

# *It Starts With Us*

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Celebration \* May 31, 2019 \* Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Westborough, MA

## Keynote Speaker



Barbara Huff's struggle to get appropriate services, support and treatment for her daughter with co-occurring mental health and substance use challenges led her to advocating on a larger scale. She started a statewide family-run organization, Keys for Networking, in Kansas. She then joined the emerging national movement as the founder and first president of the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, specifically to involve families in changing mental health systems, services and supports for children and youth. She relocated to the Washington DC area, serving 12 years as the Federation's Executive Director, nurturing the development of the grassroots family-run organizations across the country and harnessing their strength to improve the social, emotional, mental health and well-being of thousands of children and their families. As a presidential appointee on the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration Advisory Council from 2003-2008 Barbara took the family voice to a new level of influencing policy and system's change. From 2005-2018 Barbara worked part time as a Technical Assistance Specialist for the Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign.

Barbara has received more than 30 awards from local, statewide, national family and professional organizations. Her passion, compassion, leadership, vision and determination to find viable, strength-based solutions have inspired families and organization leaders in every state to work for systems change and will continue for generations to come.

