



# Improving the Court and Community Response to Persons with Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Disorders Through Compassion and Hope



A Series of Five Online Learning and Planning Sessions



Office of Lt. Governor  
Juliana Stratton



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

## Learning Session 3

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

3:00-5:00 pm

### Learning from the Voices of Lived Experience: Informing Change

**Welcome** Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton

**Welcome** Rob Jeffreys, Acting Director, Illinois Department of Corrections

**Speaker** Dr. Debra Pinals, Medical Director, Behavioral Health and Forensic Programs, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Director of the Program in Psychiatry, Law, and Ethics and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan

#### *Systems, Struggles, and Strategies: Opportunities at the Justice and Behavioral Health Interface*

*Dr. Debra Pinals will share information as it relates to mental illness and how we can improve systems for those we serve.*

DEBRA A. PINALS, M.D. is the Medical Director of Behavioral Health and Forensic Programs for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Director of the Program in Psychiatry, Law, & Ethics and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan Medical School and Clinical Adjunct Professor at the University of Michigan Law School. Dr. Pinals roles have included serving as the Assistant Commissioner of Forensic Services as well as the Interim State Medical Director for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. She has worked in outpatient, inpatient settings, forensic and correctional facilities, emergency rooms and court clinics, has received public service awards and has been an expert witness in many cases. She is Board Certified in Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, and Addiction Medicine. During her career she has consulted on complex systems cases for people with mental illness, substance use disorder, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who are receiving treatment or support in various places- such as in state hospitals, community and justice and forensic settings. She teaches and publishes extensively and has led and consulted on numerous federal grants





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including those related to opioids, juvenile justice, and behavioral health and justice partnerships. Recently she has been a lead subject matter expert on issues pertaining to competence to stand trial for the SAMHSA GAINS Center. She is a past President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, current Chair of the American Psychiatric Association Council on Psychiatry and the Law, and current Chair of the Medical Directors Division and past Chair of the Forensic Division for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD).

**Moderator** Alexa James, MS, LCSW, Executive Director, NAMI Chicago

## Speaker Panel

Olachi Etoh – Panelist

Frederick Nitsch – Panelist

*Persons with lived experience with mental illness and the criminal justice system will share their stories including challenges with the systems and suggestions for improvement.*

## Questions

