

Linda Rosenberg

PRESIDENT & CEO, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Linda Rosenberg is a national leader in the development, design, and delivery of mental health and substance use policy and services. Under her leadership, the National Council for Behavioral Health spearheads advocacy, practice improvement, and public education initiatives for 750,000 staff in more than 2,000 healthcare organizations. Rosenberg has helped secure passage of the federal mental health and addiction parity law and played a critical role in ensuring that the Affordable Care Act addresses the needs of individuals with behavioral health disorders. She also introduced Mental Health First Aid in the U.S. and has led the National Council in training approximately 150,000 citizens across the country.

Prior to joining the National Council, Rosenberg served as Senior Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Patrick Kennedy

CO-FOUNDER, ONE MIND FOR RESEARCH

Patrick Kennedy, the co-founder of One Mind for Research, served sixteen years in the U.S. House of Representatives and is predominantly known as the author and lead sponsor of the Mental Health Parity & Addiction Equity Act of 2008. This piece of legislation provides access to mental health treatment to tens of millions of Americans who previously were denied care. Congressman Kennedy has authored and co-sponsored dozens of bills to increase the understanding and treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders, including the National Neurotechnology Initiative Act, the Genomics and Personalized Medicine Act, and the Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act.

He is a winner of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Distinguished Service Award, the Society for Neuroscience Public Service Award, the Autism Society of America Congressional Leadership Award, and the Epilepsy Foundation Public Service Award.

Tom Tarantino

CHIEF POLICY OFFICER, IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA

As Chief Policy Officer, Tom Tarantino provides strategic guidance for and leadership of IAVA's Legislative, Research, and Political Departments. He is responsible for ensuring that veterans' issues remain a priority in the political landscape, and that IAVA's members have a strong voice in D.C. Tom is a former Army Captain who left the service in 2007 after ten years. He returned from Iraq in 2006 after one year of deployment with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Tom served in combat as both a cavalry and mortar platoon leader, and was awarded the Combat Action Badge and Bronze Star.

He is a graduate of the University of California Santa Barbara where he earned a degree in Global Studies and International Relations.

Theresa T. Buchanan

YOUTH INITIATIVES DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Terry joined the staff of the National Military Family Association in September 2009 as Deputy Director, Youth Initiatives, before being promoted to Director of Youth Initiatives in July 2010. She is responsible for management and direction of the Operation Purple® program that includes summer camps for military children of the deployed, family retreats for military families experiencing the challenges of reunion and reintegration following deployment, and specialized family camps for the wounded and their families.

She identifies and promotes various military children and family initiatives and serves as a subject matter expert on issues related to mental health and deployment issues impacting military children and families. Terry earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Sonoma State University and a J.D. from Creighton University School of Law.

Sharon Thomas-Parks

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINER

Sharon Thomas-Parks began her career in behavioral health in 1980 when she co-founded a suicide and crisis intervention center. As a veteran who served three years active duty in the Marine Corps., Thomas-Parks was the first woman to work in the Brig at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

She has been a National Mental Health First Aid Trainer since 2008 and trained her first group of Mental Health First Aid instructors with Betty Kitchener, the founder of Mental Health First Aid. She continues training Mental Health First Aid instructors throughout the United States while collaborating with local government and non-governmental organizations to increase mental health literacy and promote safe and caring environments within her own community.

M. Elizabeth Reardon

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINER

Liz Reardon has worked with a wide variety of consumers, providers, and policymakers as a facilitator and trainer with more than thirty years of health care experience. As the Managed Care Director for Vermont Medicaid, she directed the Vermont Community Depression Initiative, which facilitated primary care and community mental health partnerships to serve low-income Vermont residents, with a particular emphasis on Veterans. In 2000, she was appointed by Governor Howard Dean to the Legislative Commission on Psychological Trauma, and served on the task force that implemented the Commission's recommendations in Vermont's Agency of Human Services.

She has been a National Mental Health First Aid Trainer since 2008. She holds a Master of Public Health from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University.

Tousha Barnes

VETERAN FIRST AIDER

Tousha Barnes is a decorated military veteran who was honorably discharged from the United States Army in January of 2014 after eight years of service. Assigned to the 782d Brigade Support Battalion, stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Barnes served as a member of the 82nd Airborne as a Spc (E-4) 88M Motor Transport Operator. While deployed in Afghanistan, she was responsible for driving convoys and providing security to fellow troops.

In her current role, Barnes serves as a Volunteer Coordinator for the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN). MVPN provides peer to peer support groups and additional resources to veterans, soldiers and their family members. Barnes covers 30 counties for the Texas Panhandle Region of MVPN. She holds a Bachelor of Science from West Texas A&M University and is the proud Mom of two young boys, Braxton, age six, and Bryson, age three.