

34th Annual Luncheon

featuring the Gold Key Awards

Friday, November 17, 2023

Classics V Banquet & Conference Center

2425 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst, NY

GREETINGS!



Hello, friends! On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of your Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium, I welcome you to our 34th Annual Awards Luncheon! All of us are delighted to come together to proclaim with one voice that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover! We will celebrate the many accomplishments of the last year and the work of four impressive individuals in particular. We'll enjoy a presentation from one of our colleagues in our field and a nice meal with friends old and new. Congratulations to all of us for the innumerable people our work impacted in 2023! Let's all take a minute to take stock of that impact as we look forward to 2024! Enjoy!

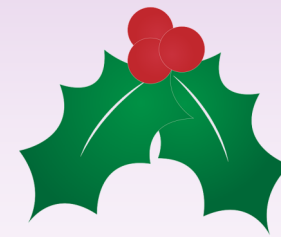
Matt

Matthew G. Smith
Executive Director, Preventionfocus, Inc.
2023 Board Chair, WNYCDC



www.wnycdc.com

**The Western New York
Chemical Dependency
Consortium
wishes all a wonderful and
safe holiday season and a
healthy 2024!**





WNYCDC MEMBER AGENCIES 2023

Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.

Beacon Center

Best Self Behavioral Health

Brooks-TLC Hospital Systems

CASA-Trinity

Catholic Charities

Cazenovia Recovery Systems

Chautauqua County Mental Hygiene

Endeavor Health Services

Erie County Medical Center

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Horizon Health Services

Margaret A. Stutzman Addiction Treatment Center

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Prevention Council of Erie County, Inc.

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Prevention Works, Inc.

Promesa

Restoration Society

Spectrum Human Services

UConnect Care Behavioral Health

Value Network of Western New York

Western New York Independent Living

Western New York United Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse

PROGRAM

Welcome & Introductions

Matt Smith
Executive Director, Preventionfocus, Inc.
Board Chair, WNYCDC

Election of WNYCDC Board Officers 2023

Chair—Matt Smith
Vice Chair—Jennifer Seib
Secretary—Beth Anzalone
Treasurer—William Penman
Treatment Chair—Jodie Altman
Prevention Chair—Sheila Harding
Public Policy Chair—Edward Cichon

Recognition of Newly Credentialed Associates

Gold Key Award Presentation

Douglas Bisher, WNY Independent Living
Khristopher Decker, Evergreen Health
Rick Laude, Preventionfocus, Inc.
Daniel Galvin, Spectrum Health and Human Services

Keynote Presentation

Ruth Riddick
"What's it All About?" Centering Recovery

Closing Remarks

Matt Smith



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Ruth Riddick

“What’s it All About? Centering Recovery



Ruth Riddick is a Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC 2015) with a private coaching, training and mentoring practice at *Sobriety Together* (founded 2004). She is CCAR designated Recovery Coach Professional (RCP 2016) and RCP/facilitator (from 2022).

She serves as a Council member of the International Association of Recovery Coach Professionals (from 2020) and on the Board of the New York Association of Treatment Court Professionals (from 2022).

Ruth Riddick is a two-time Irish America Healthcare honoree and multiple awardee at Caron Treatment Centers, where she has volunteered for nearly two decades. Most recently honored by In His Name Outreach (2022) and Samaritan-PARC (2021), she serves as a subject matter expert to the SAMHSA-funded Opioid Response Network (from 2017), and the Peer Recovery Center of Excellence (from 2021).

She also serves as program manager and founder member of the ASAP-New York Certification Board Trainer Registry (2020). She co-developed ASAP-Peer Workforce Initiative’s CRPA-Family (2019), CRPA-Youth (forthcoming) and Veteran Supported Recovery certification training programs (2021), and also offers consultation to the ASAP-NYCB ethics and nominating committees.

Find her at [linkedin.com/in/ruthriddick](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ruthriddick); [facebook.com/missruthriddick](https://www.facebook.com/missruthriddick)



WNYCDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

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CASA-Trinity

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Horizon Health Services

Jacqueline West
Beacon Center

Erin Zych
WNY Independent Living

WNYCDC GOLD KEY AWARDS 2023

Daniel Galvin, Spectrum Health and Human Services



Daniel Galvin, MSW, Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA), has been employed with Spectrum Health and Human Services since June of 2019. He began his career with the agency as a Peer Support Specialist under the Comprehensive Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). Dan embraced his role and excelled in connecting with those individuals referred to him for peer services. He later transitioned to the Senior Peer, supervising a team of peer specialists within the agency while continuing his direct service to clients. In August 2022, Dan secured a position as the Director of Peer Services and Integration. Dan's

unique lived experience of recovery from addiction and progression from homelessness to completing his Master's degree in Social Work is a celebration of the spirit of recovery he brings to his work every day. Dan's peaceful approach has truly shifted Spectrum Health's leadership team to be better, more person-centered, and more trauma-informed. Dan possesses a remarkable quality of sharing his lived experience in a way that helps engage and motivate. It is easy to see Dan's empathy and compassion, not through oversharing his experiences but in offering reflective feedback to people that creates a sense of safety and fellowship. He shares in a way that is quietly courageous and never intrusive. His creative style of peer counseling has helped numerous individuals define their own goals for recovery and supported them to carry them out.

Dan has taken on a leadership role in helping to develop and launch a unique community collaboration between ROME, WNY Independent Living, and Spectrum at the Kirsten Vincent Respite and Recovery Center. This center offers respite and peer crisis counseling for people to divert from CPEP admissions. His lived experience and clinical training have been valuable in developing this opportunity to support members of our community who are in crisis.

