



Michael J. Cohen
Associate Director - CPALS

Mr. Cohen is currently the Principal Consultant for MJC Health Solutions, a small business providing training and consultation to non-profit health and mental health advocacy leaders and policy makers. He also serves as the Associate Director for Cross-Sector Alliances and Policy at the Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders. Mr. Cohen sees himself as a citizen-professional, by acknowledging the important role that he plays to help organizations advance an agenda that reflects a purpose beyond the organization's traditional goals alone—one that builds the health and prosperity of others, particularly those that are routinely marginalized and excluded.

He served as a staff consultant to the Health and Aging Services Group and the Psychiatric Research Center, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, developing and implementing health services research projects designed to better understand effective and sustainable program implementation. His work experiences both as an Executive Director of a community mental health center and a statewide education and health advocacy organization have led to an extensive understanding of implementation of evidence-based treatments, health policy and policy making processes.

Working primarily in the fields of mental health and healthcare policy, administration and research, Mr. Cohen has been engaged in public policy campaigns for 3 decades. He works collaboratively building mutual understanding and trust with consumers, families, providers, payors and community partners. He strives for the development of inclusive and diverse coalitions—ensuring that those whose voices and experiences are typically unheard become co-designers and full partners in the decision-making process to assure access to affordable, high quality health services and supports, which are patient/family-centered and produce high quality outcomes.

His personal advocacy efforts for his daughter with mental illness has been an asset to his work and has helped enhance his sensitivity toward persons with chronic illness. These experiences have strengthened his advocacy for better access to services and supports necessary to address the social determinants of health and improve the quality of life for people with chronic illnesses, regardless of their race, age, sex, gender-orientation and/or social class.

Mr. Cohen received his BA and Master's degrees from the City University of New York and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.