

Welcome

## SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Closing the Gaps:** Supporting Mental Health  
through a Continuum of Housing and  
Supportive Services



### **The Honorable René García,**

Second Vice Chair, SFRPC; Former State Senator,  
District 36; Miami-Dade County Commissioner,  
District 13

### **The Honorable Steve Geller**

Chair, SFRPC; Former State Senator, District 31;  
Broward County Commissioner, District 5



### **The Honorable Nan Rich**

Mayor, Broward County; Former State Senator,  
District 34; Chair, Coordinating Council of Broward  
County; Chair, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition

## Bio Sheet

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### **Bill Aldinger**

Managing Director of Policy and Special Programs,  
Florida Housing Finance Corporation

Bill Aldinger is the Managing Director of Policy and Special Programs for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and is on his 18th year at Florida Housing. Bill has forty years' experience working on behalf of youth, families, elders and persons with special needs in the areas of housing, community-based supportive services, behavioral health and long-term care.



### **Alex R. Ballina**

Director, Public Housing and Community Development,  
Miami-Dade County

Mr. Ballina has more than 25 years of experience in the administration of institutional grade multifamily properties, U.S. HUD Housing operations and economic development programs. Throughout his career, he has administered over \$3.5 billion in assets and managed programs for over 45,000 multi-family units and 80,000 residents throughout the United States.

Prior to joining PHCD, Alex straddled the private and public sectors, with executive positions including Director of Asset Management for the Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development Department (PHCD), City of Miami Beach Housing & Community Development Department, RESIA and Prudential Real Estate Services.



## **Stephanie Berman**

CEO, Carrfour Housing

Stephanie Berman Eisenberg is the President of Carrfour Supportive Housing, a not-for-profit organization established by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce in 1993 to develop and operate innovative housing communities for vulnerable families through a unique approach combining quality affordable housing with comprehensive on-site supportive services. Under her leadership, Carrfour has developed 23 innovative communities housing more than 10,000 formerly homeless men, women and children since 2006. Prior to becoming President, Stephanie served as Carrfour's Vice President of Resident and Property Services.

Stephanie has devoted her life to working on behalf of the homeless and other vulnerable populations in her community. She previously worked at the Children's Home Society, where she served as Program Director of Emergency Shelter Services. In this position, she was responsible for all aspects of a comprehensive emergency shelter program serving over 1,000 abused and neglected children each year.

Stephanie was recently recognized by the South Florida Business Journal as one of South Florida's most influential business women, by Florida Trend as one of Florida's most influential executives and was a recipient of Mental Health America's Exceptional People Impacting the Community Award. She sits on the Florida Housing Coalition Advisory Board and the Northern Trust NMTC Advisory Board. Stephanie has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Brandeis University and a Master's Degree in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.





## **Ronald L. Book, Esq.**

Chairman, Miami-Dade Homeless Trust; Founder, President & CEO, Ronald L. Book, PA

Ron Book is the Chief Executive Officer of Ronald L. Book, P.A. Since founding the firm in 1987, Ron has developed a client list that is a “who’s who” of business and industry, local governments, health care and not-for-profit associations. His reputation as a hard worker, dedicated to his client’s causes, has earned him a place in the upper echelon of Tallahassee power. Associates, clients, and lawmakers describe Ron Book and his firm as committed, tenacious, knowledgeable, and credible.

For more than 35 years, his firm has led the government affairs industry in Florida, specializing in the appropriations process, responsible for literally, billions in grants, programs and earmarks to various projects and causes. An innovator in local government representations, the firm counts dozens of cities, counties, and government entities as clients. Ron’s history in the Florida political process began in the 1970’s, when he began working for the Florida Legislature. He later served as Special Counsel and head of Legislative Affairs for Florida Governor Bob Graham and later, as Director of the Administrative and Governmental Law Department for Miami-based Sparber, Shevin, Shapo, Heilbronner & Book, one of Florida’s most influential law firms from 1977 to 1987. His knowledge of Florida politics and its players is rooted in his work in several statewide gubernatorial, cabinet level and referendum campaigns.

