

WITW 9TH ANNUAL WELLNESS CONFERENCE

Be The Light

Learning from individuals in Recovery

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2021 / 9:00 - 4:00

Wellness in the Woods, Minnesota's consumer run organization will for the 9th year offer you the opportunity to learn from individuals in recovery. Our theme this year "Be the Light" will focus on the resilience, power and advocacy of individuals who identify as living in recovery with mental health and/or substance use challenges. CEUs for Peer Specialists. Virtual Bingo to win prizes and connecting with old and new friends.

Register at Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wellness-in-the-woods-be-the-light-annual-conference-tickets-147902645795>

1ST KEYNOTE SPEAKER - BRANDY BRINK | BRIDGING THE GAP OF RECOVERY



Brandy Brink being a woman in recovery herself found one of the biggest barriers to long term recovery was a safe and stable living environment and having a continuum of care. Brandy founded Beyond Brink in 2016, a nonprofit recovery community organization, where she serves as the CEO. Brandy has spoken throughout Minnesota, Brandy's personal goal is bridging the gap between the recovery community and the community at large.

2ND KEYNOTE SPEAKER - STEVEN SAMRA | MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT



Mr. Samra served as Deputy Director on the SAMHSA BRSS TACS project for 9 years and is a core Recovery Team member for the Opioid Response Network to promote recovery and assist others with their own recovery journeys. After recovering from homelessness, trauma, substance use, criminal justice involvement, and mental health challenges, he began medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in 2000 for an opioid addiction.

3RD KEYNOTE SPEAKER - NYAMAL DEI | TOGETHER WE CAN IMPROVE LIVES



Nyamal was born in Ulang, South Sudan, and was separated from my family and forced to flee my home. I trekked hundreds of miles from Sudan to Ethiopia. Then from Ethiopia to a refugee camp in North-Western Kenya called IFO, thousands of Sudanese refugees escaped from war-torn Sudan.

Today, she lives in Fargo, North Dakota where she is the founder of Kondial Kel International: South Sudan READS. In honor of her mother who did everything to help her family survive, Kondial Kel, which means "Together" has a "mission to improve lives through education and community-related activities, programs, and learning centers. We engage, empower, build, develop and connect locally and globally."

4TH KEYNOTE SPEAKER - DANA NELSON | STREET OUTREACH & OUTPATIENT CARE



My name is Dana Nelson and I work on the Clinical Policy Team in the Behavioral Health Division at the Minnesota Department of Human Services. I lead the work in Withdrawal Management Services, as well as partner with Shelley White to lead the work related Peer Support Services. I have worked in the behavioral health field for over two decades in various settings ranging from street outreach to outpatient and aftercare programs with men, women young adults and families.

5TH KEYNOTE SPEAKER - FLORENCE NJOYI | GRASS-ROOTS MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN



I am a multi-cultural clinician with 20 years of experience working with persons challenged with mental illnesses and addiction amongst African refugee/immigrant communities living in Minnesota. I have expertise working as a grass-roots mental health educator, mentor, coach, advocate, cultural healer, and trauma clinician. In addition, I have experience coordinating and training paraprofessionals and professionals on culturally specific topics that empower the trainees with skills and knowledge that enhance working relationships.

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