

This spring, OMH recognized the work of five individuals and organizations as recipients of the annual Commissioner's Community Care Awards.

Given during May – Mental Health Awareness Month – these awards recognize the extraordinary achievements of individuals and organizations that have furthered the OMH mission and made a positive contribution to the mental health system in their communities.

"OMH has many great partners who are helping us strengthen our state and local mental health care system by increasing access to community-based services and improving health outcomes for consumers," said Commissioner **Ann Sullivan, MD**. "We truly appreciate their work, vision, values, and the role they play in helping us to fulfill our mission."

This year's recipients:

- **The Child Center of NY** - A powerful presence in New York City, reaching more than 35,000 children each year. Their work gives these children and their families the skills and emotional support necessary to build healthy, successful lives. The Child Center operates behavioral health, early childhood education, health homes and integrated care, youth prevention and family support, and youth development services throughout New York City and on Long Island. The Center was recognized for partnering with OMH on the OnTrack NY program, a nationally recognized evidence-based team approach that works with youth who have been recently diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder.

- **Michael Devery** - Chief Quality Officer at Brunswick Hospital Center. Devery

Continued on the **next page**



Traci Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer of The Child Center (left), receives the organization's Community Cares Award from Commissioner **Ann Sullivan, MD**.



Staff from OMH's Long Island Field Office (LIFO) visited Brunswick Hospital Center in Amityville to present the OMH Community Care Award to **Michael Devery**, the hospital's Chief Quality Officer. From left, standing: **Maryann Braithwaite**, LIFO Director for Children and Youth Services; **Dr. Mini Singh**, Brunswick Executive Vice-President; **Dr. Abid Kahn**, Brunswick Clinical Director; **Dr. Amar Jit Singh**, Brunswick President; **Jaime Pita**, Technical Assistance Liaison for Brunswick; and **Erin Rostron**, LIFO Licensing Director. Seated, from left: **Dr. David Close**, LIFO Deputy Director; **Michael Devery**; and **Martha Carlin**, LIFO Director.

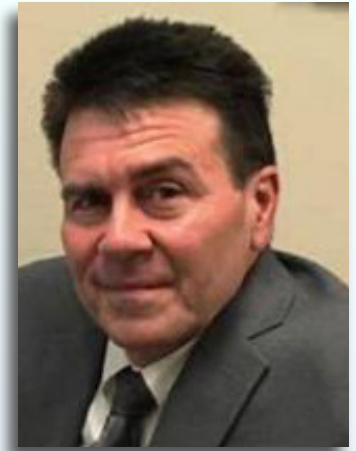
Continued from the **previous page**

and his team were cited for their collaboration with OMH and the LIFO to secure treatment for vulnerable and challenging patients.

- **Bernadette Kingham-Bez** - Executive Director of St. Vincent’s Hospital Westchester and Senior Vice President of Saint Joseph’s Medical Center in Yonkers. Prior to assuming her current role in 2009, Ms. Kingham-Bez served as a Senior Vice President at Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers where her responsibilities included strategic planning, external affairs and community health outreach.
- **Jay Ulrich** - Director of Services for St. Lawrence County and Director of the County Mental Health Clinic. Mr. Ulrich has been in the human services field for over 30 years.
- **Wayne Behavioral Health Network** - Under the direction of **James M. Haitz**, the network currently operates 29 school based mental health satellite clinics in all 11 School Districts in Wayne County. As the COVID pandemic surged in the Spring of 2020, the network quickly implemented tele-mental health services in all clinics, and made extra efforts to be sure that families, students and school personnel were made aware that mental health services were available all through the epidemic. During the summer recess break staff contacted each school district superintendent to coordinate with them on the delivery of services and how to best address the needs of children as the new school year began. All during the pandemic network offices remained staffed and continued to provide mental health and addiction services. =



Bernadette Kingham-Bez



Jay Ulrich





James M. Haitz

SAVE THE DATE

AIM

FOR

ZERO SUICIDES

New York State Office of Mental Health’s Suicide Prevention Center of New York (SPCNY) will be hosting a suicide prevention symposium titled **“AIM for Zero: Suicide Care is Healthcare.”** This three-day, virtual symposium will bring together the leading suicide prevention experts to discuss the impact and importance of the Zero Suicide framework in healthcare systems, the importance of equity and inclusivity, and strategies for high impact healthcare outcomes, while highlighting cutting edge tools for implementation.

The first 500 registered attendees will receive a complimentary AIM For Zero gift package.

DAY I	DAY II	DAY III
Zero Suicide in Healthcare Tuesday, September 28 8:30am-12:30pm	Equity, Culture Responsiveness & Suicide Prevention in Healthcare Wednesday, September 29 8:30am-12:30pm	Going from Good to Great in Suicide Care Thursday, September 30 8:30am-12:30pm



NY Project Hope

Coping with COVID

The NY Project Hope COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline is available for people who are experiencing anxiety, stress and depression during the Coronavirus emergency. Call **1-844-863-9314** for free and confidential support.