

MICHAEL STOLTZ

Association for Mental Health and Wellness



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WHO's WHO
in Not-for-Profits

Association for Mental Health and Wellness CEO Michael Stoltz, LCSW, has been leading the agency since 1990 — first as executive director of the predecessor organization, Clubhouse of Suffolk, and then as CEO of Association for Mental Health and Wellness (MHAW) since 2014. MHAW provides programs, services, and advocacy for more than 3,000 people annually facing mental health challenges with an enhanced focus on serving military Veterans with PTSD and other battle-related brain injuries.

In collaboration with the Mental Health Association of Nassau County, the Association for Mental Health and Wellness coordinates dozens of anti-stigma events and workshops on Long Island that mark National Mental Health Awareness Week, which this year is Sunday, October 2 through Saturday, October 8.

“With mental health reform occupying a significant place in the national political dialogue about health and wellness, it is more important than ever that people understand what mental health distress and disabilities are and aren’t so we can best advocate for access to the best practices of contemporary mental healthcare,” Stoltz said.

“Through a range of diverse activities hosted by organizations involved in healthcare, the arts, Veterans services, literacy, addictions, and legal services, among others, our goal for Mental Health Awareness Week is to promote a broader understanding through activities and events that can stimulate Island-wide community dialogues,” he said.

A complete Mental Health Awareness Week calendar will be posted on the Mental Health Awareness Week website, he noted.

“We, again, extend an invitation not only to those impacted by the challenges of mental health distress, trauma, and psychiatric disability, but to all Long Islanders so people can better access the services that they, or a loved one, needs,” Stoltz said.

For more information about participating in the Mental Health Awareness Week including sponsorship opportunities, Stoltz encourages people to call MHAW.

Recognized as a leader in the field of mental health, Stoltz was recently named to the board the Mental Health Association of New York State. He is past president of the

New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services and was honored with the 1998 Irvin Rutman Award for Executive Director of the Year from the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association.

He is a frequent keynote speaker and panelist at mental health conferences addressing topics such as leadership, management, and system transformation.

Stoltz is also a past chair of the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island, a member of Suffolk’s Welfare to Work Commission, and a past president of the Ronkonkoma Rotary, where he has been an active 20-year member and was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Stoltz earned a master’s degree in social work from Adelphi University, where he has served as an adjunct professor teaching social welfare policy and human service management. He maintains a private practice along with his wife, Robin, also a Social Worker, in Smithtown.

The Association for Mental Health and Wellness is the result of the 2014 merger of three organizations: Clubhouse of Suffolk, Suffolk County United Veterans, and the Mental Health Association in Suffolk County, founded in 1955.

MHAW programs help individuals overcome the impact of mental health illnesses, disabilities, and trauma to achieve goals of education, employment, social connection, housing, community involvement, and overall wellness. The agency also provides community and professional education for mental health providers through ongoing workshops and seminars.

A range of peer-led support services include the highly-successful Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project. Through SCUUV, the agency offers a broad range of services delivered by trained veterans and family members to assist with outreach, crisis prevention and diversion, social and employment supports, housing and homeless assistance, and PTSD peer support.

MHAW is committed to the core practice values of empowerment, hope, opportunity, and cultural competence. The agency takes a “whole person” perspective with an enriched understanding of the social and economic conditions that contribute to physical and mental health and substance abuse. ♦