



Diane E. Russo, MS, CASAC
Chief Executive Officer

“Diane is a wonderful advocate for those in need. I admire her steadfast dedication to the community and her commitment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable among us while demonstrating leadership, compassion, and kindness to everyone she meets.”

–Megan Castellano, Executive Director of MHA in Putnam

Diane holds a Master of Science Degree in Counseling and Human Development and is a NYS Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor as well as a Life Coach, and has worked in the behavioral healthcare field for 28 years.

Diane began her career in Putnam County in 1998 as Associate Executive Director at Putnam Family & Community Services (now known as CoveCare Center) in Carmel. As AED she was responsible for the agency’s clinical operations, overseeing the provision of outpatient mental health and substance use treatment and prevention services to thousands of individuals in the Putnam community. At the end of 2010, she became the Executive Director, and in 2015, Chief Executive Officer, responsible for the overall leadership and management of the organization, corporate development, business operations and strategy.

As CEO, Diane keeps CoveCare Center and Putnam County in the forefront of New York State behavioral healthcare initiatives. Recently, CoveCare Center partnered with Coordinated Behavioral Health Services Independent Practice Association, whose shared goal is to provide exceptional and cost-effective healthcare to the Hudson Valley region. Diane continues to grow connections with others in the community who support CoveCare Center’s mission, including partnerships with CareMount Medical and St. Christopher’s Inn, and most recently, an affiliation with MHA in Putnam.

Diane is presently a member of the Putnam County Alternatives to Incarceration Board, the Putnam County Disaster Preparedness/Bioterrorism Task Force, the Putnam County Long Term Recovery Coalition and the One Army in the War on Addiction Task Force. In the past, Diane has served as a member of the Putnam County Veterans Task Force, Putnam County Communities That Care Coalition, the Hudson Valley-Catskill Coalition of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers, and Putnam Habitat for Humanity. She was the recipient of the 2016 Putnam Community Services Network Distinguished Service Award for an Individual, and in 2018, she was presented with the Rabbi Solomon B. Acrish Humanitarian Award in recognition of her exemplary leadership, dedication, compassion and kindness in seeking to improve the lives of those with mental health and substance use issues in the Lower Hudson Valley.