

Keynote Presenter: Sue Klebold

"I wish I had known then what I know now: that it was possible for everything to seem fine with him, when it was not, and that behaviors I mistook as normal for a moody teenager were actually subtle signs of psychological deterioration."
- Sue Klebold, *A Mother's Reckoning*



This year's Legislative Briefing explores an issue that is among the most challenging for the mental health community. Collectively and individually we have all been forced to come to grips with a growing number of senseless and tragic incidents in the world around us. We know that individuals living with mental illness are more likely to be victims than perpetrators of violent acts, yet it is also true that mental illness does play a role alongside domestic violence, substance use and other key indicators that predispose individuals to violence.

In a country that highly values civil liberties along with their associated risks, the brokering of solutions is challenging. We are proud of the balanced legislation the Maryland General Assembly enacted in 2018 to reduce gun violence and suicide by firearm, and increase safety in our schools. We look forward to the successful implementation of broad-based recommendations of the Kirwan Commission to support youth, including improved early identification of mental illness and expanded access to effective care when needs are identified.

Sue Klebold, our keynote presenter, is among the parents whose anguish most of us will never know. Not only did she lose her son Dylan, who was one of the individuals who carried out the Columbine school shooting nearly 20 years ago, but as a parent survivor she bears the overwhelming guilt resulting from this senseless loss of life in her ordinary suburban community. In the aftermath of the tragedy, Sue remained out of the public eye while struggling with devastating grief and humiliation. Her search for understanding would span over fifteen years, during which she volunteered for suicide prevention organizations, questioned experts, talked with fellow survivors of loss, and examined the crucial intersection between mental health and violence.

After many years of reflection, Sue has chosen to come forward, despite the personal difficulty in doing so. She emerged a passionate advocate, dedicated to the advancement of mental health awareness, research and suicide prevention. Her experience can help us as we work together to build strong communities and effective solutions for all youth in Maryland.

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MHAMD Legislative Briefing AND Reception

❖
FEBRUARY 5, 2019
REGISTRATION
OPENS AT 4 PM
BRIEFING BEGINS
AT 4:30 PM

❖
HOTEL ANNAPOLIS
(FORMERLY LOEWS
ANNAPOLIS)
126 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MD



Champions of Today

Each year, MHAMD celebrates the champions whose leadership has had a lasting and profound impact on Maryland's behavioral health system and the people it serves. Our 2019 honorees demonstrate what can be accomplished with leadership, passion and commitment to a just, humane and healthy society.

- ❖ Lifetime Distinguished Service Award • *Honoring visionary leadership and lasting impact*

Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer

Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton

- ❖ Legislator of the Year • *Honoring public policy leadership*

Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes

- ❖ Paula Hamburger Child Advocacy Award • *Honoring a champion for children*

Tom Merrick, Maryland Behavioral Health Administration

About MHAMD

For nearly half a century, MHAMD's Legislative Briefing and Reception has educated concerned citizens and public leaders about important public policy issues impacting behavioral health care in Maryland and across the nation.

MHAMD is the state's only volunteer, nonprofit organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health, mental illness and substance use. Our progressive programs ensure more humane treatment, increased research and greater public understanding of the needs of children and adults who live with mental illness and substance use disorders.

MHAMD believes that access—to both services and information—is power. We are proud to continue this tradition by bringing the latest science and the most promising innovation to a meaningful advocacy agenda.



REGISTRATION & SUPPORT

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION: (Please indicate number of attendees.)

- _____ \$80/Attendee
- _____ \$100/Individual Patron—*Listed in event program.*
- _____ \$200/Individual Supporter—*Listed in event program.*
- _____ I cannot attend, but please accept my donation to support the essential work of MHAMD.

Legislators and other invited special guests, please RSVP to Susan Linkous at slinkous@mhamd.org or 443-901-1550 ext. 235.

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Check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please remit payment with this form and make check payable to MHAMD. All reservations are final and non-refundable. All but the dinner (\$51) is tax deductible.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4:30 pm Preview of 2019 Legislation

Awards Presentation

Keynote Presenter:
Sue Klebold

7:15 pm Reception

REGISTRATION DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
mhamd.org/2019legislativebriefing

OR RETURN ATTACHED FORM TO:

Mental Health Association of
Maryland, 1301 York Road, Suite 505
Lutherville, MD 21093
Fax: 443-901-0038

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

January 31, 2019

For disability-related
accommodations:
slinkous@mhamd.org
443-901-1550 ext. 235

For more information on
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