



*The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force is the voice of the community on issues related to the quality and responsiveness of mental health and substance abuse disorder services.*

## **Save the Date**

### ***Celebrating Recovery, Ending Stigma, Embracing Possibilities*** ***2021 Karen Avery Forum***

***- Awards Presentation -***

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021**  
**2:30 – 5:30 PM - virtual event via Zoom**

Substance use disorders impact the lives of so many Wisconsinites. Recovery is possible and is happening every day. Yet, limited resources and stigma continue to be barriers.

Extending hope and extending life to people who use drugs and alcohol involves many strategies. Our 2021 Forum will identify opportunities to address substance use disorders as a public health concern and normalize harm reduction strategies. We will present best practices nationally as well as identify effective and non-stigmatizing treatment options that are available in Milwaukee. Forum participants will be asked to look forward and identify new possibilities for our community.

*Registration information coming soon!*

#### **The Forum will include presentation of our 2021 awards:**

##### **Karen Avery Award:**

- Annually recognizes an individual whose work and values align with the legacy of Karen Avery, who was an outstanding advocate, mentor, peer, friend, and leader in the fight for disability rights. As Associate Director of Independence**First**, she was a respected leader in the mental health consumer/survivor movement in Wisconsin and nationally, tirelessly advocating to advance the rights of people with mental illness and ensure a strong consumer voice. Karen was a leader in the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force. She was generous in sharing the challenges of her own lived experience and recovery journey. After Karen's passing in 2013, the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force established this award to honor her important and enduring legacy.

##### **Marie C. Perry Rising Leader Award:**

- This new award was established to recognize visionary leadership by an individual who is a rising and/or young leader in the Milwaukee area mental health community. It is an effort to highlight outstanding leadership to advance mental health and recovery values in our community.

***Nomination forms are available here:***

- Paper Nomination Form (Word fillable document):  
<https://www.milwaukeeemhtf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-MMHTF-Awards-Nomination-Form-rev-7-21.docx>
- Karen Avery Award Nomination Form (online):  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KWL72VT>
- Marie C. Perry Rising Leader Award Nomination Form (online):  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KXS3XBJ>