

PRISM Virtual Learning Session #6: Adolescent Mental Health
Speaker biographies



Marissa Howdershelt

Marissa Howdershelt is a member of Mental Health America's Collegiate Mental Health Innovation Council for 2019-2020, a unique opportunity to connect with a select group of other college students across the country to collaborate and create community as students with lived experiences of mental illness and mental health advocacy.

Marissa is passionate about advocating for student basic needs on campus and greater mental health resource accessibility for nontraditional students. They include a disability justice lens in their work to cultivate a larger conversation on the inextricable link between mental health accessibility and disability justice.

Marissa is a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of California, Riverside. They are majoring in Public Policy and recently declared a minor in Education. They identify as a queer, non-binary, first-generation student of color. They are neurodivergent and live with Bipolar II disorder.



Andrew Hsi, MD, MPH

Andrew Hsi started the ADOBE Program, a comprehensive two generation model of care of youth released from incarceration in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, that provides care for youth to reduce their risks of return to incarceration. The program provides care for all family members who might have an impact on the youth's health and progress. He is a Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center who for 30 years has founded programs focused on reduction of Adverse Childhood Experiences and the effects of those experiences for infants and children. The health systems planning and research have led to a two brain, two generation model of primary care.

Dr. Hsi received the first “Humanism in Medicine” award from the American Association of Medical Colleges in 1999. As an educator, he has received many awards from residents and medical students. As a community leader, he is recognized for his advocacy work serving on the Vision Council for Mission Families of the United Way of Central New Mexico and the Committee on Native American Child Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics. He leads the Institute for Resilience, Health, and Justice in the UNM Health Sciences Center.



Angela Kimball

Angela Kimball is the National Director of Advocacy & Public Policy for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. She is one of the country’s foremost advocates for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions.

For Angela, this fight is personal. Her motto is “trying hard isn’t good enough when lives are at stake – you have to fight to win.” Angela’s path in the mental health movement ran parallel to her son’s recovery from bipolar disorder.

Soon after joining NAMI’s national office, Angela led the creation of NAMI Smarts for Advocacy, a training program that helps people transform their lived experience into skillful grassroots advocacy. Recently, Angela was appointed by the NAMI Board of Directors to serve as interim CEO. Following that interim role, she resumed leadership of the Advocacy & Public Policy team where she strives to unify the mental health community in advocating for shared priorities that improve the lives of all people with mental health conditions.