Dedicated to community causes, Ron has served on dozens of charitable boards, including the Mourning Family Foundation, Best Buddies, and Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital, to name a few. He also serves as Chairman of the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust, where he has been a member for more than 28 years, first appointed by Mayor Alex Penelas and subsequently reappointed numerous times. The Trust administers a budget of more than \$96 million in funds and oversees Miami-Dade County’s effort to end homelessness in the community. Under his leadership, the Trust has been recognized numerous times as a national best practice model, and was proud to host HUD Secretary Ben Carson, last year, when the Trust was among the first in the country to announce and end to Veteran’s homelessness in our community.

In addition to his work at the Trust, Ron serves as Chairman of the Board for the Lauren’s Kids Foundation, a not-for-profit entity he founded with his daughter, Florida State Senator Lauren Book. The Lauren’s Kids Foundation is dedicated to ending childhood sexual abuse through education and awareness and helping survivors heal with guidance and support.

Ron holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Tulane University and a B.A. in Political Science from Florida International University. He is a member in good standing of the Florida Bar. He is a registered lobbyist and a member of the Florida Association of Professional Lobbyists (FAPL). Ron also spent three years at the University of Florida where he was also a member of the Fighting Gator Track Team.



**The Honorable René García,**  
Second Vice Chair, SFRPC; Former State Senator,  
District 36; Miami-Dade County Commissioner,  
District 13

Commissioner René García is a product of Northwest Dade. He was born and raised in the City of Hialeah. Commissioner García's passion for serving his community began more than 20 years ago as a Councilman in the City of Hialeah. As a State Representative, and then as a State Senator, René focused on helping those most in need. Giving a voice to the voiceless has always been René's number one priority. He advocated for comprehensive reforms to our mental health laws, sponsored legislation to end surprise medical bills after any hospitalization, promoted the importance of expanding health care services for children through the Florida KidCare program, and has been a staunch advocate for the seniors in our community.

Elected in 2020 as County Commissioner for District 13, Commissioner García truly believes in the importance of balancing the economic progress and growth of a community with the social needs of its people, while working together to address the pressing issues of the community such as workforce housing, the environment, our crumbling infrastructure and safety in our communities, using a pragmatic approach to leave this community a better place for our children.

Commissioner García was recently appointed as Chairman of the Public Health Trust/Medical Schools Annual Operating Agreement Committee. He is also sitting on the Community Health Committee (CHC), the Housing, Recreation, Culture, and Community Development Committee (HRCCDC), and the Transportation, Mobility, and Planning Committee (TMPC).



## **The Honorable Steve Geller**

Chair, SFRPC; Former State Senator, District 31; Broward County Commissioner, District 5

Senator Steve Geller served as Broward County Mayor during FY 2021. Elected to District 5 in 2016, he currently represents all or part of Cooper City, Southwest Ranches, Davie, Plantation, Sunrise, and unincorporated areas including part of the Seminole Reservation and all of Broadview Park. Geller serves as Chairman of the Broward County Water Advisory Board, Chair of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and on the Broward County Cultural Council. Geller also serves as Chair of the South Florida CEDS Strategy Committee established pursuant to the SFRPC's responsibilities as U.S. EDA's Economic Development District for South Florida. He was recently re-elected Chair by his colleagues on the SFRPC.

Prior to his current service as a Broward County Commissioner, Geller was elected to the Florida Legislature in 1988 at the age of 29. He served in the Florida Legislature for 20 years; nine years in the House of Representatives followed by 11 years in the Florida Senate. Geller was respected by both Political Parties and chaired legislative committees under the leadership of both Democratic and Republican Presiding Officers. Geller chaired the Regulated Industries Committee in the House of Representatives, and the Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Community Affairs Committees in the Senate. Geller served two terms as Chair of the Broward County Legislative Delegation and two terms as Chair of the Hendry County Legislative Delegation. At the time of his retirement from the Florida Senate due to term limits, Senator Geller was the Minority (Democratic) Leader of the Florida Senate. Geller has also served as National President of two legislative organizations: the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) and the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS). Geller was born in the City of New York, New York in 1958. He has lived in South Florida since 1965. He attended Florida State University for college and law school, where he was a member of AEPi Fraternity.

