RT HON NORMAN LAMB MP, UK
Former Minister of State for Care and Support in the UK. Mr. Lamb played a leading role in driving mental health care to the top of the political agenda. As Government Minister, he steered the 2014 Care Act through Parliament and introduced the first ever maximum waiting time standards for mental health. Mr. Lamb pioneered the Crisis Care Concordat to transform the support given to people facing mental health crises; oversaw a 50% reduction in the use of police calls during mental health crises; and helped triple the number of people getting access to psychological therapies. “No one has done more in the House to campaign for mental health.” —Jeremy Hunt, Health Secretary, in paying tribute to the Rt Hon Norman Lamb.

CHARLOTTE WADDELL
Child and adolescent psychiatrist with interests in health policy and population and public health. She holds the Canada Research Chair in Children’s Health Policy and is Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, where she is the Director of the Children’s Health Policy Centre. Charlotte co-leads the BC Healthy Connections Project, a randomized controlled trial assessing the effectiveness of the Nurse-Family Partnership program which aims to improve children’s mental health and development. She also leads the Children’s Mental Health Research Quarterly project.

PATRICK SMITH
New National CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association. Previously, he served as CEO of Renascent, Canada’s leading abstinence-based residential addictions treatment provider. He also served as VP, Research, Networks and Academic Development at the BC Mental Health and Addictions Services and was founding Head of UBC’s Addiction Psychiatry Program. Patrick also served as VP, Clinical Programs at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and was Head of the Addiction Psychiatry Division for the University of Toronto. A founding member of the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions, he represented Canada as a delegate to the UN’s Committee on Narcotic Drugs and co-chaired the development of Canada’s National Addictions Treatment Strategy.

ELYN SAKS
Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences, University of Southern California Gould School of Law; Director of the Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy, and Ethics; Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine; and Faculty at the New Center for Psychoanalysis. Professor Saks received her J.D. from Yale Law School, and a Ph.D in Psychoanalytic Science from the New Center for Psychoanalysis. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Pepperdine University and the 2009 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship—the so-called “Genius Grant”. Her memoir, The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness, describes how she crafted a good life in the face of a dire prognosis.
PAUL GIONFRIDDO
President and CEO, Mental Health America. He was appointed to a four-year term on the National Advisory Council to the SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services and has 30+ years’ experience in health and mental health. He was a consultant, speaker, writer, and author of a popular health policy blog, Our Health Policy Matters. His essay, How I Helped Create a Flawed Mental Health System That’s Failed Millions—And My Son, was the most-read article in the September 2012 issue of Health Affairs, and the full-length version of the story was published as a book entitled Losing Tim: How Our Health and Education Systems Failed My Son with Schizophrenia.

ANDRE PICARD
Health columnist at The Globe and Mail and author of four books, most recently, The Path to Health Care Reform: Policies and Politics. Acclaim for his writing includes the Michener Award for Meritorious Public Service Journalism and the Centennial Prize of the Pan-American Health Association. He is an eight-time finalist for the National Newspaper Awards—Canada’s equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. André is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, and has received honourary doctorates from the University of Manitoba and the University Of Ontario Institute Of Technology.

AMELIA CURRAN
Award-winning singer/songwriter and founder of IT’S MENTAL, a grassroots advocacy group with a directive on citizen action to normalize perceptions of mental illness. She created This Video in 2014 to launch the Community Coalition 4 Mental Health in Newfoundland, which spurred on the creation of the province’s government all party committee on mental health. The National Post describes Amelia’s music as “a bit like Leonard Cohen being channeled in a dusty saloon by Patsy Cline.” She received the Folk Music Awards’ Contemporary Singer and English Songwriter of the Year for her album They Promised You Mercy.

MIKE POND
After two decades of a thriving private practice in Penticton, BC’s wine country, alcohol addiction destroyed his life. He lost his practice, home and family and ended up penniless in two unlicensed, rundown recovery homes in Vancouver, rife with systemic abuse. Mike’s memoir is Wasted: An Alcoholic Therapist’s Fight for Recovery in a Flawed Treatment System and his film, Wasted, aired on the CBC, capturing his search for compassionate, evidence-based treatment. He has since rebuilt a thriving practice in Vancouver and has become a passionate advocate for people battling substance use disorders.

MAUREEN PALMER
Producer, writer and director of critically-acclaimed documentaries for the CBC. After two award-winning decades at the CBC, Maureen produced for American broadcasters TLC and the Discovery Channel, later forming Bountiful Films. Her and Mike Pond co-wrote his memoir, and Maureen subsequently wrote and directed the film, Wasted, for the CBC. Bountiful Films and Magnify Digital launched addictionthenextstep.com, a hub designed as a lifeline for parents, partners and loved ones of people battling substance use.