

# ACMHA The College for Behavioral Health Leadership

CULTIVATING LEADERS  
FOSTERING INNOVATION

## What is ACMHA?

ACMHA: The College for Behavioral Health Leadership has a proven record of demonstrating the vision to pinpoint cutting edge issues and support the development of innovative strategies to move the field. ACMHA accomplishes this by connecting a diverse group of behavioral health stakeholders and nurturing their leadership. Founded in 1979, ACMHA's work has yielded numerous achievements and is focused on equipping behavioral health leaders for a field that is rapidly changing in extraordinary times. In this role, ACMHA is increasingly recognized as the premier think tank for behavioral health innovations.

The ACMHA membership mirrors the fluid nature of the field, coming from public and private administrators of services; national, state, and county government; mental health and addiction recovery professional organizations; consumer and family advocacy organizations; the provider treatment community; managed behavioral healthcare organizations; research and academia; insurers; and other stakeholders.

ACMHA's prestigious professional group of preeminent thinkers and innovators continuously drives behavioral health forward. Our continuing role as an objective convener of people and ideas is essential to improving behavioral health policy and practice.

## What Our Members Say:

ACMHA features a membership comprised of executive leadership in the behavioral health industry who are committed to science, passionate about whole health, and work at business strategies to furnish pathways to wellness in America. Coming from the addiction recovery community which shares these values and goals, I am energized by our programs and our fellowship. We are uniquely focused on the "how" of integrated health and the business case for linking wellness of mind and spirit with wellness of the body. I know I am challenged to my best thinking and actions by my ACMHA participation and believe this is a place my contributions to our common endeavor are welcomed.

Johnny W. Allem, MA  
*Johnny W. Allem Consulting*

Joining ACMHA has allowed me the opportunity to meet and foster meaningful dialogue with both established and emerging leaders in the field. The College provides a unique opportunity to engage thought leaders and others in important discussions on how we continually improve the policies and practice of delivering quality mental health and substance use services.

Laura Galbreath, MPP  
*National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare*

As a policy maker, ACMHA has been critical in my professional development. If there were only one event that I could attend during the year, it would be the ACMHA Summit. It is important for me to be on top of the emerging issues in the field and to know that the leadership and discussion around them include a focus on cultural diversity and an attention to health disparities. Because of the small, intimate nature of the annual Summit and the membership, I am able to spend quality time and develop relationships with top leaders in the field who are always willing to help me think through complex issues.

Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD  
*Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services*

I discovered ACMHA and the Summit purely by accident... I was relatively new to consumer advocacy and had become used to the frustration of being treated as 'just a consumer.' This changed at the Summit — I was welcomed as a peer and an equal by everyone with whom I came in contact that year and this collegiality has never changed since. I credit much of where I am in my professional life and in my personal recovery to the support I have received from my fellow members of ACMHA.

Deborah Fickling, BS  
*NM Human Services Department*

## Why ACMHA?

**Access.** Membership in ACMHA provides connections with behavioral health leaders that have sponsored and led innovations across the US. Join them to shape future changes in behavioral health.

**The ACMHA Summit.** Fertile ground for the exchange of ideas, the Summit serves as the incubator for national changes that address core issues challenging the mental health and addiction recovery field.

**Leadership.** ACMHA supports emerging leaders, offers a mentorship program, and provides opportunities for growth and change at the individual and organization level for all leaders, regardless of length of service.

**Networking.** Through discussion calls focused on policy and practice, informal dinners across the country, a listserv, the ACMHA newsletter, inspirational Armchair Reflections, and webinars presented by field experts, members have the opportunity to learn from and with the best thinkers in the field.

**Connections.** Members tell us this is the one place in their professional lives where individuals from all sectors of behavioral health work together to create change on substantive issues.

## Additional Benefits

- Access to webinars hosted by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare at no cost.
- Annual subscription to *Behavioral Healthcare* at no charge.
- Opportunity to purchase *Mental Health Weekly* and/or *Alcohol & Drug Abuse Weekly* at significantly reduced rates.
- Access to contact information through the ACMHA member directory.
- BYOCC (Bring Your Own Credit Card) lunches and dinners across the country hosted by ACMHA colleagues.

## ACMHA Vision

ACMHA seeks to be the premier forum for the exchange of new policy ideas that contribute to improvement in the lives of people with mental health and substance use conditions and the systems that provide treatment and prevention services.

## ACMHA Mission

The mission of the College is to be a neutral convener of diverse senior and emerging leaders concerned with mental health and substance use from across systems to:

- Identify and address existing controversy,
- Support emerging consensus through cross discipline dialogues,
- Promote best practices,
- Broker ideas that contribute to the evolution of behavioral health,
- Promote leadership development and succession, and
- Provide education, networking, and other opportunities that enrich its members.

To apply for membership:  
[www.acmha.org/joinnow.cfm](http://www.acmha.org/joinnow.cfm)

For more information:

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