

## Our Panel

**Kathy Bashor** serves as Bureau Chief of the AHCCCS Office of Individual and Family Affairs. She earned a Masters of Counseling degree from Arizona State University where she also served as Faculty Associate for 4 years. She is a Certified Practitioner Trainer-Psychiatric Rehabilitation Model through Boston University. Kathy is founder of the Arizona Dialogues, which is designed to reduce stigma and increase community inclusion of persons having behavioral health challenges. Kathy is a staunch advocate of peer and family driven-care in the behavioral health system. Her can-do spirit has resulted in the strengthening of peer/family voice, access to care and choice in services throughout the Arizona system. In 2017, Kathy received the Leadership in Advocacy Award from ASU's Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy. Kathy has presented at numerous state and national conferences and is a recognized community and peer leader



**Rev. Kim Crecca** is an ordained deacon in the Episcopal church. She is involved in ministering to those affected by incarceration and raising awareness about the adverse effects of mass incarceration. Since 2012, she has been part of a team that leads Episcopal worship services at the Perryville Women's Prison in Goodyear. She is also the Convener of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona's Prison Ministry Program whose purpose is to help Episcopal and other churches in the state of Arizona embrace and assist those affected by incarceration through a variety of outreach opportunities. Rev. Crecca is committed to ongoing education involving mass incarceration and how the church can better serve those that Jesus called "the least of these." She is always thrilled to share the joy she has received from this ministry with others.

**Deborah Goldman** has a B.S and M.S in Occupational Therapy. She worked for 20 years with children with special needs. Deborah's 35 year old son Curtis passed away on August 13, 2016. He was 35 years old and had a serious mental illness and drug abuse problem. Curtis originally went to Arizona to attend a long term treatment program from which management unexpectedly asked him to leave. He was picked up by case management and spent years in and out of jail where he experienced much trauma. Curtis died homeless on the streets of Phoenix. He had nowhere to go that he felt could offer safety and a chance to turn his life around. Deborah has an interest in changing the current laws so that people living with mental illness have a safe community to live within and fair treatment for the behaviors they live with.



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**Thomas Hart** received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami School of Law and his BA in Bioethics from Wittenberg University, where he focused his studies in public service and policy concerns including clerking at the American Civil Liberties Union and the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation. After graduation, Thom joined the Minnesota Justice Foundation as the pro bono and public interest Staff Attorney. His portfolio included medical legal partnerships, health care directives, housing advocacy and anti-poverty programs across the state. More recently, Thom managed a unique housing and services project at Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative developing supportive housing programs for people exiting incarceration with mental health conditions and substance use disorders.



**Rae Hopf** is an RN with 30 years experience (mainly in Intensive Care), and is also a nurse paralegal who is retired due to a disability. She has been a mental health advocate for 14 years mainly due to her youngest son suffering from a dual-diagnosis of bi-polar and substance abuse and frequent problems with the criminal justice system. He is currently incarcerated in the AZ Department of Corrections. Her first advocacy work was with MHACA (Mental Health Advocates Coalition of Arizona) and for the last 6 years with David's Hope. She is married to Mark, an RN, and has 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

**Nathan Jones** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts and a Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from the Boston University School of Law. He began his career in 2006 representing Arizonans of low income in civil litigation. He joined Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority in 2012 as Grievance & Appeals Administrator, and then became the Chief Compliance Officer overseeing the corporate compliance program for NARBHA. Currently, he serves as General Council for the NARBHA Institute and provides legal advice to the Council on a wide variety of matters including administrative law and contract negotiations. In 2012, The Arizona Community Action Association recognized Nathan with the 2012 Margie Frost Champions Against Poverty Award.



**Joe Melone** is 30 years old and lives and works in Scottsdale. He is the father of a nine year old son with whom he is still attempting to be reunited. Joe has been incarcerated 5 out of the last 8 years for charges related to his use of alcohol and marijuana and has been in 5 of Arizona's 10 state prisons and 2 of the private ones. While incarcerated, he experienced severe trauma and is still trying to overcome the effects of his experiences. It has been 18 months since his release. He is still trying to complete the rigorous requirements of Intensive Probation and the challenges of re-entering his community.

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**Deputy Chief Benny Pina** is a native Arizonan and currently the Deputy Chief of Support Services for the Peoria Police Department. He has been with the Peoria Police Department since August of 2014. Prior to joining the Peoria Police Department, D/C Pina served for twenty-five years with the Phoenix Police Department and retired with the rank of commander. He has had numerous diverse assignments throughout his career, to include patrol, tactical units, investigations and street crimes units. He has a Bachelor of Science with Arizona State University and a Master of Arts from Northern Arizona University.

**Doug Stewart** has served as the Homeless Coordinator with the police departments in several California counties and currently serves in this role in Payson. He has been recognized for his work by the California Peace Officers Association, the California State Assembly, President Bush, and the US Council on Homelessness. He currently lives and works in Payson and is interested in training and bringing services and resources to rural counties, where he believes homelessness will continue to grow at a high rate.



**Nicole Taylor, Ph.D., J.D., CCHP-MH**, Dr. Taylor is a licensed clinical psychologist and attorney with extensive experience working with mentally ill offenders. She earned her J.D. from Golden Gate University, School of Law in 2003, and her Ph.D. from Palo Alto University in 2005. She is currently the Mental Health Director for the Arizona Department of Corrections, and has worked in this system for the past 12 years. She has presented at numerous national conferences on topics relating to correctional mental health care, reentry, legal ramifications of SMI definitional criteria, and restrictive housing. She has also been an instructor for the National Institute of Correction (NIC) training programs for the past three years. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Mental Health Network through NIC, and on the Board of Directors for the Academy of Correctional Health Professionals.

**Moderator Brett Matossian** - After being arrested for the first time in his life, Brett Matossian spent 16 months in a Maricopa County Jail and an additional two and a half years in the Arizona Department of Corrections. When released in September of 2013, he experienced firsthand the challenges one faces when reentering society after a period of incarceration. He has served as Justice Liaison for the forensic peer run Hope Lives – Vive La Esperanza and more recently as the Director of Forensic Recovery Programs at Marc Community Resources. He strongly believes that none of us are defined by our past successes or failures but by how we choose to conduct ourselves today. He is passionate about his work and has a deep desire to see all people live happy and fulfilling lives.

