



BARBARA L. ALLEN

OBJECTIVES

To end the stigma of the disease of addiction through active involvement at the local, state and national levels of behavioral health, criminal justice, recovery and bereavement communities. To educate and advocate for change while providing appropriate prevention and treatment options regardless of economic, educational, cultural and geographic location. To make hope possible rather than despair convincing.

EDUCATION

Arizona State University

December '74 Bachelor of Science, Management and Organizational Psychology

- Graduate Certificates in Technical Management, Harvard and MIT 1986-89
- New Ventures West, Executive Coaching Certification 2002
- Certified Yoga Instructor E-RYT- 500 Yoga Alliance

Multiple certifications by MDH – MAT, Trauma Informed Care, Peer Ethics, PDMP, etc.

EXPERIENCE

James' Place Inc.
Executive Director,

Founder 2006 – Present

James' Place Inc. (JPI) is a Maryland based 501(c)(3) providing education, advocacy and scholarships for after care for those in recovery from Substance Use Disorder. We provide counseling scholarships for high school students through the Howard County Public School System. We are deeply involved in advocacy at the local, state and national levels.

The Compassionate Friends

National Board of Directors, Vice President 2012 - 2017 www.compassionatefriends.org

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is a national organization supporting bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings after the death of a child for any cause at any age.

COMMENTARY

In 1981 I discovered my son was involved with various substances. This began a twenty-two year journey of learning about addiction and fighting to save his life. When Jim died in 2003 at age 35, my brother Bill had also died. Bill's life ended when he was murdered by a friend tweaking out on crystal meth. In 2010, my niece Amanda ended her life six weeks after completing a rapid detox for her heroin addiction. Then November 2017, my brother Tom died of an overdose after years of managing his disease. The lives and deaths of these family members provide me with experience, wisdom and compassion for those who suffer this disease and all who love them.

By 2003, I had given up any hope that this disease would ever be respected, that treatment would become as available to those who suffer it as those who suffer from other life-threatening diseases such as cancer. Angry at how my son, my brothers, niece and I had been treated I turned from looking for treatment to learning about the history of addiction, medical research, national laws, criminal justice system and anything else related to this disease. Soon enough I was giving presentations to other parents whose children either had died or were struggling to stay alive. Over time I've met thousands of parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses and other loved ones struggling in the same way.

Today I divide my time between supporting those who have lost loved ones to SUD and working to eliminate the stigma and to bring hope through needed changes to systems of prevention, treatment, insurance, after care, laws on the local, state and national level. Finding grief support within The Compassionate Friends, I moderate two Facebook pages with over 6,000 parents, grandparents and siblings who have lost loved ones to this disease. I serve as a subject expert insuring these families are not marginalized in their grief due to stigma.

My decades of work and skills as a senior executive in academia and corporate organizations bring together my passion for saving lives and providing hope. As a long time educator within corporate and university settings my public speaking skills are well honed. To collaborate with others to bring change and hope to the State of Maryland is an honor.

Service in Maryland:

- MD Behavioral Health Advisory Council - Co-chair for four years; completed 6 years of service 9/30/2021
- MD BHAC Recovery Services & Support, Co-chair – six years.
- Maryland Stabilization Center Advisory Board (Baltimore)
- MD Parity at 10 Coalition
- MD Behavioral Health Coalition
- National Council on Addiction and Drug Dependency Coalition, Maryland
- Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health, Lt. Gov. Rutherford
- Opioid Operational Command Center – Grant Review Committee
- HC Opioid Intervention Team
- HC Opioid Crisis Community Council, Chair
- HC Recovery Oriented Systems of Care; IOAD Chair
- HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
- HCPSS Mental Health Community Advisory Council
- HC Joint Community Advisory Board