simone Bolivar Award by the American

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Psychiatry Association (2009). Most recently, Dr. Alegria was the recipient of the 2018 Jonathan Mann Award by the New Mexico Public Health Association in recognition of her lifetime commitment to public health and social justice issues. Dr. Alegria obtained her B.A. in Psychology from Georgetown University in 1978 and her Ph.D. from Temple University in 1989.

Cheryl Anne Boyce, PhD, is the Assistant Director for Re-engineering the Research Enterprise (RRE), Office of Strategic Coordination (OSC) -The Common Fund, Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI), Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH). In this role, she directs transformative, cross-cutting programs focused on health equity, community-driven research, health communications, and the biomedical workforce. Dr. Boyce was the first permanent Chief of the Implementation Science Branch, Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science (CTRIS) within the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). During 25 years of public health service, she led collaborative programs at the Administration for Children and Families, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH). Award recognitions include the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, NIH Office of the Director, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for her leadership and special duty assignments. Her successful co-edited book on grantsmanship “How to write a successful research grant application: A guide for social and behavioral scientists” (2nd edition) (Pequegnat, Stover, & Boyce (2011)) has over 100,000 downloads to date as a best seller in its category. In her local community, she is a recognized child and family advocate and former President of Safe Shores: The DC Children’s Advocacy Center. Three consecutive mayors have appointed her as a Commissioner and Chair of the DC Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. Dr. Boyce is honored to be an American Psychological Association Fellow in Clinical Psychology.

Andrea L. Dennis, JD, joined the University of Georgia School of Law faculty in 2010 and was appointed to the John Byrd Martin Chair of Law in 2019. She currently serves as the school's associate dean for faculty development. In this capacity, she works closely with the school's professors to promote world-class scholarship, support the pursuit of extramural funding, oversee promotion and tenure matters, and work with the other associate and assistant deans on strategic initiatives. She came to UGA from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where she taught courses in criminal law and procedure, children and the law, and family law. Dennis received the University of Kentucky Alumni Association Great Teacher Award in 2010.

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Previously, Dennis served as an assistant federal public defender in the District of Maryland. She also worked for the Office of the Corporation Counsel prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases on behalf of the District of Columbia. At Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., Dennis practiced corporate and patent litigation and antitrust law as an associate. She has also served as a judicial clerk for Judge Raymond A. Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. In addition to her legal experience, Dennis was a senior associate in the National Office of Job Corps for the U.S. Department of Labor, where she engaged in strategic analysis and planning for national vocational training programs for at-risk youth. Her scholarship explores criminal defense lawyering, race and criminal justice, youth advocacy and the legal socialization of youth, and the cradle-to-prison pipeline. Dennis' book "Rap on Trial: Race, Lyrics and Guilt in America" has received national and international attention, and courts nationwide have cited her research on rap lyrics as criminal evidence. She has also published works in the American Criminal Law Review, the Catholic University Law Review, the Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts, the Criminal Law Bulletin, the Howard Law Journal, the Marquette Law Review, the Nebraska Law Review, the Nevada Law Journal and the Journal of Legal Education. Additionally, she has been quoted in The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and other media outlets about rap lyrics being used as criminal evidence in trials across the country. Dennis earned her B.S. in engineering with a psychology concentration from the University of Maryland and her J.D. from New York University, where she served on the Annual Survey of American Law.

Laura Evans leads National and State Policy for Vibrant Emotional Health to support innovative community programs including the state-of-the-art 988 Crisis and Suicide Lifeline and the Disaster Distress Helpline. In this role, she oversees a portfolio that includes many facets of healthcare policy, including suicide prevention, appropriations, and telecommunications. Under her leadership, Vibrant's public policy footprint has expanded across states, territories, and the federal government to improve access to crisis services, reduce barriers to care, and strengthen the crisis continuum. Laura is proud to have begun her career in the Ohio Legislature.

Anita Everett, MD is the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services. In this role, she provides executive leadership for federal efforts to improve the nation's mental health service systems. Prior to her arrival at SAMHSA, she served as the Section Chief of The Johns Hopkins Bayview Community and General Psychiatry in Baltimore, Maryland. She was on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Bloomberg School of Public Health. At Hopkins, she directed 22 community psychiatry programs that provide a range of services to individuals from

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preschool age to older adults and through a range of programs that include intensive acute services as well as recovery support services for persons with Serious Mental Illnesses. More recently at Hopkins, she has been involved with the leadership of health system behavioral health integration into accountable care structures. Earlier in her career, Dr. Everett served as the Senior Medical Advisor to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. There she worked on the promotion of access to quality services and access to medications in the Medicare prescription drug benefit. From 1999 to 2003 she served as the Inspector General to the Office of the Governor in the Department of Mental Health in Virginia. During this time she completed over 80 inspections of Institutions operated and licensed to provide mental health services in Virginia. She received the Patrick Henry award for outspoken advocacy. Dr. Everett has served on the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Advisory Council. She is active in several professional organizations including the American Psychiatric Association where she has received a commendation for her work in healthcare reform. She is a past president of the Maryland Psychiatric Society and the American Association of Community Psychiatrists. She has been engaged in a number of international projects which have included consultation with the Ministries of Health, Department of Mental Health in Iraq and Afghanistan on the implementation of mental health services in these countries.

