



The Sozosei Foundation To Provoke Powerful Conversations at 2024 Summit to Decriminalize Mental Illness

The Summit will feature award-winning journalist Antonia Hylton as a keynote speaker along with compelling sessions from healthcare leaders and people with lived experience

Princeton, NJ, April 8, 2024— [The Sozosei Foundation](#), a philanthropic arm of Otsuka dedicated to the decriminalization of mental illness, will gather the nation’s most creative, impactful leaders in mental health at the 2024 Sozosei Summit to Decriminalize Mental Illness on April 16 and 17. Taking place at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, the Summit offers a unique landscape for attendees to spark and engage in thought-provoking conversations surrounding access to mental healthcare, focusing on intersectional, data driven decriminalization strategies.

This year’s Summit will look to answer the question: **Do we truly believe that all people deserve access to mental healthcare?** Through purposeful panels and discussion, the Summit will draw leaders across disciplines and people with lived experience to offer their expertise on solving some of the highest priorities in order to decriminalize mental illness, including enforcing the promise of the Mental Health & Addiction Parity Act, the use of Psychiatric Advance Directives, and unveiling a national set of research priorities to decriminalize mental illness.

“When we gather a diverse group of committed people together to share their ideas, we provide space to think differently and ultimately, accelerate solutions,” **said Melissa M. Beck, Executive Director of the Sozosei Foundation.** “This year’s Summit will harness the power of creativity and collaboration to build a world where people with mental illness are humanized, not criminalized.”

The Summit will feature keynote speaker [Antonia Hylton](#), a Peabody and two-time Emmy award-winning correspondent for NBC News and MSNBC, and co-host of [Southlake](#) and [Grapevine](#) podcasts. As a seasoned reporter and a researcher, Hylton offers a unique perspective on the inappropriate use of jails and prisons to treat those with mental illnesses.

Participants will have the opportunity to break into small groups at the conclusion of the Summit to collaborate on strategies that will turn ideas into action. Distinguished Summit speakers include Jonathan Sherin, MD, PhD, Clinical Professor, Psychiatry and Bio-Behavioral Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles and former Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; , and Lisa M. Gomez, Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, US Department of Labor.

To view the full agenda and list of speakers, click [here](#). Recommended resources can be found [here](#). Be sure to follow the Sozosei Foundation on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Threads](#) to receive updates in advance of the Summit.

Sozosei Foundation™



About the Sozosei Foundation

The Sozosei Foundation was established in 2019 as a philanthropic arm of Otsuka. The name Sozosei means “creativity” in Japanese. Our Japanese heritage is manifest in the Foundation’s fundamental values and day-to-day operations. The Foundation’s primary focus is to increase access to mental healthcare in order to eliminate the inappropriate use of jails and prisons for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness in the United States.

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