

Mental Health Association
of Monmouth County
An Affiliate of



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MHA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND NAMES NEW OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEADERSHIP

TINTON FALLS, NJ—On Tuesday, June 8, the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County announced at its Annual Dinner the appointments of Mike Bland, William Garces, and Marissa Fornicola to its Operations Board of Directors, with Amy McDonagh serving as the new Co-Chair and Wendy Sefcik as the new Vice Chair. The appointments support MHA’s commitment to board representation and outreach to underserved populations.

“We’re pleased to welcome candidates with extensive backgrounds in public service and a passion for mental health to our Operations Board of Directors,” says Wendy DePedro, President & CEO of the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County. “We look forward to working with them as we continue to improve access to quality services in Monmouth County.”

The new board members began their terms effective June 8, 2021.

- Mike Bland is the National Director – Leaders of Color for Education Reform Now, an advocacy organization dedicated to serving low-income students and students of color.
- William Garces is a founder and managing partner of Garces, Grabler & LeBrocq, a New Jersey-based legal firm with an office dedicated to serving the Latinx community.
- Marissa Fornicola is the District Supervisor of Intervention and Referral Services for the Long Branch School District.

Amy McDonagh joined the Operations Board of Directors in February 2020 and fills the Co-Chair vacancy left by Tom Sember, who stepped down to become the Operations Board of Directors Treasurer. Mr. Sember served as the Board President and Co-Chair for 13 years.

“I am delighted to begin this new chapter at MHA,” says Amy McDonagh. “On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank Mr. Schember for his tireless commitment and years of service.”

Ms. Sefcik, the Co-Chair of the NJ Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council (NJYSPAC) and member of MHA’s Child Advocacy Committee (CAC), was nominated to the Operations Board of Directors in September 2020.

MHA’s Board of Directors also welcomed Brian Rice, President of Rice Wealth Management, to its Foundation Board in February 2020. In addition to Mr. Rice’s professional career as an investment advisor, he operates a youth fishing camp affiliated with New Jersey’s “Hooked On Fishing-Not On Drugs” program, which provides youth with healthy recreational activities.

For more information about the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County’s Board of Directors, visit www.mentalhealthmonmouth.org.

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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.