He has lived in South Broward since his graduation from Florida State University College of Law in 1982. He is married to Laurel Geller and they have two children Marc and Ben.



## **Eddie Gloria**

Chief Operating Officer, Camillus House

Mr. Gloria has over 24 years of experience in non-profit leadership and in operating complex, integrated systems of care. As Chief Operating Officer, he will oversee program and business operations across 11 sites located throughout the County that are owned and/or operated by Camillus House, at the 350,000 square foot multi-use main campus, as well as the agency's grant development, fleet, IT, Facilities, Security and client support operations.

Most recently, Eddie served as the Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, where he steered the organization through substantial growth amidst pandemics and major disasters. He also previously served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Alpha-1 Foundation in Coral Gables.

This marks Eddie's second tour of duty as Camillus House's Chief Operating Officer, previously holding the role from 2016 to 2018 and playing various leadership roles within the organization between 2007 and 2018, including Vice President of Strategy and Housing Development, and Director of Strategy and Grants. Prior to joining Camillus House Mr. Gloria worked in public policy development and grants administration with the City of Miami.

Eddie completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Florida International University in Miami and holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA).



## **Scott Hansel**

President and CEO, Chapman Partnership

Scott Hansel is President and CEO of Chapman Partnership, the foremost provider of emergency housing in Miami, in close collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. He exemplifies visionary leadership in emergency housing and social entrepreneurship. With an unwavering commitment to empowering families and individuals, Scott leads a nationally recognized organization that offers comprehensive programming and wraparound services, creating a clear path towards long-term self-sufficiency and housing stability. Under his guidance, Chapman Partnership continues to make a profound impact, transforming lives and fostering enduring independence for those in need.

Scott is on the Executive Committee of the Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County, working to foster sustainable homeownership, develop affordable housing and provide needed capital to build strong, thriving communities. Additionally, Scott serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Partners of South Florida. Most recently, he graduated from the NeighborWorks Achieving Excellence Program, in collaboration with Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Scott holds an MBA from Bellarmine University and a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Kentucky.





## **Maria Hernandez, LCSW**

Community Impact Chief Program Officer,  
United Way Broward

Maria Hernandez is a senior level non-profit executive who has consistently executed community initiatives, built community partnerships, and formulated comprehensive programs that demonstrate positive change in the areas of behavioral health, education and financial prosperity. Recognized as an industry leader, Maria is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a master's degree in social work from Fordham University. Maria is known for her visionary leadership, as well as her relentless pursuit of innovation, which inspires teams to reach beyond their limits. She excels in the development and execution of community initiatives, while administering millions of dollars in private and public grants.

Ms. Hernandez joined United Way of Broward County in 2013 as the Vice President of Program Operations. In 2017, she became Chief Program Officer leading the operations of the Community Impact Department, Commission on Substance Abuse, and Mission United programs. Maria also oversees United Way Public Policy and Emergency Response efforts for natural disasters. Her prior roles have included: Director of Family Support Services, Family Central, Inc.; Program Director, Children's Home Society of Florida; and Supervisor, New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

As a community leader, Maria serves as a Board Member for the following: Homeless Coordinating Council of Broward, Funders Together to End Homelessness National Network, Broward County Early Learning Coalition, Memorial Health System DEI Advisory Council. She is the current Co-Chair of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Housing Committee, and Vice Chair of Broward HealthPoint Board of Directors and maintains membership with the Florida Philanthropic Network.



## **Paul Imbrone**

Board Chairman, Thriving Mind South Florida;  
RentConnect Program Director

Paul Imbrone is a 40-year veteran of retail operations having held senior executive positions with one of the industry's largest retail leaders, Macys, Inc. where he was VP, Government and Public Affairs for an eight-state region encompassing Florida, Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, New Mexico, Nevada, and Puerto Rico. Paul directed key areas including government and legislative affairs, risk management, public relations, specialized licensed business development and property lessee relationships.

