



**Action Now
for Mental Health:
OPSEU Symposium on
mental health reform
in Ontario**

**November 13 and 14, 2007
Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto**

We urge the newly-elected Ontario government to fund treatment and support services that work for all persons suffering from mental illness. Government ministries must collaborate to create the necessary conditions to ensure Ontarians suffering from mental illness maintain a quality of life standard that none are permitted to fall below. We ask the minister of health, the Hon. George Smitherman, to take a leadership role in securing funding for this vision of mental health service delivery, including fundamental health determinants such as housing and income.

To make mental health reform succeed we urge the government to:

- Fund the creation of quality, supportive housing units across the province to meet the shelter needs of all persons with mental illness;
- Recognize that community-based mental health services cannot succeed if persons with mental illness are forced to live in poverty. The government must raise the rates for ODSP and OW and index them to inflation;
- Recognize that many hospital-funded mental health programs respond to urgent community-based needs, and that such programs need to be protected, not made front-of-the-line candidates for budget-driven cuts;
- Continue to invest and ensure that funds for First Nations and Metis mental health services are delivered in consultation with representative governing bodies and service providers;
- Recognize that First Nations and Aboriginal mental health services are grounded in the experience of colonization and this reality has translated into problems of cultural discontinuity linked to the high rates of serious mental illness; alcoholism; suicide and violence within these communities;
- Increase funding for more court diversion programs and more forensic beds across the province;
- Eliminate the wage inequity between institutional and community-based positions to ensure that mental health professionals are supported to stay in the profession;
- Ensure that care is provided in a setting that supports the best health outcomes, rather than resorting to the placement of mental health patients in nursing homes.

AGENDA

Monday, November 12

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Registration
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Tuesday, November 13

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration
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9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Welcome: Patty Rout OPSEU First Vice-President/Treasurer Opening ceremony: Anne Solomon, Native Elder
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9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Plenary Presentation: <i>“Disconnection: Housing, income support, and mental health policy”</i> by Dr. Cheryl Forchuk, Lawson Research Institute, University of Western Ontario
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10:30-12:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion: <i>“How can citizens advocate for mental health policies that address the social determinants of health?”</i> Moderator: Dan Carter, Executive Producer, Channel 12, Kingston Panelists: Dr. Cheryl Forchuk, University of Western Ontario Phillip Dufresne, The Dream Team Michael Shapcott, Wellesley Institute Nancy Pridham, Executive Board Member, OPSEU Anne Bowlby, Manager, Mental Health and Addiction Unit, MOHLTC
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12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
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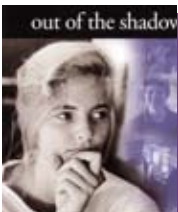
AGENDA

Tuesday, November 13

<p>1:00 - 1:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Plenary Presentation: <i>“An evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of CMHA Ottawa’s court outreach”</i> by Marnie Smith and Donna Pettey, Operations Directors, CMHA Ottawa</p>
<p>2:00 – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: <i>“How can citizens advocate for policies that keep persons with mental illness out of the criminal justice and correctional systems?”</i> Moderator: Craig Hurst, Communications Strategist Panelists: Lori Kruger, Correctional Officer, Thunder Bay Correctional Centre and Member of the Provincial Aboriginal Services Advisory Council Dr. Duncan Scott, Providence Care Health Services Ursula Lipski, Director Regional Coordinator, Schizophrenia Society of Ontario Marnie Smith and Donna Pettey, Operations Directors, CMHA, Ottawa</p>
<p>3:30 – 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Workshops: <i>“Advocating for change: influencing public policy”</i> A) Dana Milne, Naomi Berlyne and Linda Chamberlain, Income Security Advocacy Centre B) Becky McFarlane, Co-director, Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses C) Constance McKnight and Joan Montgomery, Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health D) Joy Connelly and Phillip Dufresne, Homecoming Community Choice Coalition E) Natalie Mehra, Director, Ontario Health Coalition</p>

Wednesday, November 14

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome
9:30 -10:30 a.m.	Keynote presentation: <i>“Making mental health a provincial priority”</i> by Glenn Thompson, Interim President, Canadian Mental Health Commission
10:30 – 12:00 noon	Panel Discussion: <i>“Taking action on mental health in Ontario”</i> Moderator: Robin Harvey, journalist and writer Panelists: Hy Eliasoph, CEO, Central LHIN Michelle Gold, Senior Director, Policy and Programs, CMHA, Ontario Patty Rout, First Vice-President/Treasurer, OPSEU David Reville, University of Ryerson, Disability Studies Deborah Pegahmagabow, Director, Bisaniibemasdwin Mental Health Services Nancy Stevens, Regional Aboriginal Mental Health Program Coordinator, Northeast Mental Health Centre
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Closing Thank-you: Nancy Pridham, OPSEU Closing Ceremony: Anne Solomon, Native Elder



Movie Presentation
“Out of the Shadow”

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

(Susan Smiley, 2004, 67 min.)

