

Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge

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Columbia University Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science



John Tavalacci is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Odyssey House. He is a clinical social worker specializing in addiction treatment with 30 years of experience in the field. In addition to managing the clinical operations of the agency, John is actively involved with advocacy efforts at both the city and state levels. He brings a creative approach to the addiction treatment field, which is exemplified by his incorporating fitness as a significant component of rehabilitation. He founded “Run for Your Life,” a program that trains Odyssey House residents to become runners, participating in smaller charity races throughout the year and culminating in the New York City marathon.

John earned a Master of Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work in 2000 and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Empire State College in 1994. He is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). He is currently President of Therapeutic Communities of New York.