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Many Faces of Our Mental Health Exhibit Opens in Concord, NH

What do people with mental illness look like? Do they look different than you or me?

On Tuesday, May 25th, the Many Faces of Our Mental Health Exhibit will open, explaining the science of our unique DNA and our mental health through art. The exhibit contains 99 portraits—33 of individuals on the bipolar disorder spectrum, 33 on the schizophrenia spectrum and 33 who love them. No one is labeled, as symptoms are not the person. Two sculptures depict the mental health spectrum, and six paintings translate U.S. census data and scientific research on mental illnesses in poignant, transparent ways.

"Interest in Mental Health is at an all time peak, while much information on mental illness is misunderstood. My hope is that information in my Exhibit will broaden understanding of the science of mental health, and that recovery is attainable," said Lynda Cutrell, Artist.

The exhibit is on display at the Concord YMCA, 15 North State Street through June 14th. Free tickets to tour the exhibit with artist are available at <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/many-faces-of-our-mental-health-exhibit-artist-tours-may-25-jun-14-tickets-154032036969</u>. Depending upon demand, some tours may be led by volunteers. Space is limited and registration is required. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed.

"Lynda's work has a hopeful message - those living with mental illness who receive proper treatment can lead productive lives," said Dellie Champagne, Chair of the Disability Rights Center – NH's PAIMI (Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness) Advisory Council. "I am thrilled we could bring this important exhibit to Concord."

The exhibit is sponsored by <u>NE Delta Dental</u>. Additional sponsors are the <u>Concord YMCA</u>, <u>Disability</u> <u>Rights Center - NH</u>: <u>PAIMI Advisory Council</u>, <u>New Futures</u>, and <u>NH Community Behavioral Health</u> <u>Association</u>.

Exhibit images are included with this release.

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Disability Rights Center-NH is New Hampshire's designated Protection and Advocacy system and is dedicated to eliminating barriers existing in New Hampshire to the full and equal enjoyment of civil and other legal rights by people with disabilities. More information about DRC-NH can be found at <u>www.drcnh.org</u>.

Protection and Advocacy System for New Hampshire