Dan truly embodies the spirit of peer services and recovery. He has made a tremendous impact on the lives of his clients and the peer team he supervises, as well as the overall culture of Spectrum Health.



WNYCDC GOLD KEY AWARDS 2023

Douglas Bisher, WNY Independent Living



WNYIL's Douglas "Doggie" Bisher is a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) for the A2A (Addict2Addict) Team in Niagara County. In that role, he provides recovery coaching, advocacy, trainings, outreach, and education to the community. Colleagues say Doug consistently exhibits that he is an overachiever without even knowing it. His standards are naturally high in all areas of his job and he embodies the Peer Philosophy in all he does. Doug wears his heart on his sleeve when he speaks and all are moved as he shares his experiences from having over seven years of sustained recovery from a long battle of almost ten years of active and progressive addiction.

Whether it be speaking at Horizon Villages, to the Rehabilitation Center of Niagara, to the Buffalo Police Department Training Academy, to Lockport City Court, Doug routinely demonstrates the special supports that peers can provide for individuals seeking recovery or who still need some help while maintaining recovery.

Doug was able to take his love of cornhole and combine it with recovery in a program he created. "Tossing and Testimonies" is a corn hole tournament that is brought into treatment facilities throughout Erie and Niagara Counties that provide a glimpse and example of how to have fun, socialize, and be present in one's recovery. The first ever tournament was held at Horizon Villages for one of the men's residences and it was a big hit. Within a week ILNC A2A was being contacted by other facilities to do more. "Tossing and Testimonies" was noticed by FOR-NY (Friends of Recovery of New York) and ILNC A2A was asked to present the program at the most recent Recovery Conference in Saratoga Springs this past October. Since that presentation, the interest has grown even further from facilities downstate, upstate, southern tier, and central region who have emailed or called about organizing their own tournaments.

Doug is constantly thinking about how to help others, how to give back to the community, and how to spread the message of hope to those who are still struggling. He has devoted many hours to assisting others on their journeys, all while being a supporting father and a loving husband.



WNYCDC GOLD KEY AWARDS 2023

Khristopher Decker, Evergreen Health



Khristopher Decker, vice president of behavioral health at Evergreen Health and faculty member at the University at Buffalo, has been a leader in the field of harm reduction for 25 years. Since 1998, Khris has expanded access to affirming services for diverse and marginalized communities of people who use drugs, while helping other professionals develop their careers in harm reduction and substance user health care.

Khris currently serves as the vice president of behavioral health at Evergreen Health, a non-profit healthcare organization that provides medical, supportive and behavioral health services to underserved communities, including people living with HIV, LGBTQ+ individuals and those with mental health and substance use needs. Since 2019, Khris has served as the executive in charge of Evergreen's Center for Behavioral Health and has led several large projects. In 2022, he oversaw the addition of a drop-in center that offers free services to people who use drugs, including shower, laundry, nutrition and linkage to harm reduction and drug user health services. In 2020, he led Evergreen's outpatient mental health clinic's licensing by the Office of Mental Health. In 2021, he led the expansion of the Center for Behavioral Health's mental health office, opening up counseling services to up to 500 new patients. In 2019, Khris created a role for and hired Evergreen's first Certified Recovery Peer Advocate and expanded the Evergreen substance use program to offer medication assisted treatment services without counseling to enhance recovery and overdose protection for patients who aren't ready for counseling.

In addition to his position at Evergreen, Khris is also currently a part-time faculty member at the University at Buffalo's (UB) Graduate School of Social Work, where he develops and delivers multiple courses to Master's in Social Work candidates pursuing careers in behavioral health and harm reduction.

His career has taken him from Gay & Lesbian Youth Services to Horizon Health and to Spectrum Health and Human Services. In addition, he has volunteered his time and expertise to educate fellow professionals in the substance use and harm reduction field at many organizations. Khris is a published article contributor and sought-after speaker. He uses these opportunities to publicly advocate for harm reduction and for destigmatizing issues surrounding substance use and mental health.



WNYCDC GOLD KEY AWARDS 2023

Rick Laude, Preventionfocus, Inc.



Rick Laude has worked in the SUD prevention field for over 22 years. All of those years have been with Preventionfocus. Rick's title is currently Senior Prevention Specialist. In that role, Rick is responsible for training new staff, maintaining all curriculum and helping with program scheduling, while supervising some staff and providing a full load of direct service in his assigned schools. Throughout his career, Rick has remained true to one of his favorite catch phrases, "I'm here to help." Whether it's helping a rookie prevention specialist handle a troublesome classroom situation or scheduling dilemma or taking an extra shift at the Erie County Fair or some grass roots coalition event, Rick is always willing. Whether it's moving furniture for an office renovation or transporting the Preventionfocus traveling display to a shopping mall or helping with the office copier or laminator, or filling out a stat form, Rick has always been everyone's "go to guy." His puppet work delivering the Mendez Foundation's "Too Good for Violence" curriculum is legendary. His voice for Carmen the Cat is his take on Kathy Griffin doing an impression of Cher and it leaves students and faculty rolling in the aisles of every classroom he does. In June, the Charter School for Applied Technologies (CSAT) made a school-wide project of doing a thank you video for him that ran 25 minutes because no classroom teacher wanted to be left out. His passion and enthusiasm for our work is as infectious today as it was on his first day at Preventionfocus. Although he is not quite 102 years old, as he likes to claim, his energy is remarkable for a person who has done this work for as long as he has. His pre and post testing results in his classrooms have been stellar year in and year out. For all of these reasons, shadowing Rick is a requirement for all new hires at the agency. Dozens of colleagues, hundreds of teachers, and thousands of students who have ever met Rick Laude over the years are definitely better for having the experience.