Followed by wine and cheese reception

WORKSHOPS “Advocating for change,

“Speaking truth to NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)”

Joy Connelly, Phillip Dufresne, HomeComing Community Choice Coalition

Location: Carlyle B

Imagine your elected representative telling you “there are too many of your kind in this neighbourhood.” Imagine local ratepayers’ groups asking you about your personal history before allowing you to move into the area. In this province, people with mental illness routinely encounter this sort of discrimination. In this workshop, we look at the practical steps every citizen can take to stop discriminatory NIMBY in its tracks.

Joy Connelly and Phillip Dufresne are members of HomeComing Community Choice Coalition. HomeComing brings together supportive housing providers, consumer/survivors, city planners, human rights activists and ordinary citizens to uphold the rights of people with mental illness to live in the neighbourhood of their choice.

“Breaking down the barriers — A new vision for OW and ODSP”

Dana Milne, Income Security Advocacy Centre; Naomi Berlyne, Houselink

Community Homes; Linda Chamberlain, The Dream Team

Location: Scott A

Many people with mental illness depend on Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to survive. In the last four years, social assistance rates have increased by only 7 per cent and remain thousands of dollars below the poverty line. OW and ODSP also continue to be inaccessible for many people by complicated and punitive rules. In this workshop, participants will discuss the results of the recent election and the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead for anti-poverty organizing. Learn what campaigns and coalitions already exist and pick-up tools and creative strategies for anti-poverty organizing in your union, workplaces and local communities.

Dana Milne, Naomi Berlyne and Linda Chamberlain, collectively, have years of experience advocating for justice and dignity for people on social assistance. Dana is a provincial organizer at the Income Security Advocacy Centre, which is a province-wide legal clinic specializing in anti-poverty issues. Naomi is a community development worker at Houselink, which provides supportive housing to low-income people. Linda lives on ODSP and is an active member of the Dream Team, a group of people on OW/ODSP that speak about their experiences of living in poverty and advocate for change. Dana and Naomi are involved in the ODSP Action coalition, a province-wide coalition that advocates for improvements to ODSP.

“Building political power that matters: organizing political movements that win change”

Natalie Mehra, Director, Ontario Health Coalition

Room: Rosetti A & B

This workshop will look at political movements that are winning and how they are doing it. What are the opportunities and challenges created by different models of

influencing public policy”

organizing? How do you build as broadly as possible while maintaining cohesion? What does this mean for mental health in Ontario?

Natalie Mehra is the Director of the Ontario Health Coalition, an organization encompassing over 400 member groups, thousands of individuals and over 70 local health coalitions across Ontario. She previously worked as the Executive Director of the Epilepsy Association in Southeastern Ontario. Natalie has coordinated a number of anti-poverty and social justice coalitions, and was the community co chair of the Day of Action in Kingston during the Mike Harris years. She is the author of numerous essays and articles about politics and policy in the non-profit sector.

“Building and sustaining consensus: A Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) perspective”

Constance McKnight, Co-Chair, Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health; Joan Montgomery, Executive Director, Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation

Location: Carlyle A

This workshop will provide an overview of the advocacy work of this 19 member alliance, towards achieving a National Mental Health Action Plan in Canada.

Joan Montgomery joined the Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation as Associate Executive Director in Oct., 2005. She became Executive Director in April of 2006. She previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of Schizophrenia Society of Canada. Constance McKnight is the Co-Chair, Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health. Constance has been employed as the National Executive Director of the National Network for Mental Health for the past 9 years. She is a member of the Knowledge Exchange Centre Committee of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

“Working for change: Engaging psychiatric survivors through employment and leadership opportunities”

Beky McFarlane, Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses (OCAB)

Location: Scott B

This session will look at the evolution of consumer/survivor run businesses in Ontario, and will provide practical and useful information on how alternative businesses can be successful, innovative, and empowering in addressing chronic unemployment. We will explore how employment opportunities can make a profound difference in the lives of employees as well as suggestions for how this model can be replicated on a local level.

