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**Mental Health Association of Nassau County names Jeffrey McQueen as its Executive Director – Elects Russell G. Matthews as its Board President**

*McQueen, a ten-year veteran of the MHANC, brings expertise, leadership and a strong voice to people with mental illness*

*Organization affirms its role as a leading advocate for the mental health community, improving mental health through education, program development and the delivery of direct services*

**Hempstead, NY:** The Mental Health Association of Nassau County, Inc. (MHANC) today announced that the organization’s new Executive Director will be Jeffrey McQueen, MBA, LCDC. McQueen previously served as Interim Executive Director since April 2019. Prior to that, he served as the agency’s Chief Program Officer and Director of Peer Services & Special Projects. MHANC today also announced that its Board of Directors elected Russell G. Matthews as its new President. Matthews serves as Principal at the Albanese Organization.

“Jeff’s strong leadership, experience and expertise will help broaden the agency’s efforts as the issues impacting mental illness become more complex and challenging. Jeff’s advocacy for people with mental illness makes today not just a great day for MHANC, but a great day for the entire community,” said Russell G. Matthews, Board President, MHANC.

McQueen’s experience as a combat veteran provides him with a unique skillset to handle the complexities of the position. He has leveraged this experience to provide members of the mental health community a distinctive education. As well, he projects purpose and empowerment to everyone who surrounds him. Under McQueen’s supervision, MHANC opened the Turquoise House II, the second of two entirely peer-run respite programs unique on Long Island.

“For over 67 years, MHANC has served people in Nassau County and beyond. This is not about starting something new, it’s about building on an already enormous foundation so that all people with mental illness have a voice and the most comprehensive services available,” said Mr. McQueen.

Mr. Matthews is a Principal of the Albanese Organization, a privately-owned real estate company founded in 1949 and based in Garden City, NY. Matthews serves on several Boards, including the Association for a Better Long Island, and is a member of the Energeia Partnership and its Advisory Board. He has been an active board member of the MHANC for almost 20 years.

“The appointment of McQueen, combined with the election of Matthews, ensures MHANC is strategically positioned to better serve and advocate for people with mental illness for many years to come. Our organization is thrilled with our new leadership team and excited for what’s to come,” said Board Member and Secretary Robert Larocca, Executive Vice President, Sterling Risk.

### **MHANC Background**

Since 1953, the Mental Health Association of Nassau County Inc. is committed to improving mental health and wellness in the community through the delivery of direct services, advocacy, education, and training. We strive to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness. We advocate for changes in services, policies, and procedures. We deliver services through an array of programming unmatched elsewhere in the community.

**MHANC touches the lives of over 10,000 people annually with a person centered, whole person approach. Our programs: Housing, Care Coordination, day programs PROS/SOAR, Veterans Services, Financial Management, Education and Training, Peer Support Services and respite all help us to support our community to aim toward our vision statement of providing assistance to individuals so that they are able to live their most meaningful lives. To learn more about our services, please visit us at [www.mhanc.org](http://www.mhanc.org).**