Mary Giliberti, JD serves as Chief Public Policy Officer for Mental Health America, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and promoting the overall mental health of all Americans. Ms. Giliberti focuses on federal policy to promote prevention, early intervention and recovery. She previously served for five years as the Chief Executive Officer of The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Ms. Giliberti also was a Section Chief in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she worked on interagency collaborations, health reform, and civil rights regulations. During her 20+ years in the mental health field, Ms. Giliberti also served as Disability Counsel for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and as a senior attorney at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. She clerked for Judge Phyllis Kravitch on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Mary earned her B.A. at Harvard College and her J.D. at Yale Law School.

Howard H. Goldman, MD, PhD, is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. His expertise is in evaluating mental health services and financing programs and policies. Dr. Goldman's recent research has focused on evaluating employment demonstrations for people with severe mental disorders who are connected to the disability programs of the Social Security Administration

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(SSA). He has also been involved in various studies related to early intervention services for individuals experiencing a first episode of psychosis. In the past he served as principal investigator of the study team conducting the Evaluation of the Implementation and Impact of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, sponsored by the government. Dr. Goldman served as the senior scientific editor of the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health from 1997 to 1999, for which he was awarded the Surgeon General's Medallion. During 2002 and 2003, Dr. Goldman was a consultant to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. From 2004 to 2016 he served as editor of *Psychiatric Services*, a mental health services research and policy journal published monthly by the American Psychiatric Association. He has served on the editorial boards of several other journals, including *Health Affairs*, the *American Journal of Psychiatry* and the *Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics*. He is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, having served on its disability policy panel. Dr. Goldman is a member of the NAM, who currently chairs a Standing Committee providing advice to SSA on its disability programs. He has also served as a member or consultant on numerous NASEM consensus committees related to disability policy. Dr. Goldman received joint M.D.-M.P.H. degrees from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in social policy research from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

Brian Sims, MD is a Psychiatrist, working in the behavioral health field for nearly 4 decades. He has worked with diverse populations, including individuals, groups; Military; School Settings; Corrections; Inpatient and outpatient hospital settings; BIPOC, Tribal Nations and LGBTQ, all promoting trauma informed system transformation, healing and recovery. He is passionate about the delivery of culturally responsive practices to all he encounters, including training, teaching and direct care to individuals and groups both nationally and internationally. His work in health equity and disparities, with emphasis on marginalized communities and communities of color have been his focus of attention for the past 15 years, in his present role of Senior Medical Advisor with NASMHPD. His emphasis centers on Connection, Collaboration with subsequent Empowerment.

Robert Otto Valdez, PhD, MHSA was appointed Director of AHRQ in February 2022. He was previously the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Professor Emeritus of Family & Community Medicine and Economics at the University of New Mexico (UNM). He received his Ph.D. from the Pardee RAND Graduate School for Public Policy Studies specializing in studies of healthcare financing and quality of medical care. At the University of Michigan School of Public Health, he was awarded a master's degree in Health Policy & Administration. At Harvard

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University, Dr. Valdez studied in the Department of History and Science specializing in Latin American history and Biochemistry. In 2008, Dr. Valdez was the Founding Executive Director of the RWJF Center for Health Policy at UNM. He previously served as founding Dean at the Drexel University School of Public Health. From 1985 through 1999, he was Professor of Health Services at the UCLA School of Public Health and directed the health services doctoral studies program, the MBA/MPH program in collaboration with the UCLA Anderson School of Business, and served as associate director of the Chicano Studies Research Center. Dr. Valdez started his career as the lead child health researcher for the historic RAND Health Insurance Experiment. Internationally recognized as an expert in health services research, the U.S. healthcare system, and health policy analysis, he has led numerous global healthcare initiatives with the Pan American Health Organization and the University of California. His health promotion and disease prevention work with Univision Communications Corporation, “Salud es Vida: ¡Enterate!” was recognized with journalism’s prestigious Peabody Award. From 1993 through 1997, Dr. Valdez served at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Public Health Service) and simultaneously as Director of Interagency Health Policy (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Prior to joining DHHS in 1993, he served as a Special Senior Advisor to the White House on healthcare reform. In 1998, he served as Special Senior Advisor to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. His public service includes serving as Chairman of the New Mexico Community Foundation, Chairman of the American Hospital Association Foster G McGaw Prize Committee, and Chairman of the Public Health Institute, one of the nation’s largest non-profit public health agencies serving communities across California and internationally.