Beky McFarlane is the Co-Director of the Ontario Council of Alternative Business and plays a central role in the newly created project “Voices from the Street,” a Speakers Bureau that seeks to engage marginalized people through the development of personal narratives. The Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses (OCAB) is a consumer/survivor run not-for-profit organization located in Toronto, Canada. OCAB owns and operates four survivor businesses across the province that collectively employ over 150 individuals who have personal experience with the mental health system.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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Glenn R. Thompson, BA MSW RSW

Glenn has an extensive background in a variety of non-profit and governmental organizations in Canada and the UK, dealing with individuals, social problems and public policy. He spent one year with the Ministry of Health in the UK where he was employed as a psychiatric social worker at a therapeutic community psychiatric hospital. From 2000, he spent two years with the Government of Nunavut where he was the Executive Director, Baffin Region, Department of Health and Social Services.

In the 16 years between 1975 and 1991, Glenn served as Deputy Minister in six Ontario government ministries. He served as Deputy Minister of Correctional Services from 1975 to 1981, where he began his social work career in 1960. Subsequently, he was Deputy Minister of Energy, Government Services, Municipal Affairs, Labour and Housing. His Deputy Minister appointments spanned Ontario's three major political parties and four Ontario Premiers.

After 31 years in the Ontario Public Service, Mr. Thompson joined the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division, as Executive Director for 9 years. In 2004 he returned to the CMHA, Ontario as Interim CEO and has been active in a general consulting practice and in volunteer activities.

At present, Mr. Thompson chairs the Ministries Expert Panel on the administration of psychotropic medications for children and youth for the Ministry of Children and Youth in Ontario. Glenn is the Interim President and CEO of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

He was awarded the Governor General's Centennial Medal in 1967 and in 2000 was awarded the Ontario Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration.

MODERATORS

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Craig Hurst served as President of the London branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), and as a board member of the provincial and national boards of the CMHA, where he was active in advocacy, program development and fundraising. Craig's first hand knowledge of the important role

of work in recovery encouraged him to create employment and entrepreneurial opportunity networks across Canada for people recovering from mental illnesses. His early work in employment led to Craig's involvement with the National Network for Mental Health (NNMH) where he eventually became the Board's Vice Chair, chaired the Personnel Committee and was the very first recipient of the Lifetime Membership Award.



Dan Carter has been seen in Time Magazine, MacLean's, Toronto Life and in every major newspaper in Canada including; The Globe and Mail, National Post and the Toronto Star. He is a professional speaker, television host and executive producer. He has been

awarded The Courage to Come Back Award from the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.



Robin Harvey has worked as an award winning journalist, editor and columnist for more than 20 years. Currently she is writing fiction and freelance articles and works in mental health advocacy with groups such as The Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario Division) the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario,

and Women's College Hospital. She is a former winner of CAMH's Courage to Come Back Award, has been honored by the Ontario's Nurses Association, the province's Safety League and the The CAJ, among other groups.

PLENARY PANELISTS

Anne Bowlby has been Manager of Mental Health and Addictions Unit in the Health Program Policy and Standards Branch, Health System Strategy Division at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care since April 2007. Prior to that time, she was Manager of the Addiction Program in the Community Health Division. She has been involved in the development of provincial policy and operational frameworks as well as system development.



Phillip Dufresne used to live on the street. Now he lives in supportive housing at Houselink Community Homes, where he has served as President of the Board of Directors. Phillip also advocates for more supportive housing on The Dream Team and has volunteered on many other committees and Boards.



Hy Eliasoph is the CEO of the Central Local Health Integrated Network. The Central LHIN has responsibility for planning, coordinating and funding health services across more than 130 healthcare organizations. Before becoming the first Central LHIN CEO, Hy was a Firm Director with the National Health Services Consulting Practice of Deloitte Inc., working across the country with acute hospitals, Regional Health Authorities, Ministries/Departments of Health, Community Care Access Centres, Provincial and National Associations and Organizations and numerous healthcare organizations in both the public and private sector. Prior to joining Deloitte, Hy was the Senior Director of Strategic Health Policy at the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA). He was instrumental in leading the groundbreaking work at the OHA in developing the first-ever hospital report card/balanced scorecard in Canada. He also served as the first Executive Director of the Ontario Joint Policy and Planning Committee (JPPC), and has consulted to, and worked with, various Ministries of Health and in several diverse portfolios at the Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary.



Michelle Gold is Senior Director, Policy and Programs at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division. She provides leadership in the areas of mental health promotion, public policy, the implementation of mental health reform and capacity building in the community mental health sector.

