

# MHNE Leadership Awards Reception - A Complete History -

## MHNE Leadership Awards Reception (Combined ASN & BHN)

2025 ([mhne.org/2025-mhne-leadership-awards-reception](http://mhne.org/2025-mhne-leadership-awards-reception))

### **Lauri Cole, MSW**

Executive Director, NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
*Behavioral Health Advocacy Award*

### **Brett R. Friedman**

Partner, Ropes & Gray, LLP  
*Health Care Innovation and Leadership Award*

### **PharMerica**

*Corporate Leadership Award*

### **Evan Sullivan**

Executive Vice President, Ostroff Associates  
*Autism Advocacy Award*

### **Ira H. Minot, LMSW**

Founder, Mental Health News Education  
*Founder's Legacy Award*

2024 ([mhne.org/2024-mhne-leadership-awards-reception](http://mhne.org/2024-mhne-leadership-awards-reception))

### **Bruce E. Feig**

Senior Healthcare Consultant, Sachs Policy Group  
*Healthcare Leadership Award*

### **Rita M. Gardner, MPH, LABA, BCBA**

President and CEO, Melmark  
*Excellence in Autism Award*

### **Dr. Rosa M. Gil**

President Emeritus, Comunilife, Inc  
*Diversity and Community Health Leadership Award*

### **Relias**

*Corporate Leadership Award*

### **Harvey Rosenthal**

Chief Executive Officer, The Alliance for Rights and Recovery (Formerly NYAPRS)  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*

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[2023 \(mhne.org/2023-mhne-leadership-awards-reception\)](http://mhne.org/2023-mhne-leadership-awards-reception)

**Emily Grossman, MA, CPRP, NYCPS-P**

Director of Training, Coordinated Behavioral Care

*Self-Advocacy Award*

**Ann M. Hardiman**

Chief Innovation Officer, New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation

*Autism Advocacy Award*

**The New York Community Trust**

Irfan Hasan (Accepting), Deputy Vice President for Grants

*Excellence in Philanthropy Award*

**Robert W. Myers, PhD, LMSW**

Senior Deputy Commissioner, New York State Office of Mental Health

*Lifetime Achievement Award*

[2022 \(mhne.org/2022awardsreception\)](http://mhne.org/2022awardsreception)

**Tyler Hoffman**

CEO, Foothold Technology

*Healthcare Innovation Award*

**Alexa Santoro**

Account Executive, Lamb Insurance Services

*Corporate Leadership Award*

**Steve Miccio**

CEO, People USA

*Behavioral Health Advocacy Award*

**Gary Mayerson, Esq.**

Founder, Mayerson & Associates

*Autism Advocacy Award*

**Christopher Duffley**

Musician and Motivational Speaker

*Beacon of Hope Award*

2021

**Marco Damiani**

Chief Executive Officer, AHRC New York City

*Excellence in Autism Award*

**Tony Hannigan, LMSW**

Past President and CEO, Center for Urban Community Services

*Lifetime Achievement Award*

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## **Hillary Kunins, MD, MPH, MS**

Past Executive Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, NYC DOHMH  
*Healthcare Hero Award*

## **Allison Sesso**

Executive Director, RIP Medical Debt  
*Behavioral Health Advocacy Award*

## **Ian Shaffer, MD, MMM, CPE**

VP and Executive Medical Director, Healthfirst - Behavioral Health (Retd.)  
*Corporate Leadership Award*

## 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID)

## 2019

### **Steve Coe**

CEO, Community Access  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*

### **Daniel Etra and Eran Rosenthal**

CEO / President and COO, Rethink Autism  
*Leadership Award*

### **Peter Provet, PhD**

President and CEO, Odyssey House  
*Community Service Award*

### **Joyce Wale**

Regional Executive Director, United Healthcare  
*Corporate Leadership Award*

## 2018

### **Tino Hernandez**

President and CEO, Samaritan Daytop Village  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*

### **Ilene Lainer and Michelle Smigel**

Co-Founder and President/ Board Member - NEXT for AUTISM  
*Advocacy Award*

### **Mitchell Netburn**

President and CEO, Project Renewal  
*Community Service Award*

### **Jim Spink**

President, Tri-State/Mid-Atlantic Region, Beacon Health Options  
*Leadership Award*

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2017

**Donna Colonna**

CEO, Services for the UnderServed

*"Lifetime Achievement Award"*

**Gary Lind**

Executive Director, AHRC New York City

*"Advocacy Award"*

**Arlene González-Sánchez**

Commissioner, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

*"Public Service Award"*

**Dr. Fred Volkmar**

Professor, Yale University Child Study Center

*"Leadership Award"*

## Behavioral Health News Leadership Awards Reception

2016

**Peter C. Campanelli, PsyD**

Senior Scholar, McSilver Institute, NYU Silver School of Social Work, Founder, Retired President & CEO, Institute for Community Living

*Lifetime Achievement Award*

**John J. Coppola, MSW**

Executive Director, NY Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers

*Advocacy Award*

**Linda Rosenberg, MSW**

President and CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health

*Leadership Award*

**Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD**

Commissioner, New York State Office of Mental Health

*Public Service Award*

2015

**Alan B. Siskind, PhD, LCSW**

Former CEO, JBFCS, Independent Clinical Practice

*Founders Award*

**Andrew Solomon, PhD**

Author, *Far From the Tree*, and *The Noonday Demon*, Winner of the National Book Award, and Professor of Clinical Psychology, Columbia University

*Humanitarian Award*

-Keynote Speaker-

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**Phillip A. Saperia, MAT**  
CEO, The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies  
*Advocacy Award*

### Autism Spectrum News Leadership Awards Reception

2015

**Peter Pierri, Executive Director, InterAgency Council**  
*Beacon of Hope Award for Advocacy*  
In recognition of your tireless efforts to improve the delivery and quality of services for individuals with autism through legislative action and the training of service providers

**Robert H. Ring, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks**  
*Beacon of Hope Award for Advancing Autism Science*  
For your dedication to furthering scientific research to improve our understanding of the causes of autism and the development of effective treatments

**Richard P. Swierat, Executive Director, Arc of Westchester**  
*Beacon of Hope Award for Community Impact*  
In recognition of your many years of leadership, commitment, and service to individuals with autism and their families so they may live as independent, productive and valued members of the community

2014

**Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD, Director, Seaver Autism Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**  
*Beacon of Hope Award in Scientific Research*  
In recognition of your vital research in genetics and neurobiology that has led to an increased understanding of the cause and treatment of autism spectrum disorders

**Alison Singer, MBA, President, Autism Science Foundation**  
*Beacon of Hope Award in Advocacy and Philanthropy*  
In recognition of your tireless efforts to advocate for families touched by autism and your dedication to unlocking the mysteries of autism by funding of vital scientific research

2013

**Charles N. Cartwright, MD, Director, YAI Autism Center**  
*Beacon of Hope Award in Research and Clinical Outreach*  
In recognition of your vital research and work as a clinician to improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families

**Linda Walder, Esq., Founder and President, The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation**  
*Beacon of Hope Award in Advocacy and Philanthropy*  
In recognition of your tireless efforts to advocate for change and improve the lives of adults with autism