

Opioid Coordination Council
February 25, 2019
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Waterbury State Office Complex
FINAL Agenda

- 1:00 – 1:05 **Welcome and opening remarks** (Chairs)
- 1:05 – 1:15 **Business** (Chair)
Introductions
Approval of minutes (October, December)
- 1:15 – 1:30 **Director’s report** (Jolinda LaClair)
 - OCC 2019 Report: Building Bridges
 - Updates
- 1:30 – 1:55 **National and Vermont Perspectives on the opioid crisis and substance misuse:**
Update on trends and action. (Mark Levine, Commissioner of Health)
- 1:55 – 2:00 **Special Remarks from a Council Member**
- 2:00 – 3:15 **Addiction and the Science of the Brain** (Dr. Tom Simpatico, UVMHC Psychiatry)
(See bio attached)
- 3:15 – 3:25 **Council and Member Updates** (Facilitator: J. LaClair)
- 3:25 – 3:30 **Public comment**
- 3:30 **Closing remarks. Adjourn.**



Thomas A. Simpatico, M.D.

Brief Biosketch February, 2019

Professor of Psychiatry & Director, Division of Public Psychiatry
The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of Vermont

Chairman & CEO, MhISSION Translational Systems (MTS), LLC
In partnership with The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the
University of Vermont

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Dr. Thomas Simpatico trained at the University of Chicago and now serves as Professor of Psychiatry and Director, Division of Public Psychiatry for the Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of Vermont.

He has served in a wide variety of clinical, administrative roles including serving as Chief Medical Officer for the Vermont Medicaid Authority from 2013-2017. In that role, he was part of the team that devised and implemented Vermont's "Hub & Spoke" system as Vermont's early response to its opioid crisis.

From 1988-2003 as part of the Northwestern University Medical School faculty he served in a series of administrative positions for the Illinois Mental Health Authority including five years as Metro Chicago Bureau Chief for the Illinois Department of Mental Health. In that role, he created and directed a number of programs that have significantly helped to integrate community mental health services with the Cook County Department of Corrections/Cook County Jail including the Cook County Jail DataLink System.

Dr. Simpatico and his team at UVM have evolved the work begun in Chicago creating the MhISSION System®, a suite of tools and technologies which creates allows information exchange, interoperability and AI decision support for treatment and service providers, outreach agencies, law enforcement, corrections authorities, veterans' groups, and other entities that typically operate in isolation serving common populations.

Dr. Simpatico has received numerous awards and is an active researcher, teacher and speaker. He was the recipient of the 2010 Exemplary Psychiatrist Award of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Featherfist Humanitarian Service Award. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, past president of the Vermont Psychiatric Association and was a panelist on the Fred Friendly Seminars production MINDS ON THE EDGE-Facing Mental Illness that has aired nationally on PBS.