Lori Kruger has worked for the Ministry of Corrections and Community Services as a Correctional Officer at the Thunder Bay Correctional Center and Thunder Bay Youth Center since 1985. Lori is currently a member of PASAC (Provincial Aboriginal Services Advisory Council) and the Northern Regional Council for Women in Corrections. Lori is also one of the Aboriginal facilitators for the joint Employer/Union committee on Systemic Anti-Racism Organizational Change Steering Committee at her workplace.



Ursula Lipski, MSc. is the Director of Policy and Research at the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario where she works with local chapters and regional offices identifying and coordinating advocacy efforts. In this capacity she focuses primarily on advocating for improvements to government policies which affect access to mental health and addiction services for consumers and families. She is past President of the Family Mental Health Alliance, an organization of family groups and individuals working to develop a stronger voice for families. Prior to joining the mental health sector Ursula worked in the policy, advocacy and research areas in the non-profit sector, government and as an independent consultant. She has a long history of grassroots community development and activism, particularly around health and poverty issues.



Deborah Pegahmagabow RN, BA is the Program Coordinator at B'saanibamaadsiwin Native Mental Health Program. This program has been operating for 15 years, providing mental health support, education and intervention to First Nations as well as individuals and families affiliated or holding membership within communities. Debbie is a Psychiatric Nurse and has worked in the field of mental health for 22 years in the areas of information systems; program evaluation; privacy, as well as community health nursing and long term care.



Nancy Pridham is an RPN who has worked in mental health and addictions for over 22 years. She has been a tireless mental health advocate on issues of poverty and housing. Nancy has been a dedicated labour activist supporting numerous social justice initiatives in the province. Nancy has been an Executive Board member with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union for Region 5 since 2001.

PLENARY PANELISTS



David Reville is an instructor in the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University and a Research Associate with the Ryerson RBC Institute for Disability Studies Education and Research. David also operates David Reville and Associates in Toronto, specializing in social research and community development.



Patty Rout is First Vice-President/ Treasurer of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, a 117, 000 member organization representing 6,000 adult mental health workers across Ontario and 1,500 children's treatment centre workers. She has a long record of activism in the health care sector, participating on many campaigns for improved wages, health and safety standards, and working conditions.

In 1976 Patty began her career in the health sector, working as a certified laboratory technologist at Lakeridge Hospital (formerly Oshawa General). Patty has provided leadership on health issues in OPSEU. She served as chair of OPSEU's hospital professional division in the 1990s and chair of the union's Health Care Council.



Duncan A. Scott, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.(C) Upon graduation in Psychiatry from the University of Toronto, School of Medicine, Dr. Scott moved to Kingston and became the Chief Executive Officer of an 18 bed psychiatric hospital, the Institute of Psychotherapy, which he ran for 12 years. Presently, he is a psychiatric consultant to the Government of Ontario at Quinte Detention Centre. He is also

presently under contract with the federal government at the Immigration Holding Centre in Bath, ON. He is a member of the Senior Health Advisory Committee with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. He is also sits on a sub-committee with respect to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics. He was appointed Associate Professor at Queen's University in Kingston in 1994 and presently has two appointments, firstly as Medical Director of Psychiatry at Hotel Dieu Hospital and secondly as staff psychiatrist for the forensic unit at Providence Continuing Care Centre, Mental Health Services.



Michael Shapcott is a Senior Fellow at the Wellesley Institute, working on its public policy initiative. Previously, Michael was a Research Associate with the Centre for Urban and Community Studies where he coordinated the Community/ University Research Partnerships unit. He is recognized as one of Canada's leading housing policy

experts, and is a long-time housing and homelessness advocate. He is the co-editor, with Dr. David Hulchanski, of *Finding Room: Policy Options for a Canadian Rental Housing Strategy*, the most definitive study on national housing issues.



The Honourable George Smitherman (invited) was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1999. He was re-elected in 2003 and served as Ontario's Minister of Health. In October 2007, George Smitherman was reappointed to serve as Health Minister. In his previous term in government, Mr. Smitherman made a significant start to reinvesting in mental health.



Anne Solomon is Anishnawbe-kwe of the Bear Clan, living in Toronto since 1993. Since 1990, Anne has mainly worked/delivered sessions and spoken on Aboriginal/Indigenous spirituality, race relations, cultural sensitivity and cultural competency training, private and group counselling, addictions, justice and Aboriginal education. Anne has provided advisory services on Social Work initiatives at Ryerson

University. Anne has taught and continues to teach a course at TAPE Continuing Education & Professional Development. She is presently scheduled to deliver Cultural Training for Judges in Toronto at the Glaude Court. A principle part of her work now involves being part of the Advisory Team for the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in the capacity of Third Party Consultants for the recent R. v McKinnon case. Presently, she is completing her dissertation in Adult Education with a Specialization in Aboriginal-Indigenous Education. Anne has regularly presented at the Multi Cultural and Counselling Conference at OISE/UT on the subject of mental health services for Aboriginal People. She has also published a book chapter on "Indigenous Healing and Healing in a Modern World" in *Integrating Traditional Healing Practices into Counselling and Psychotherapy* (2005).