During his retail tenure, Imbrone went beyond his career positions to lead a variety of community initiatives, retail associations and charitable pursuits. A master at bringing people to consensus to participate and become involved in collaborative, political and legislative matters, Imbrone's expertise and board participation led him to become a key community advocate and contributor with groups as diverse as the United Way, the Miami Dade County Homeless Trust, and Thriving Mind |South Florida Behavioral Health Network as well as leading many years of public service on behalf of Macys biggest initiatives.

Following several years as Chairman of the Board, Florida Retail Federation and holding numerous board positions in a variety of state retail associations, Paul retired in 2017 but his continued desire to contribute, led him to continue to support community initiatives important to him:

Paul serves in a consultant position with Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust leading the RentConnect, Landlord Recruitment initiative and housing/property acquisitions. Paul is board chairman, Thriving Mind | South Florida. Thriving Mind | South Florida (TM), promotes access to effective, accountable and compassionate care for people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders. TM funds and oversees a safety net of services for uninsured individuals in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties with support from the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, and other public and private sources.



## **William King**

Director of Housing and SOAR Entitlements,  
Broward Behavioral Health Coalition

William King has a Bachelor of Psychology degree from the University of South Florida and began working at his current position at Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (Broward County's Managing Entity) in December 2018, as their Director of Housing and SOAR Entitlements. Prior to working at BBHC, William worked for Henderson Behavioral Health for 23 1/2 years.

William came to BBHC with a lot of experience working with the Broward County Continuum of Care on the provider side of the isle. William's experience includes beginning his career as an intensive case manager, working with clients that were homeless with co-occurring disorders, as well as those that were transitioning out of jails and all levels of residential treatment into independent living. William's career naturally progressed from being an intensive case manager to becoming HBH's Housing Services Coordinator. William oversaw a variety of housing case managers, including those working within a Single Room Occupancy Apartments (SRO), PATH funded case managers, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program case managers and case managers within a 35-bed homeless shelter. William has also been working collaboratively with the local housing authorities for his entire career, assisting with the utilization of Shelter Plus Care Certificates, Section 8 and Mainstream Housing Certificates. William also assisted with the development of a collaboration between the managing entity and two of the behavioral health providers within our network, which added 93 supportive housing placement opportunities for individuals transitioning out of residential treatment facilities, those aging out of foster care or couch surfing that do not qualify for the chronic housing certificates through the local housing authorities.

William has fostered relationships throughout Broward County to help bring a new 100-unit affordable housing development to our area. William is a certified SOAR trainer and the SOAR Local Lead for Broward County. Throughout his career he has been an active participant in multiple CoC Committees, such as the Homeless Providers and Stakeholders Council, Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement Workgroup, Chair of the Housing Action Committee, HMIS Data Systems meeting and Chronic/Non-Chronic by Name Workgroup.



## **Amanda MacCormack, LMHC**

Chief Program Officer,  
Broward Housing Solutions

Amanda MacCormack joined Broward Housing Solutions in 2022 as the Chief Program Officer. Prior to joining BHS, Amanda spent over 10 years working closely with victims of domestic violence in different capacities. Amanda has always had a passion to help individuals who are the most vulnerable and at-risk. She has spent her career advocating for system changes for victims of violence and identifying resources and housing options to provide safety and stability to this vulnerable population.

Amanda received a Master of Science degree in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University in 2009. Over her tenure, Amanda obtained her licensure in 2012 and became a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor and Licensed Mental Health Counselor Qualified Supervisor shortly after. Amanda served two terms on the Board of the Broward County Domestic Violence Council, and she has also been a member of the County's Child Abuse Death Review Team and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

Amanda brings a wealth of knowledge and experience working in the social services industry. In her years working with Domestic Violence Survivors, Amanda served in a variety of roles including Domestic Violence Child Welfare Advocate, Child and Family Therapist, and was a member of the Executive Leadership Team. Amanda brings expertise in victim services, program management, leadership/staff development, and community collaboration.



## **Victoria Mallette**

Executive Director,  
Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust

As Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, Victoria L. Mallette is responsible for directing and implementing Miami-Dade County's Community Homeless Plan: Priority Home, the local Continuum of Care's framework for preventing and ending homelessness. She provides administrative, contractual and policy formulation assistance related to housing and services for people experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with a 27-member Board of Trustees.

