



## Education Council Fact Sheet

In 2021, the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (NJAMHAA) restructured its Education Council to address staff shortages that the behavioral healthcare field has been contending with for years and that have intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. We invite you and your colleagues and other staff – for example, from career development, social work, psychology, psychiatry, human resources, nursing, mental health and substance use education departments – to join NJAMHAA in working toward these critical goals:

- Securing interns' field placements and supervision
- Overcoming the challenges in recruiting and retaining clinical practitioners with all types of credentials and specialties, as well as Peer Recovery Specialists
- Achieving and reinforcing health equity by creating a workforce that represents all communities, including communities of color and the lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer or questioning population
- Creating and strengthening career development opportunities
- Promoting prevention-focused initiatives in elementary and secondary schools, colleges and graduate schools
  - Expanding mental-health and suicide-prevention education
  - Promoting use of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment protocol
- Fostering Integrated Care and Reducing Silos
- Advocating to state and federal legislators and policymakers on these and other related issues

We are eager to work with you and your colleagues to strengthen your programs, your students' career potential and New Jersey's and the nation's behavioral healthcare systems.

### What does NJAMHAA do?

NJAMHAA is a trade association representing 164 hospital-based and freestanding community organizations throughout New Jersey, providing mental healthcare, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and the social determinants of health. Our members may be found in every county and almost every community statewide. They serve more than 500,000 children and adults each year and employ a significant segment of the state's workforce.

NJAMHAA's mission is to promote the value of its members as the highest quality behavioral healthcare providers for the residents of New Jersey through advocacy and professional development.

### Services for Education Council Members

- Access to top decision-makers at New Jersey's community mental healthcare, SUD treatment, I/DD and support service agencies – *Full contact information to use to network with members and build relationships that could lead to opportunities for your students and institutions*

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- Networking with NJAMHAA members not only through Education Council meetings, but also participation in other practice groups and councils, as well as membership meetings and training events. Participation in meetings is included in your membership and registration fees for conferences and workshops are reduced for members.
- Subscriptions to valuable electronic publications: Tri-weekly *NJAMHAA Newswire*, which provides up-to-date information on budgets, legislation and regulations that impact the mental health, substance abuse and I/DD communities; quarterly *NJAMHAA News*, which features the services, achievements and impact of NJAMHAA members, including Education Council members, and provides details on NJAMHAA's events; and biannual *Bits & Bytes*, which provides tips to keep your information technology (IT) systems working safely and efficiently, as well as important news related to IT and the behavioral healthcare field.
- As a member, you are welcome to share your organization's information in *Newswire* and *NJAMHAA News*.
  - In addition, you can advertise in *NJAMHAA News* and *Newswire* at discounted membership rates.
- Effective lobbying and advocacy at the state and federal levels
- Opportunities to sponsor and speak at educational events and workshops throughout the year – Also, you will receive discounted rates and preferred placement to be a vendor at several of NJAMHAA's conferences throughout the year.
- Technical assistance and research by staff via telephone or e-mail

### Membership Dues

The annual dues amount for Education Council membership is \$1,591.

For more information, contact Shauna Moses, Vice President, Public Affairs and Member Services, at 609-838-5488, ext. 204 or [smoses@njamhaa.org](mailto:smoses@njamhaa.org).



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