

# Psychiatry Grand Rounds

## WCM Department of Psychiatry

Psychology CE Announcement

### *NYC's Plan to Reduce Overdose Death & Improve Lives*

#### Jonathan Giftos, MD

Assistant Commissioner Bureau of Alcohol &  
Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment NYC  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine Albert  
Einstein College of Medicine

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

11:00am – 12:30pm

<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92812036154>

Meeting ID: 928 1203 6154

Password: 12345

\*1.5 CE credit available to full time and voluntary faculty psychologists and Social Workers who sign in with their full name, attend the majority of the lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the lecture.

#### **SPEAKER DISCLOSURE:**

Dr. Giftos has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.

Dr. Jonathan Giftos is the Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Use: Prevention, Care and Treatment at the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. In this role, he oversees NYC's investment in public health interventions to reduce drug related harm. Dr. Giftos's work is broadly focused on improving health care delivery for people who use drugs. This work includes improving care "accessibility" and "acceptability" for people who use drugs, including enhancing low-threshold treatment options; defining and developing a continuum of care that reflects the fluctuating nature of many patient's drug use and recovery; reducing barriers to methadone and buprenorphine for justice-involved patients; and partnering with impacted communities to identify challenges, set priorities and develop strategic plans for meaningful systems change. Dr. Giftos completed medical school at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 2012. While there he was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, of which he also served as President. He completed residency and chief residency in the Primary Care & Social Internal Medicine Residency Program at Montefiore Medical Center.

#### **Abstract:**

NYC is facing a crisis of deaths due to drug poisoning and overdose that has been worsening steadily over the past decade. The burden of this crisis is not felt equally across the city, with certain communities experiencing much higher rates of overdose death than others. A history of structural oppression, including divestment from communities, systemic racism and other forces drive the consolidation of this risk. Leveraging the city's direct share of opioid settlement dollars, and in collaboration with city and state partners, the NYC DOHMH is leading an effort to develop a strategic plan to reduce overdose death across the city and improve lives for people most impacted. While this plan is not yet finalized, this talk will give a high-level overview of the state of the crisis, the forces driving the rapid rise in overdose deaths, and the strategies we are considering for investment.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Discuss current trends in overdose death in NYC, including the inequitable distribution of death across the city.
2. Determine major drivers of overdose that NYC must address to reduce death risk.
3. Describe key elements of the NYC plan, including values, goals and priority areas for investment.

#### **References:**

1. Giftos JM, Tesema, L. [When Less is More: Reforming the Criminal Justice Response to the Opioid Epidemic](#). ABA Judges Journal. Winter Issue, 2018.
2. Giftos JM, Kaba F, Johnson CJ, MacDonald RF. Jail-Based Initiation of Buprenorphine/Naloxone Treatment for Patients with Opioid Use Disorders. Presented as Oral Abstract, AMERSA Annual National Conference. November 2017.
3. Giftos JM, Mitchell A, MacDonald, RF. [Medicine & Mass Incarceration: Education and Advocacy in the NYC Jail System](#). *AMA Journal of Ethics* (2017), 19(9),
4. Giftos, JM. [Community Health Workers: Key to Reducing Disparities in End-of-Life Care](#). Geripal.org. September 2013.
5. Vail, W., Faro, E., Watnick, D., Giftos, J., Fox, A.D. (2021) Does incarceration influence patients' goals for opioid use disorder treatment? A qualitative study of buprenorphine treatment in jail. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 108529.