

# MEET OUR 2017 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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## **Cedric L. Alexander, Psy.D**

Deputy Mayor  
Rochester, New York

**Dr. Cedric L. Alexander** was appointed by Mayor Lovely A. Warren as Deputy Mayor for the City of Rochester on April 24, 2017. Dr. Alexander serves as the Chief Operating Officer for city government and has direct oversight of Emergency Communications, Environmental Services, Finance, Fire, Law, Human Resource Management, Information Technology, Neighborhood & Business Development and the Department of Recreation and Youth Services, Police, the Office of Management & Budget, and the Parking & Municipal Code Violations Bureau.



Prior to being appointed as Deputy Mayor, Dr. Alexander was appointed by the DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer as the Chief of Police for the DeKalb County Police Department in April 2013, where his primary responsibility was to oversee and direct all activities of the Police Department and surrounding areas. On December 2013, Dr. Alexander was appointed to the position of Deputy Chief Operating Officer, DeKalb County Office of Public Safety. Dr. Alexander is responsible for the day-to-day operations of DeKalb County Police/Fire Department, Medical Examiner's Office, and Animal Services as well as 911 Communications. Chief Alexander is responsible for protecting and serving the citizens of DeKalb County. DeKalb County is the second largest county in the Metro-Atlanta area protecting and serving approximately 700,000 citizens.

Prior to joining the DeKalb County Police Department, Dr. Alexander was appointed by the Transportation Security Administration as the Federal Security Director (FSD) for Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) in September 2007. His responsibilities included the coordination and oversight of all security and regulatory actions. DFW currently operates as the third busiest airport in the world, servicing 60 million passengers a year.

Before joining TSA, Dr. Alexander served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Criminal Justice at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in Albany, New York. His many duties included statewide oversight of public safety as well as direction of training for criminal justice officials throughout the State of New York. Prior to his appointment with the State of New York, Dr. Alexander served as Chief of Police in Rochester, New York.

In 1992 Dr. Alexander chose to pursue a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Wright State University, Dayton Ohio. Further academic training includes: a clinical psychology internship at the

University of Miami/ Jackson Memorial Medical Center, Postdoctoral Training at the University of Rochester School of Medicine/ Department of Psychiatry in Rochester, New York and Leadership Training at Cornell University. Dr. Alexander is also a member of the Federal Investigation (FBI) National Academy Training Committee.

Dr. Alexander served on numerous community boards and civic organizations in upstate New York. He is currently serving as Past President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); and he also holds a membership with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Dr. Alexander served on President Barack Obama's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing, and in March of 2015, he met with the President to discuss the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Task Force Report that contained recommendations on how to enhance and improve community-police relations.

Dr. Alexander frequently appears on CNN and has appeared on shows such as MSNBC Morning Joe, CBS Evening News, ABC World News with Diane Sawyer, and NBC Nightly News. In addition, Dr. Alexander has written numerous Opinion Editorials for CNN, and he currently lectures on topics of management and leadership. In 2016, Dr. Alexander published his first book, "The New Guardians," regarding policing in America's communities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **Jeffrey Swanson, Ph.D**

Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Duke University



**Jeffrey Swanson, Ph.D** is Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine, and Associate Director of the UNC-Chapel Hill/Duke Postdoctoral Training Program in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Systems Research.

He holds a PhD in sociology from Yale University. Dr. Swanson's research career has focused on building evidence for the effectiveness of interventions, policies, and laws to improve quality of life and reduce harmful outcomes for adults with serious mental illnesses in the community. He received the 2011 Carl Taube Award from the American Public Health Association and the 2010 Eugene C. Hargrove Award from the North Carolina Psychiatric Foundation, both for outstanding career contributions to mental health research. Dr. Swanson was awarded a NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Grant from the Brain and Behavior Foundation in 2013, and an Independent Research Scientist Career Award from the National Institute of Mental Health in 2004. He is currently principal investigator of a multi-state study on firearms laws, mental illness and prevention of violence, co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Program on Public Health Law Research (PHLR), and the Brain and Behavior Foundation. He was a key consultant and member of the PHLR program's Methods Core. He was a member of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mandated Community Treatment. Dr. Swanson has frequently served as a consultant to policymakers at the state and national levels.

## **Robert K. Heinssen, Ph.D., ABPP**

*Director, Division of Services and Intervention Research  
National Institutes of Mental Health*



**Dr. Heinssen** joined NIMH in 1999. Since then, he has effectively promoted translational research strategies for improving screening, assessment, treatment, and preventive interventions for people with serious mental illness.

He is widely recognized as a scientific leader in the areas of prodromal schizophrenia research, first episode psychosis, and neuroscience approaches for improving assessment and remediation of cognitive deficits in schizophrenia. Dr. Heinssen is NIMH Science Officer for the groundbreaking North American Prodrome Longitudinal Study (NAPLS) and Study Director for the Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) initiative, an NIMH signature project that aspires to indicated prevention during the earliest phases of psychotic illness. From 2008 to 2010, Dr. Heinssen played a pivotal role in launching the NIMH-Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Service members (Army STARRS), the largest study of mental health risk and resilience ever conducted among military personnel.

He has won several awards, including the Department of Health and Human Services' Hubert H. Humphrey Award for Service to America, the National Institutes of Health Director's Award, and the NIMH Supervisor of the Year Award. In 2014, Dr. Heinssen received a Special Presidential Commendation from the American Psychiatric Association for championing research on early psychosis and translating it into policy and programs for clinical implementation as a new standard of care. For his long-standing service to individuals with serious mental illness, Dr. Heinssen received the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Wayne S. Fenton Memorial Award.

Between 2004 and 2012, Dr. Heinssen served as a Major in the U.S. Army National Guard. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 as a member of the U.S. Army Joint Mental Health Advisory Team (J-MHAT 7).

Dr. Heinssen earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Catholic University of America. He completed a clinical fellowship at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School and residency at Chestnut Lodge Hospital; he is a board certified, licensed clinical psychologist. Before joining NIMH, he worked for 12 years as a clinical researcher and mental health practitioner at Chestnut Lodge Hospital and Research Institute in Rockville, MD. While there, he studied the diagnosis, course, and treatment of schizophrenia, and developed several science-based, multi-disciplinary treatment programs for persons with serious mental illness. Dr. Heinssen is the founder and past president of the Schizophrenia Special Interest Group within the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology. He has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters, and is a regular presenter at major scientific meetings.