The Homeless Trust administers and leverages a first-in-the-nation dedicated source of funding for people experiencing homelessness, a Food & Beverage Tax, and through a coordinated network of providers and partners houses and serves approximately 8,000 homeless and formerly homeless individuals and families each day. In 2022, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge called Miami-Dade County's homeless Continuum of Care a "model for the nation".

Mallette's public service career has included serving as Communications Director for the Office of the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Acting Director of Development, Advocacy & Communications for Miami-Dade Parks and External Affairs/Governmental Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management. Mallette began her career in broadcast journalism and served as a Senior Political Producer and Investigative Producer.

Mallette has a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Florida International University and Master of Science in Broadcast Journalism from Boston University. She sits on numerous boards, including the National Alliance to End Homelessness Leadership Council, the Executive Committee of the Florida Coalition to End Homelessness, Advisory Board for Thriving Mind, United Way Food and Shelter Program Board and the Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council, among others.

Born and raised in Miami-Dade County, Mallette is married with two children.





## **Mary C. Mayhew**

President and CEO,  
Florida Hospital Association

Mary Mayhew is president and CEO of the Florida Hospital Association, which represents more than 200 hospitals and health systems throughout Florida. Florida's hospitals provide care for 11 million patients per year, provide jobs for more than 300,000 Floridians and contribute over \$177 billion to the economy each year.

Since joining FHA in October 2020, Mayhew has advanced policies that strengthen the pipeline of healthcare workers in Florida, coordinated response and recovery from natural disasters, and successfully advocated for critical funding resources to support access to vital healthcare services for Florida's most vulnerable individuals and families.

Prior to joining FHA, Mayhew served as Secretary of the Florida Agency of Health Care Administration (AHCA) in the administration of Governor Ron DeSantis. As Secretary, Mayhew played an instrumental role in the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She also spearheaded several initiatives to support increased accountability for improved healthcare outcomes for the more than four million Medicaid enrollees and to promote integrated care coordination.

Mayhew joined AHCA from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she served as Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, overseeing the more than \$375 billion Medicaid program.

Mayhew also served for more than six years as the commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. During this time, she advanced comprehensive health homes, Medicaid Accountable Community Organizations, integrated behavioral health homes, and efforts to improve access to substance use disorder treatment in primary care practice settings. Promoting high-quality behavioral health services remains a priority for Mayhew today. Her private sector roles include 11 years with the Maine Hospital Association as vice president of government relations, partner in the public affairs firm of Hawkes & Mayhew, based in Augusta, Maine, and state government relations for Equifax in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mayhew is a native of Pittsfield, Maine, and a graduate of the University of Arkansas, where she earned her bachelor's degree in political science.



## **Sandra McQueen-Baker**

CEO,  
Fresh Start

Sandra McQueen-Baker is the Executive Director of Fresh Start of Miami-Dade, Inc. She has been an advocate for mental health since 1996, when she became employed as a peer counselor at Lock Towns Community Mental Health Center in Miami, Florida. Through her advocacy efforts, she was instrumental in determining the need for and helping to develop the independently peer-run organization known as Fresh Start of Miami-Dade, Incorporated, located in the northern part of Miami-Dade County. There she oversees a Drop-In Center Outreach program and Peers On the Move Project targeting the needs of diverse populations. Through her advocacy efforts in making the VOICE of individuals with Behavioral Health Challenges heard, she has been at the forefront of the Peer Recovery movement in Miami-Dade. More recently, with the support from Thriving Mind South Florida dba, South Florida Behavioral Health Network, Fresh Start of Miami Dade provides Peer support services for individuals being released from the State Treatment Facilities through Peers on the Move project.

Through her time, Sandra has been involved in a variety of community organizations and initiatives that empower and educate communities on stigma reduction and recovery orientation. For example, she was a peer representative for the Eleventh Judicial Criminal Mental Health Project Jail Diversion Program. She was also part of the first FACT team in Miami-Dade, and a board member of NAMI Miami.

