

Mental Health Association  
of Monmouth County

An Affiliate of



106 Apple Street, Suite 110  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

[www.mentalhealthmonmouth.org](http://www.mentalhealthmonmouth.org)

Anthony Merklinger  
(732) 542-6422 ext. 101  
mha@mentalhealthmonmouth.org

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## **MHA CHILD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE FINDS PANDEMIC SOLUTIONS WITH NEW OPEN SPACE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

TINTON FALLS, NJ—The Mental Health Association of Monmouth County’s Child Advocacy Committee will host its first Open Space virtual conference, *Pandemic Potential: Moving from Surviving to Thriving*, on Wednesday, March 31, via Zoom. The conference brings together mental health professionals, policy makers, advocates, educators, parents and youth to create solutions for the emotional, social and academic challenges posed by COVID-19.

The Open Space format, facilitated by QiQoChat—a social wrapper around Zoom—replicates the in-person conference experience and allows participants to create discussion topics in lieu of formal presentations. Each attendee will receive a personalized link to access the platform and pre-event open house beginning March 22.

“This convening will be an ‘unconference,’” says Child Advocacy Committee Member Chuni Li. “Unlike traditional conferences, there are no expert speakers; and participants create the agenda. We are leveraging technologies to build a fun and safe virtual space for people to connect and exchange on matters they are passionate about.”

“While we are all experiencing the pandemic, our experiences are not the same,” says MHA Board Member and event host, Wendy Sefcik. “Participants will have the opportunity to collaborate and share their struggles and interests with others to find solutions, providing much-needed support for youth and families.”

*Pandemic Potential* is a free event sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, CPC Behavioral Healthcare, Family Based Services Association of New Jersey, Inc., Grunin Foundation, Monmouth Cares, Inc., and the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3pVRLVF>.

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Established in 1950, the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County is an affiliate of the national nonprofit Mental Health America. Our professional staff has been on the forefront of creating a meaningful system of mental health care that strategically focuses on eliminating social barriers and mental health discrimination. With over 15 free programs and services, we create healthy communities of the future.