

## **CRISP Press release: Transatlantic partnership poses big questions at inaugural mental health policy symposium.**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> September, New York University hosted a transatlantic mental health policy symposium took place at New York University. This event was the first in a series of policy events organized by Citizenship, Recovery and Inclusive Society partnership (CRISP), an international partnership unites leaders from academia, policy, practice, advocacy and community organizations from the EU and US. The partnership aims to unite leaders from academia, policy, practice and advocacy from the EU and US to share and build on the solid foundation of work being done to increase social inclusion for people with mental health problems. This European Union funded program), brings together four European partners: Strathclyde University (Scotland), the Mental Health Foundation (UK), the Finnish Association for Mental Health (Finland), Ulm University (Germany) with three US partners: New York University, Yale University, and Illinois Institute of Technology.

Representatives from CRISP and leading policy makers, advocates and researchers attended the symposium, hosted at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and the Silver School of Social Work. The aim was to frame the overarching questions for the program's four-year agenda focusing on citizenship, recover, stigma and public policy.

Welcoming remarks were made by the new Director of McSilver Institute for Poverty, Policy and Research at NYU Silver School of Social Work Dr. Michael Lindsey and Commissioner Ann Sullivan of the New York State Office for Mental Health an overview of U.S mental health policy. Professor Sherry Glied, Dean of Wagner Graduate School of Public Service gave the keynote setting the scene for the day with the question: How can policymakers, advocates and researchers contribute to social inclusion and improve the connections between the mainstream and those with mental health problems?

Experts working in the field of mental health and with lived experience reflected on the key issues and barriers to social inclusion. Interactive sessions gave the diverse range of stakeholders an opportunity to listen and share potential solutions to improving the mental health of all citizens. The partnership plans to build on the ideas generated at this symposium to shape its work over the next 4 years.

Victoria Stanhope, the CRISP lead from New York University and Silver School of Social Work Associate Professor reflected: "it was exciting to see the exchange of innovative ideas from both sides of Atlantic showing that social inclusion is possible and attainable"

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