Currently, she serves as a board member of Thriving Mind dba South Florida Behavioral Health Network, and the Alliance for Change and Empowerment coordinator. Fresh Start of Miami-Dade, Inc. is a Provider Educator under the Florida Certification Board and through grant supported opportunities offers trainings at no-cost. As a Certified Recovery peer Specialist and one of the First Advanced WRAP Facilitators in Florida, Sandra McQueen-Baker shares the message of RECOVERY and works to instill HOPE in the many lives of individuals, families, and communities at large.

She has been honored with several awards including the 2006 Voice Award from SAMHSA, the 2007 Heroes in the Fight Award from the Mental Health Association and was named the 2007 Consumer Advocate of the Year by the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, Miami-Dade County. She received the 2014 EPIC award from Broward County MHA and a plaque from Disability Rights Florida in 2015. Most recently she received a very heartfelt gift, The 2024 Pioneer Award for her years of commitment and dedication to peer service.

But above all, Sandra's favorite roles are being a caregiver, mother, and grandmother.



## **Kristi Messer, DHSc, LCSW, MPH**

Board President, TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness; Nova Southeastern University Assistant Dean of Bachelor Degree Programs; Director, Bachelor of Science in Public Health; Associate Professor

Kristi Messer relocated to Florida from Washington D.C., where she spent years working with the Department of Health and Human Services to successfully launch community health centers across the nation. As a passionate public health professional, Messer currently serves the KPCOM as an academic administrator and professor in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program.

Messer is also an assistant professor of disaster and emergency management and assists community health centers across the state with developing robust emergency preparedness plans. She has dedicated her professional life to underserved and vulnerable population groups through her involvement with the homeless, individuals with disabilities, communities affected by disasters, and persons impacted by mental illness.

During the past seven years, Messer has presented her research and academic achievements at more than 40 international, national, state, and local conferences. Messer is also a licensed clinical social worker and is dedicated to positively impacting children, families, and adults.



## **Derek S. Moore, LCSW, CRPS-A**

Peer Services Manager, Thriving Mind South Florida

Derek S. Moore is a Certified Recovery Peer Specialist (CRPS-A) and mental health advocate with over 3 decades in the field. He is also a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) who has worked with various populations in many different capacities.

As a person in long term recovery, Derek's work as a mental health advocate continues. He remains committed to the mission of breaking down barriers to mental health care. It is his hope that with each person he encounters, that he reinforces the message that healing is possible and together we can create a world where mental health is understood, accepted, and prioritized.



## **Laura Naredo**

Chief Operating Officer,  
Thriving Mind South Florida

Laura Naredo is a dedicated professional in the social services field with experience at both the clinical and management level. Laura has also worked with both State agencies and non-profits in the behavioral health care sector.

- Amongst her accomplishments she has:
- Experience in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration including Contract Management, Monitoring, Continuous Quality Improvement, Compliance, Behavioral Health Programming and Strategic Planning.
- Provided technical assistance and training regarding management, programmatic and individual served issues and assisted in interpreting rules, policies, and standards.
- Reviewed and conducted clinical assessments for Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Co-occurring populations.
- Collected data and generated statistical reports on individuals in need of behavioral health services analyzing trends and benchmarks.
- Reviewed and conducted monitoring and investigations on clinical practices, system of care standards, and network system provider performance.
- Managed and overseen operations for a network of service providers in the Southern Region for over 20 years.
- Supervised System of Care, CQI, and IT including: Supervised the day-to-day operations and employees and supervised the funding and funds allocation to community agencies.

She has also worked for direct service providers and government agencies. She has worked for The Village South and the Department of Children's and Families. As the COO of Thriving Mind South Florida, Ms. Naredo is responsible for the Quality Assurance, Quality Improvement, Compliance, and System of Care Divisions. She is a critical member of the executive management team; helping guide and set the course for the next phase of Thriving Mind's growth.

Laura received her undergraduate degree in Psychology and her master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Florida International University. She is also certified in health care compliance and privacy.





