

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

FRIENDS OF  
RECOVERY  
New York

ONE COMMUNITY  
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New York State  
RECOVERY CONFERENCE



#NYSRecoveryCon

"Owning Our Recovery"  
OCTOBER 17, 18 & 19, 2021

# 2021 NYS Recovery Conference

## The Program

World renowned keynote speakers, informative plenary sessions, fun networking opportunities, 15 fabulous workshops, and rejuvenating morning wellness activities are planned around the pillars of recovery!

We'll have three tracks that will be live and/or virtual. Workshops will support the Multiple Pathways of Recovery, Health and Wellness, Peer Professionals, and highlight the Recovery Advocacy that is happening around the state, the country, and the world.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Dr. Gabor Maté**

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Retired physician, author, and international speaker, sought after for his expertise on addiction, trauma, childhood development, and the relationship of stress and illness, Dr. Gabor Maté will be delivering a 90-minute interactive keynote address on the importance of caring for ourselves as we care for others who are experiencing addiction. His presentation is based on his best-selling books “When The Body Says No: Understanding the Stress-Disease Connection” and “In The Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction.”



**Robert Kent**



One of our own, Rob Kent, will be kicking us off on Monday morning. Find out what's happening on a national level as "Recovery goes to the White House." We couldn't be happier to have our dear friend with us this year, speaking in his new role as General Counsel of White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Mr. Kent previously served as the General Counsel for the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports ("OASAS"). In this role, Mr. Kent provided overall legal support, policy guidance and direction to the OASAS Commissioner, the Executive Office and all divisions of the agency.

Under the leadership of OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez, Robert led the OASAS efforts to implement Governor Cuomo's Heroin and Opioid Task Force recommendations including the Combat Addiction/Heroin Campaign, the Federal Opioid Targeted Grant program, and Medicaid Redesign Team initiatives including implementation of historic legislation to increase access to treatment. The Task Force was co-chaired by Commissioner González-Sánchez and Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul. Robert has co-authored articles on patient confidentiality and sober homes and has presented nationally and throughout New York State on the OASAS system of care.



A Hay House author who has gained a reputation as one of the leading transformational coaches in the UK, Nicky Clinch has transformed her life from the depths of addiction to become a pioneer and leader in her field. She doesn't just talk the talk, but continues to walk the walk. Nicky will present a workshop: "Living from a Place of Trust and Surrender" on the importance of authenticity in the recovery support role based on her book: "Surrender: Break Free of the Past, Realize Your Power, Live Beyond Your Story."

**Nicky Clinch**



A capital district native and person in sustained recovery, expert improviser, comedian, and Army veteran, Dion Flynn, is best known as Barack Obama (and other characters) with over 100 appearances on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. Dion will be our anchor and take us out on an upbeat note with an interactive keynote: "The Improvisation Mindset: Gratitude and Resilience in Recovery."



**Dion Flynn**



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