

Dr. Robert H. Miller Award

(Presented by Judy Miller Bucko)

The Dr. Robert H. Miller Award is intended to recognize an individual who has shown outstanding commitment to the field of mental health care, and whose involvement, service, and contributions to the improvement of the quality of life of persons with mental illness is exceptional. This highest honor is given each year to a person who exemplifies the concepts of recovery, resiliency and wellness.

This year's recipient has made a tremendous impact on the Montgomery County Mental Health system as a fierce and compassionate advocate. Our 2021 Dr. Miller awardee is someone who exemplifies the values of Dr. Miller through their role as a professional, a colleague, a mentor, and a friend.

When comparing the award criteria with this individuals' immense contributions to the Mental Health system and the people it supports, it is clear that her work far exceeds the standards. Her work and contributions are widely recognized at many levels of the Mental Health system, including the state, county, and individuals and their families.

This awardee began her career as an inpatient caseworker at MCES in the early 1980's. From there, she went on to work as a community case manager for Creative Health Services. She was then hired as the first CHIPP coordinator for the Montgomery County Office of Mental Health. After numerous years at the county office, she went on to become the first Regional Mental Health Coordinator for the Southeast Region of PA. Both the CHIPPs and Regional Coordinator positions were new, which allowed her to further develop her exceptional organizational skills and to implement strategic activities to serve individuals in need of Mental Health supports and services. She has been instrumental with helping many individuals move out of Norristown State Hospital and for program development under the CHIPP's initiative starting in 1993.

She has also been the lead person involved with development of numerous programs and services which provide Mental Health supports to individuals from all 5 southeast counties. She continues to be directly involved with the 8 Regional residential programs she helped develop. Her goal, as always, is to assure the quality of the services being provided and to support the individuals served by those programs.

Some of her other activities include, but are not limited to, the following: she is a Mental Health First Aid trainer and advocate for Adults and Children, is in a leadership role with the Forensic Interagency Task Force (FITF) on the state's Re-Entry committee, she has ongoing involvement with the statewide County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), she is active with the Norristown State Hospital Human Rights Board and NAMI board, she participates in the Montgomery County Mental Health Forensic Coalition Steering Committee, she coordinates Norristown State Hospital forensic and civil activities for all 5

Southeast counties, she supports the oversight of the Extended Acute Care at Brooke Glen, and much more! In fact, this is just a short list of all that she is currently doing or has been involved with in the past.

One thing to recognize is that however she gets involved, it is almost always in a leadership role, and she always volunteers to do the work that's needed to accomplish the identified goals. She also is very astute at knowing who to bring together to help get things accomplished. She is person centered, flexible, and a strong advocate for the Mental Health community. She exemplifies the dedication and enduring service which are some of the hallmarks of this award. On a lighthearted note, she can be compared to the Mental Health version of the energizer bunny and the Action News van as she never stops working to improve the lives of individuals with Mental Health challenges and she is seemingly everywhere involved in many, many projects! For these reasons and many more, the 2021 Dr. Miller Award goes to....

TORY BRIGHT!