Partial list of Workshop Titles and Presenters*

Click links below for course descriptions, presenter bios and additional information.

“People with Lived Experience as First Responders: Successes and Challenges” – Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law - Jalyn Radziminski, Vania Mendoza; e.v. yost, esq., and Lewis Bossing, Esq.

“When State Courts Fail: The Use of Habeas Corpus to Vindicate Constitutional Rights” – Dennis Feld, J.D., and Arthur Baer, J.D.

“Investigations into Serious Incidents (Seclusion and Restraint)” – Aaryce Hayes, L.C.S.W. This presentation has Part I and Part II, and encompasses two workshop time slots.

“Mental health epidemic or normal response to abnormal circumstances: Mental pain in context” – Noël Hunter, Psy.D.

“Is There A Role for Supported Decision-Making for People with Mental Health Histories?” – Nina Loewenstein, J.D., and Lisa Volpe, J.D.

“Advocacy, Activism, & Peer Support through an Anti-Oppression Lens” -- Ebony Flint

“The Impact of Contributing the Client Voice North of the Border: 20 years of Unprecedented Intervention by Psych Survivors in Precedent Setting Cases in Canada’s Top Court” – Anita Szigeti, J.D., Anita Szigeti Advocates

“Providing Effective Legal Representation to Individuals Facing Involuntary Hospitalization” – Bill Brooks, J.D., Center for Justice, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties

“Private Equity Investment in Behavioral Health Facilities: What It Means and How We Combat It” – Cory Bernstein, J.D., Disability Rights New Jersey; Eileen O’Grady, Research & Campaign Manager, Private Equity Stakeholder Project

“Alternatives to Guardianship” -- Brandon Booth, Disability Rights South Dakota

“Coercion Not Care: California’s New and Misguided Attempt To Address Mental Illness Through Coerced Treatment” – Brian Dimmick, J.D.

“Round Up the Usual Suspects: The Use of Involuntary Out Patient Treatment to “Fight Crime” and the Rights of Patients To Challenge such Treatment” -- Dennis B. Feld, J.D., and Arthur A. Baer, J.D.

“Compassionate Activism Training” – Mitzi Sky, Advocacy Unlimited
“The Airing of Grievances of Discrimination in Public School Settings” – Martin Cirkiel, J.D., L.M.S.W.-AP; Robin Petty, L.M.S.W.

“Should Danger to Self Statutes be Repealed and Replaced by Capacity Evaluations? A Discussion between a Psychiatrist and a Person with Lived Experience” – Paul Acker, The Housing Collective, and Leigh Nathan, M.D.

“Policing Mental Health in Our Schools and On Our Streets” – Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Sarah Yousuf, J.D., Phillip Kassel, J.D., Ivy Moody, J.D., and Matt Cregor, J.D.

“Accessible Yoga – Yoga for All (Including Attorneys)” – Virginia Knowlton-Marcus, J.D., Disability Rights North Carolina

“Non-coercive approaches to difficult situations - drawing on our own experiences and resources - through the lens of Intentional Peer Support” – Chris Hansen


“Stop the Shock—The Judge Rotenberg Center and Aversive Interventions” -- Robyn Linscott

“Digital and Technology Rights in Psychiatric Care” – Ann Kasper, M.A., P.S.S.

“For Life” – Film presentation of this mini-opera. Composer Dawn Sonntag, D.M.A., and Kermit Cole, filmmaker, co-founding editor, Mad In America

“A Discussion of Recent Efforts to Remove Police from Mental Health Emergency Calls through Litigation, as well As On-Going Legislative and Community Advocacy for Establishment of Peer-Led Crisis Response Systems” - Ruth Lowenkron, Esq., and Marinda van Dalen, J.D., of the Disability Justice Program at the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest; an organizational plaintiff in the litigation (TBD); and a Peer Advocate (TBD)

"The Culture of Commoditization" -- Kristina Kapp and Shawn Terrell

Coerced Treatment, New Challenges, New Responses: NARPA’s Treatment Over Objection Working Group --- A public meeting to discuss NARPA’s Treatment Over Objection Committee and its activities, including a recent national survey regarding forced treatment -- Arthur Baer, J.D.

Link to Registration form, hotel information, and for details about the Pre-Conference Institute
For PAIMI Council Members:
“PAIMI Councils as Leaders for Systemic Reform”

Keynote presentations →
Keynote Presentations:

Rob Wipond
Investigative Journalist; Author of Your Consent Is Not Required: The Rise in Psychiatric Detentions, Forced Treatment, and Abusive Guardianships
“911 and 988: Both Help and Horror on Everyone’s Speed Dial”

Vesper Moore
Indigenous Political Activist, Leader, Author, Trainer and Educator
“Reimagining Crisis Response in a Culture of Surveillance”

Ruth Lowenkron
Director, Disability Justice Program, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
“Mental Health Services vs. Mental Health Crises”

Deborah Dorfman
Executive Director, Disability Rights Connecticut
“Exercising Autonomy, Dignity and Choice: The Role of Supported Decision-Making for People with Psychiatric Diagnoses”

Robert Dinerstein
Professor of Law and Director of the Disability Rights Law Clinic, American University Washington College of Law
“Significant Developments in Mental Health Law – 2022” -- NARPA’s much anticipated annual update on recent cases affecting disability rights/mental health law.

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Presentations, presenters, and scheduled times are subject to change.

Link to the Conference Program here.

Link to the Full Conference Schedule here.

Link to the Conference Flyer and Registration form here.

Note: Upon registration, all registrants attending any face-to-face conference activities agree to show Proof of Vaccination and also agree to abide by posted rules regarding safety protocols, including masking and/or social distancing.