## **John D. Newcomer, M.D.**

President and CEO,  
Thriving Mind South Florida

John W. Newcomer, M.D. is President and CEO of Thriving Mind South Florida, the non-profit organization that oversees safety net mental health and substance use treatment and prevention services for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, with funding of over \$140 million per year from Florida's Department of Children and Families (DCF), as well as other federal, state, local and private sources. Dr. Newcomer is a board-certified psychiatrist with over 30 years of inpatient and outpatient experience.

Over two decades at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, he became the Gregory B. Couch Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology and Medicine, and he remains an Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at Washington University. He also served as Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research at the University of Miami School of Medicine and as Executive Vice Dean for the College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University.

Dr. Newcomer was Principal Investigator on grants funded through the National Institute of Health (NIH) and/or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for 30 years. In 2014 he was named to the Thomson Reuters List of Highly Cited Researchers. In the public sector, he was appointed by Governors from both parties to serve as Chair for the Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board for the State of Missouri for 13 years, providing oversight for more than \$1.2 billion in drug expenditures.



## **The Honorable Ari Abraham Porth**

Circuit Court Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit

After graduating from Northeastern University in Boston, Ari served as a Legislative Aide to US Senator Bob Graham in Washington, DC where he corresponded with constituents and researched issues including veterans' affairs and drugs on behalf of the Senator.

Ari moved home to South Florida to attend Nova Southeastern Law School. After graduating, Ari served as an Assistant State Attorney for Broward County from 1995 to 2012.

From November of 2004 to November of 2012, he served the residents of Coral Springs, Tamarac, Lauderhill, Sunrise and North Lauderdale as their State Representative. Most notably, Ari sponsored and passed landmark legislation mandating autism therapies be covered by certain health insurers and divested the Florida's pension system from investments in Iran and Sudan.

Ari was sworn in to the Circuit Court for the 17th Judicial Circuit in January of 2013 and sits on the Felony Mental Health Court bench. He presently chairs the 17th Circuit's Mental Health Task Force, serves on the executive board of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges, serves on the board of directors for the Area Agency on Aging, and is an active member of the Florida Judicial Wellness Program Committee and the Justice Unit.

Ari has been honored to receive recognition for his efforts from many groups including the TJ Reddick Bar Association, Broward County Bar Association, the Broward County PTA, the Florida School Social Worker Association, the Broward Firefighters, the Broward Partnership for the Homeless, the Smith Community Mental Health Foundation, South Florida Wellness Network and the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Ari is married to Tatyana and they have a 14-year-old son named Gabriel and a bernedoodle named Hamilton.



## **Susan Racher**

Board Chair, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI),  
Miami-Dade County

Susan Racher serves as the Board Chair of NAMI Miami-Dade, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and is the Board Secretary and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee at Thriving Mind South Florida. NAMI Miami-Dade champions community awareness and education on mental health, while providing support and advocacy for individuals living with mental health challenges and their loved ones. Thriving Mind manages and funds a substantial network of mental health, substance use treatment, and prevention providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Susan's journey in mental health advocacy began in 2011 following her son's serious mental illness episode. She played a pivotal role in revitalizing NAMI Miami-Dade in 2016, transforming it into one of the largest NAMI affiliates in the country. Alongside her professional career as the Vice President and CFO of the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, Susan also chairs the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Treasury Advisory Committee and is an active member of the International Women's Forum.

Susan has a B.A. from Smith College and an M.B.A from the University of Chicago in Finance and Accounting. Susan is most proud of being a mom and grandmother to two adorable little girls.



## **Barry Reiman, PsyD.**

Vice President, Recovery Unplugged  
Behavioral Health

Dr. Barry Reiman, the V.P. of Business Development for Recovery Unplugged Behavioral Health, has been a featured guest on such daytime television shows as Dr. Phil, The Doctors and Face the Truth with Vivica A. Fox. Working in the field of addiction treatment for close to two decades, Dr. Barry has developed an acute understanding and passion for treating those struggling with Substance Use Disorders.

Dr. Barry's career in the treatment field stems from his personal connection to addiction. Dr. Barry has been in recovery since June of 1996, and has dedicated his personal and professional life to facilitating change in the lives of those looking for a way out of their addiction. His passion and thirst for knowledge has led to him becoming one of the Treatment Industry's leading influencers.



