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## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### **Harm Reduction in New Jersey – An Overview of Recent Initiatives**

**October 7, 2022  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

## WEBINAR

### *Program Summary*

Harm reduction comprises policies and programs designed to reduce the harms associated with drug use. Harm reduction is focused on providing a range of public health interventions to improve the health of substance users, which can act as a gateway to connecting them to health, social services or support groups and fostering their recovery. Harm reduction is a priority of Governor Murphy, who signed a series of bills to combat the State's opioid crisis and expand harm reduction efforts. This panel of experts from the Departments of Law & Public Safety and Health will offer an overview of the harm reduction model. They will also detail recent changes to New Jersey laws that expanded harm reduction, including transferring authority for harm reduction services to the Department of Health, making opioid antidotes more readily available to the public, and decriminalizing possession and distribution of sterile syringes/needles and fentanyl test strips.

### *Eligibility*

This program is open to attorneys in the Department of Law and Public Safety and county prosecutors' offices.

### *Faculty*

**DAG Kelly Levy** is the Acting Director of the Office of the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies ("NJ CARES"). NJ CARES oversees addiction fighting efforts across the Department of Law & Public Safety and creates partnerships with other agencies and groups that are committed to identifying and implementing solutions to the opioid crisis and drug addiction. DAG Levy joined NJ CARES shortly after its inception, and has worked on the administration and management of several law enforcement-led outreach efforts, including facilitating proactive collaboration between law enforcement officers and addiction professionals

to link individuals suffering from substance use disorder with treatment services. She has also worked with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to expand access to harm reduction services, including naloxone. Before joining NJ CARES, DAG Levy worked in the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, where she investigated and prosecuted insurance fraud and other related offenses, and the Division of Law, where she represented the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in child abuse and neglect matters. She holds a J.D. from Rutgers-Newark School of Law and a B.A. from Hunter College.

**Chelsea Betlow** is the Director of Program Innovation and Strategic Initiatives and the Acting Director of HIV services at the Division of HIV and STD and TB Services at the New Jersey Department of Health, where she leads efforts in policy development to end the HIV epidemic. She has also worked in program development, grant monitoring, training and education. Before joining the Department of Health, Ms. Betlow was a drug counselor at a methadone clinic in Trenton, New Jersey, where she focused on opioid addiction in drug treatment, specifically medically assisted treatment and provided case management in a therapeutic foster care setting. She holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Rutgers University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Fordham University.

**Heather Ogden** is the CDC Foundation's Linkage to Care Coordinator for New Jersey. She works with the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Health to provide education, training, and resources to law enforcement and emergency medical services who work on outreach efforts connecting substance users to care. Ms. Ogden is a certified peer in both mental health and addiction, and a counselor intern. She has assisted in planning and launching both a peer-led recovery center and several emergency room peer programs. Ms. Ogden trains individuals on issues related to recovery and harm reduction and is also the Training Coordinator for the National Center for Advocacy and Recovery for Behavioral Health. Ms. Ogden has a B.A. in Psychology from Thomas Edison State College.

### *CLE Credit*

**NJ CLE Credit:** This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.2 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

### *Registration*

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

**Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.**

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.