MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA'S 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# whyWELLNESSworks

BREAKTHROUGHS AND PATHWAYS TO WHOLE HEALTH

# 2013 Awards Nomination Guide

**Deadline: March 31, 2013**

**Each year, Mental Health America presents awards that recognize outstanding work and leadership in the mental health field by its affiliates, young people and adult mental health consumers. The awards will be presented at the 2013 Mental Health America Annual Conference, Why Wellness Works: Breakthroughs and Pathways to Whole Health.**

MHA℠
Mental Health America

# OVERVIEW

*The Awards:*

## Clifford W. Beers Award

Mental Health America's highest honor is presented to a mental health consumer who best reflects the example set by Mental Health America founder Clifford W. Beers in his or her efforts to improve conditions for and attitudes toward people living with mental health and substance use conditions.

## Youth Advocacy Award

This award (formerly the mpower Award) recognizes the work of a teen or young adult who has spoken out about mental health issues to educate his or her peers and fight stigma.

## Sandy Brandt Volunteer Service Award

Named in honor of Sandy Brandt, who exemplified the unselfish, dedicated mental health volunteer at the local, state and national levels, the award is presented to a person who has exhibited extraordinary volunteer service and ongoing commitment to Mental Health America's mission.

## Who is eligible to be nominated?

- Each award has different eligibility criteria, which are outlined in this brochure.
- Self-nominations will be accepted.
- Previous nominees who did not receive an award may be nominated again.

## How can I nominate a person or organization?

- **Complete a nomination form** (included in this brochure) for each nomination. Nominators can photocopy the forms to submit multiple nominations.
- **Attach a statement of no more than three pages to your application**. The statement should include relevant biographical information about the nominee and describe how the nominee meets award criteria.
- **Include up to three pages of additional support material** (i.e., newspaper clippings, magazine articles, letters of support, etc.)
- **Package the nomination form, statement and materials in one notebook, binder or folder.** The entire packet must not exceed seven pages in length. **Do not send videos, books or CDs.** Packets will not be returned.
- **Submit your application packet by March 31, 2013**.

*A photo (for promotional purposes) and brief bio will be requested of each award recipient once selections have been made.*

# NOMINATION CRITERIA

## Clifford W. Beers Award

Created in 1976, the Clifford W. Beers Award has been presented annually to a consumer of mental health and/or substance abuse services who best reflects the example set by Beers in his efforts to improve conditions for, and attitudes toward, people with mental illnesses.

**Criteria**—*Nominees must:*

- Be, or have been, consumers of mental health services;
- Have made or are making major contributions to improve the lives of people who have mental illnesses, substance use or co-occurring disorders;
- Demonstrated a strong ability to effectively educate the public about mental health, mental illnesses, and substance use or co-occurring disorders;
- Effectively promoted the concept of recovery to local, statewide and/or national audiences; and
- Illustrated his or her commitment to consumer advocacy despite risks to career, finances and public acceptance (strongly encouraged).

The award winner will receive an expense paid trip to the 2013 Mental Health America Annual Conference at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, including full registration fees, travel and hotel expenses for the entire conference. He or she will be honored at the Awards Dinner on the evening of Friday, June 7th, and asked to offer remarks and join in the ringing of the Mental Health Bell.

## Youth Advocacy Award

The Youth Advocacy Award (formerly the mpower Award) celebrates the life and work of a teen or young adult who has spoken out about mental health issues to educate his or her peers and fight stigma.

**Criteria**—*Nominees must:*

- Be between the ages of 13-25;
- Have personal experience in dealing with a mental health or substance use condition that has affected them, a friend or a family member; and
- Have addressed mental health issues in their communities, such as: forming a peer support group or club; advocating for mental health policy or system change; speaking to classmates or a youth group; writing a song, article or essay; or talking with the media.

The award winner will receive registration for themselves and a parent for the 2013 Mental Health America Annual Conference at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, as well as two nights' lodging at and round-trip travel to the conference. The award recipient will be honored at the Awards Dinner on the evening of Friday, June 7th, and asked to offer brief remarks.

## Sandy Brandt Volunteer Service Award

This award is presented to a person who has exhibited extraordinary volunteer service and ongoing commitment to the Mental Health America mission. It is designated for individuals who have volunteered at Mental Health America's 240 affiliates across the United States.

**Criteria**—*Nominees must:*

- Not be a paid staff member of a Mental Health America affiliate;
- Have a history of service as an affiliate volunteer and/or have performed exceptional service within the past year;
- Have contributed to the mission and programs of the affiliate;
- Represent the goals of recovery and service to the community; and
- Reflect the core value of supporting diversity and cultural inclusion in community.

The recipient will receive complimentary registration to the 2013 Mental Health America Annual Conference at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, as well as two nights' lodging at and round-trip travel to the conference. The award recipient will be honored at the Delegate Assembly Breakfast on the morning of Friday, June 7th and asked to offer brief remarks.

# NOMINATION FORM

Please use this nomination form for all awards. If nominating for the Youth Advocacy Award, please pay special attention to items marked with asterisks.

## Please select the award for which you are submitting a nomination:

☐Clifford W. Beers Award ☐Youth Advocacy Award ☐Sandy Brandt Volunteer Service Award

## Nominee

Name:_____ Age (Youth Advocacy Only):_____

Organization:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ ZIP:_____

Phone:_____ Email:_____

**If for Youth Advocacy Award and Nominee is under 18:*

Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Guardian Email: _____

## Nominating Organization or Individual

Name:_____ Organization:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ ZIP:_____

Phone:_____ Email:_____

**If for Youth Advocacy Award:*

Connection to Nominee: _____

## Consent (Full consent of nominees for all awards is required for consideration)

I, (print name)_____, hereby consent to be nominated to receive the award indicated on this form and authorize the use of my name, brief bio and photograph in any publicity of the award.

Signature of Nominee:_____ Date:_____

**If for Youth Advocacy Award and Nominee is under 18:*

Signature of Guardian:_____ Date:_____

## In addition to completing this form:

- Attach a statement of no more than three pages to your application. The statement should include relevant biographical information about the nominee and describe how the nominee meets the award criteria.
- Include up to three pages of additional support material (i.e., newspaper clippings, magazine articles, etc.).
- Package the nomination form, statement and materials in one notebook, binder or folder. The *entire packet must not exceed seven pages in length*. **Do not send videos, books or CDs.** Packets will not be returned.
- Send your nomination packet by March 31, 2013 using one of the methods below.

## Send all materials by March 31, 2013, to:

Post:
2013 MHA Awards
c/o Wendi Fralick
Affex Consulting
29 Dora Drive
Middletown, CT 06457

Email: wfralick@affexconsulting.com
Subject Line: Award Nomination

Please note: *If you do not have access to a scanner, you may provide an email from the nominee indicating consent as an attachment to the nomination form. This will not count against the 7 page limit.*

**Questions?** Contact Wendi Fralick at wfralick@affexconsulting.com or 860-888-2320.