## **The Honorable Nan Rich**

Mayor, Broward County; Former State Senator, District 34; Chair, Coordinating Council of Broward County; Chair, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition

Recognized as one of the most passionate and dedicated members of the Florida Legislature, Nan Rich was first elected to the State Senate in 2004 after serving 2 terms in the House of Representatives. She was the first woman to be elected Senate Democratic Leader – a position she held from 2010 until she was term-limited in November 2012. She was elected to serve as the Broward County District 1 Commissioner in November of 2016.

During her legislative service, Senator Rich became widely recognized as one of Florida’s leading champions of social justice issues - protecting the welfare of children, seniors, and the disabled; and fighting to preserve civil and individual rights.

As Leader of the Senate Democrats, Nan effectively “worked across the aisle” to build bi-partisan coalitions on important legislation affecting public schools, protecting women’s health and reproductive rights, and expanding services for children, the elderly, and the disabled.

Nan’s community involvement includes years of advocacy and activism on behalf of women, children, and families. Prior to her election to the State Legislature, Nan served as the National President of the National Council of Jewish Women, the first Floridian elected to that office. She was also honored to receive an appointment by President Bill Clinton to serve as a Member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council in Washington, DC.

Senator Rich currently serves on the Board of Directors of Kids in Distress, Secretary of the Areawide Council on Aging of Broward County, Chair of the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, and Chair of the Coordinating Council of Broward County. Nan has been inducted into the Broward County Women’s Hall of Fame, the Broward County Senior Hall of Fame, and the Miami Beach High School Hall of Fame.

A long-time Florida resident, Nan attended the University of Florida. She and her husband, David have four children and three grandchildren.





## **Sandra Veszi Einhorn**

Executive Director, The Coordinating  
Council of Broward

Sandra is the Executive Director of the Coordinating Council of Broward, a coalition of senior executives from Broward's largest health and human service stakeholders representing government, business and nonprofits. The CCB works to address systemic change to some of Broward's most critical issues. Sandra also serves at the Executive Director of the Nonprofit Executive Alliance of Broward, a coalition of more than 150 nonprofit CEO's working together for shared advocacy, increased education and collaboration. She brings her strengths in operations, data analysis, crisis communications, public speaking, strategic alliances, relationship building, writing and advocacy to these roles.

During her tenure at the Coordinating Council, Sandra led an effort to create the Broward Housing Affordable Housing Trust Fund through ballot referendum, and worked to update the County's fair housing ordinance. Her leadership led to the revival of the Long Term Recovery Coalition of Broward, which became a need after Hurricane Irma. Previously Sandra served as the Executive Director of the Broward affiliate of Rebuilding Together. During her tenure, Rebuilding Together Broward received several notable accolades including a 211 Non-Profit Academy Award, Non-Profit of the Year finalist by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Innovation Award for the Safe at Home program Sandra developed. She has over two decades of experience in a variety of housing and real estate roles, working in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors.

Sandra has received a number of prestigious awards including the Up and Comers award from South Florida Business and Wealth magazine, recognized as a top "20 under 40" by InWeston magazine, as well as named "40 under 40" and Influential Business Women by the South Florida Business Journal. Sandra is a graduate of Leadership Broward, Leadership Fort Lauderdale, Women Leading Broward, Jewish Federation of Broward's Horizons Leadership Program and the Jim Moran Small Business Executive Program. She currently serves on Broward County's Children's Services Board, the Homeless Continuum of Care Board, Co-Chairs the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's Prosperity Partnership Affordable Housing pillar and the Broward Days Board, where she chairs the Housing Impact team. Most recently Sandra was appointed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to serve on the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Board of Directors, where she currently serves as Vice Chair. Sandra enjoys hosting friends and family in her home while cooking and baking things that taste great but never look like they're supposed to. She lives in her hometown of Hollywood with her husband Grant and their two daughters. They own a chain of Broward based laundromats called The Laundry Spot and a juice bar called Juice Mafia in Hallandale.