

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH ADVOCACY:

A Conversation with Leaders and Legislators



Join us to network, socialize, and identify strategies in advocacy for reforms in mental health, discuss the value of physician engagement to the process, and identify priority issues on the horizon in Arizona.

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PROGRAM: Wednesday, January 18, 2023

- 6:00 to 6:05 pm Welcome and Introductions – Stephen Larry Mecham, DO, President, and Don J. Fowls, MD, Government Affairs Chair, Arizona Psychiatric Society
- 6:05 to 6:10 pm A Word from Advocacy Sponsor – TBD Director State Government Affairs, Johnson & Johnson Worldwide Government Affairs & Policy
- 6:10 to 7:10 pm Improving Mental Health Through Advocacy: A Conversation with Leaders and Legislators

*Special Legislative Guest: Representative Amish Shah, MD, MPH
Alexis Glascock, Esq., Arizona Psychiatric Society Lobbyist
Marsi Thrash, Senior Regional Field Director – American Psychiatric Association
Amanda Rusing, Director of Government Relations – ArMA*

7:10 to 7:30 pm *Question and Answer Session*

Representative Amish Shah, MD, MPH Since 2019, he has been a member of the Arizona House of Representatives, serving Central Phoenix and South Scottsdale. He has been the recipient of several awards for the quality of his service, including the Arizona Capitol Times' Best Political Rising Star for two consecutive years, the Arizona Medical Association's Distinguished Community Service Award, and the Humane Society's Legislator of the Year. He is the recipient of the 2022 Legislator of the Year / Womens' Health Champion Award from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Alexis Glascock, Esq. is Of Counsel with Fennemore Craig PC and is the newly designated lobbyist of the Arizona Psychiatric Society, having assumed that role on January 1, 2020. Alexis has lobbied for clients including the American Heart Association, the Arthritis Foundation, the Arizona Association of Health Care Plans, and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. She also has successfully assisted with the passage of bills in industries ranging from trucking to trampolines.

Marsi Thrash is the Senior Regional Director of State Government Affairs for the American Psychiatric Association covering 17 Southern and Southwestern District Branches, including Arizona's. She joined APA in November 2015 and celebrated 20 years of lobbying in 2020.

Amanda Rusing is the Director of Government Relations for the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA). Amanda is responsible for leading ArMA's advocacy team in representing the interests of its physician members. Utilizing members' input, she steers the organization's advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels of the government. Prior to joining ArMA, Amanda worked in private sector government relations where she lobbied state and local governments on behalf of clients on a diverse array of issue areas. Rusing also served as the director of legislative affairs for the Arizona Attorney General's Office and on staff at the Arizona State Senate.

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