

BRSS TACS

Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER STRATEGY

Chacku Mathai **Consultant, Chacku Mathai Consulting, LLC.**

Chacku Mathai is a project director with the Center for Practice Innovations' OnTrackNY team and leads the *Promoting Hope and Opportunities for Youth with Early Psychosis (ProHope)* program, which is funded by a SAMHSA Healthy Transitions grant. The program supports youth and young adult in achieving school, work, and relationship goals.

Chacku is an Indian American who was born in Kuwait and became involved in consumer/survivor/ex-patient advocacy when he was 15 years old. His personal experiences with trauma, suicide attempts, and disabling mental health and substance use conditions, including psychosis as a youth and young adult, prompted Chacku and his family to advocate for improved services, social conditions, and alternative supports in the community. He has since accumulated over 30 years of experience in the transformation of behavioral health systems, with roles in youth leadership and community organizing/advocacy. Chacku has been a psychiatric rehabilitation practitioner/trainer in community mental health centers and residential programs and is licensed and certified by the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Chacku has held several executive leadership positions. He has been the chief executive officer of the Mental Health Association of Rochester, New York; the executive director of the National Alliance of Mental Illness STAR Center (a SAMHSA-funded National Technical Assistance Center), and the associate executive director of the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. He has also been active in state policy leadership and directed a statewide employment campaign. Chacku became the chair of the Employment Data Integration Team for the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council and was appointed to the credentialing board of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. He is a founding board member of Friends of Recovery - New York, a statewide coalition of people in recovery from addiction, and is currently the coalition's president. Chacku is also a board member of the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy.

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