Nancy Stevens has been working in the field of Aboriginal mental health since 2001, beginning at B'saanibamaadsiwin in the Parry Sound area. Nancy is now Coordinator for the Regional Aboriginal Mental Health Program of the Northeast Mental Health Centre, servicing the northeast region of Ontario. Nancy is a mother of four and grandmother of two Anishinabek children. She is currently working on her Ph.D. at Trent University in the Indigenous Studies Department, focusing on the healing process. She also is a member of Min We We women's hand drum group from Wasauksing First Nation.

PLENARY PRESENTERS

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Dr. Cheryl Forchuk, PhD is a Professor at the School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, with a cross appointment to the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Western Ontario and a Scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute, London, Ontario. She participates in the mental health program at London Health Sciences Centre and participates in community development with mental health consumer and other community groups. Dr. Forchuk's work focuses on bringing together research, theory and practice. Her current research includes exploring the nurse-client relationship, recovery from psychosis, the transition from hospital to community, housing issues related to mental health, and supports for women following breast cancer surgery.

Donna Pettey, MSW, RSW has been with the Canadian Mental Health Association for over 20 years. She is currently Director of Operations, Direct Services and Research at the CMHA, Ottawa Branch. Donna is a co-investigator in the multi-site Community Mental Health Evaluation Initiative with the University of Ottawa.

Marnie Smith, BScN, MSW has worked in the health and social services field for over 30 years in public health, nursing education, community mental health service delivery and community mental health program planning, development, research, and evaluation. Presently, she works as a Director of Operations, Direct Service Program with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch. Until recently she was a Program Manager responsible for Mental Health Community Support Services, a coordinated case management program, involving research, evaluation, program development. Marnie is also as a co-investigator in the multi-site Community Mental Health Evaluation Initiative with the University of Ottawa.

Support the OPSEU Social Justice Fund. All proceeds from the sale of cards go to supporting various international projects – to communities focusing on poverty issues, access to water, education and health.

You can purchase the cards in the Exhibit area.



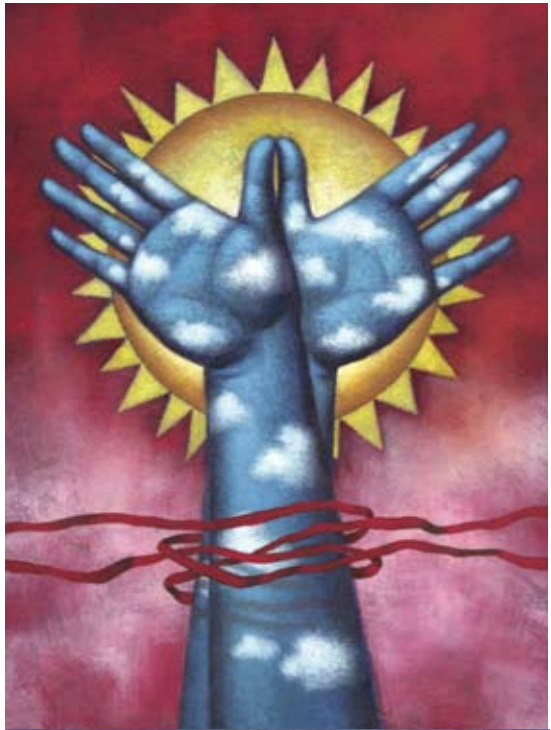
**Social
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Support the OPSEU Live and Let Live Fund. OPSEU will match the sale of the cards as an added contribution. Live and Let Live Fund donations go to HIV/ AIDS projects.

You can purchase the cards in the Exhibit area.



**Live and
Let Live
Fund** 



**Visit the Exhibit Area
Tuesday, 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

- Income Security Advocacy Centre
(ODSP/OW Action Coalition)
- Creative Works Studio
- Another Story Bookstore
- Ontario Council of Alternative
Businesses (businesses run by
consumer survivors)
- Ontario Health Coalition
- Dream Team – House Link
- Canadian Alliance on Mental
Illness and Mental Health
- Homecoming Community
Choice Coalition



**Featuring: Workman Theatre Art
Exhibit: “From Myth to Muse”**