



**FLORIDA  
COUNCIL**

for Community Mental Health

2018

**Awards**

## ■ Professional of the Year Award

The Florida Council's Professional of the Year awards recognize individuals whose commitment and professionalism set a standard for others to emulate. These individuals have made outstanding contributions to the people they serve and to their agencies, developed innovative ways to improve service delivery, and contributed to the well-being of their communities.

- The Supervisor/Administrator of the Year award recognizes outstanding managerial staff.
- The Direct Service Provider of the Year award recognizes outstanding behavioral health clinicians.
- The Peer Specialist award recognizes outstanding employees with lived experience and in recovery of a mental health or substance use condition.



## Supervisor/Administrator of the Year

### Beverly Belli

**Children's Services Administrator  
David Lawrence Center**

For over 30 years, Beverly Belli has been a tireless advocate for individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Employees who report to her frequently share that she is "the best supervisor they have ever had". Beverly has been recognized as a leader due to her tireless efforts to promote community collaboration, program excellence, and incorporation of evidence-based strategies for enhancing outcomes, especially with individuals receiving treatment in a community setting. She is a passionate community educator, volunteering frequently to provide trainings on a wide variety of topics including medication-assisted treatment, signs and symptoms of mental illness/substance use disorders, as well as education on the biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment process to local judges and attorneys.

## ■ Fellows Award

Since 1979, the Florida Council for Community Mental Health has conferred the designation of "Fellow" to extraordinary individuals in our field who have made unique, significant and sustained contributions to their organizations, to our membership and to the continuum of behavioral health care in Florida. These individuals are chosen by their peers in recognition of their professional achievements, their commitment to improving the system of care and their leadership among other professionals, policymakers and elected officials.



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## **Direct Service Provider of the Year**

# **Stacy Lewis**

**Foster Parent Licensing Supervisor  
Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health**

Stacy has gone above and beyond to ensure local children are protected, nurtured and prioritized – whether through reunification with their families or finding the perfect therapeutic foster family to care for children with serious emotional disturbances and behavioral problems due to severe trauma.

Stacy's life forever changed when she met Daniel - a little boy with big blue eyes, a huge smile and a head full of curls. What captured her heart and calling to serve in a different capacity, was her direct observation of how trauma had impacted this young child. Born addicted to drugs and experiencing night terrors so intense he often awoke screaming, Stacy knew she wanted to do all she could to help so she became his foster parent. For several years, she provided the opportunity for Daniel to live in a nurturing family environment and to provide the support needed for him to heal and develop as a happy young boy. Eventually Daniel was adopted by a family member, and it was Stacy who selflessly supported this relationship and facilitated a successful bond among Daniel and his family.



## **Peer Specialist of the Year**

# **D'Tara Rollins**

**Certified Peer Specialist  
Life Management Center of Northwest Florida**

D'Tara came into Life Management Center's EPIC Team as a Peer Specialist with no previous clinical care training, but she did bring a lifetime of experiential education and a contagious enthusiasm to the job. She has worked to gain her certification as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, has taken on a role with the local NAMI group as an active board member, and is a co-facilitator for the NAMI Connections Program. She exudes an abundance of energy, a genuine acceptance of others no matter where he or she may be in recovery, and a unique ability to connect with both program staff and participants.

D'Tara has spoken at community events to promote the recovery possibilities associated with life management's first-episode recovery program, facilitates a Peer Recovery Group for EPIC Program participants, and is trained to teach WHAM and WRAP to the community. When it comes to preaching the gospel of recovery, she doesn't limit herself to her 8-5 duties. She actively promotes mental health recovery and rehabilitation services within the local community by working with the local NAMI Group by serving as an active board member, facilitating a recovery group after hours, and by speaking in the community in support of recovery supports.



## 2018 Fellow Award

# Rachel Gillis, LCSW, MSW

**CEO**

**Chautauqua Healthcare Services**

Rachel has spent more than 38 years in the mental health field working in administrative and clinical services. Rachel's career trajectory is an example of what can happen if you "don't stop believing". She started out as a bookkeeper and secretary and worked her way up to the Chief Executive Officer of Chautauqua Healthcare Services - a rural community mental health agency that started out in 1973 as the Walton County Guidance Clinic, with one program and a staff of two. COPE Center changed its name to Chautauqua Healthcare Services in 2017 and today, Chautauqua Healthcare Services now serves more than 4,000 clients annually through 20 programs, with a budget of \$8M and a staff of 125. Rachel was named the CEO of the COPE Center in 1998.

Rachel served on the FCCMH board for many years and was chair from 2013-2014. She received a master's degree in Social Work from Florida State University, where she was also an adjunct professor. She served on the Board of Trustees at NW Florida State Community College and the Walton Youth Development Center Advisory Board. A true "steel magnolia", Rachel exudes classic grace and charm along with uncommon personal fortitude.



## 2018 Fellow Award

# Stephen Lord

**VP of Information Services**

**Circles of Care, Inc.**

Stephen (Steve) Lord is the Vice President of Information Systems for Circles of Care in Melbourne. He came to Circles with an Ed.S. in Counselor Education from the University of Florida, specializing in marriage and family therapy and crisis counseling. He also completed post-graduate work in statistical computing at the University of Central Florida. He has served Circles of Care since 1991 in a variety of roles, including outpatient counselor, mobile crisis counselor, software developer, database administrator, quality outcomes administrator and statistical analyst. Since 2011, he has been a member of the executive management team and he is the organization's Chief Information Officer and HIPAA privacy officer.

It is rare to see such a unique combination of clinical/behavioral health expertise and data/statistical analysis proficiency in the same person. Steve clearly has an aptitude and talent for both disciplines and he has used those dual skills to improve the quality of care at Circles and to enhance the organization's capacity to leverage data to support its mission.