The 2019 National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns presents the keynote speaker, Mr. Shawn Callaway. Mr. Callaway is currently the Program Specialist for the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). He also is the co-host of a Washington, DC area radio show titled “Open Our Eyes” which focuses on the inclusion of persons with disabilities within our society. His keynote speech titled: “From policy to practice, advocating for consumers with disabilities” will focus on how professionals in the human services field can understand the relation between policy making, practice, and advocacy.

Policy is a set of statements about how a goal is to be reached. It seeks to structure and shape specific areas of practice of several people. However, only a small amount of practice is dictated by policy. Policy is generally formalized in writing, whereas much practice resides in experience. Practice is the organized way in which an individual or a group carries out an activity. Although it may be more or less tightly framed by guidelines or even laws, practice is necessarily the fruit of what individuals do and is largely composed of tacit knowledge rooted in the experience of those individuals and groups.

Therefore, a large part of advocating for consumers with disabilities is ensuring that policies and practices encourages the inclusion of the needs, wants, and values of their consumers.

BIOGRAPHY
Shawn Callaway is a Program Specialist for the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Prior to working with AIDD, he was a Social worker for the D.C. Department of Behavioral Health (D.B.H.) in Washington, D.C. He provided counseling and therapeutic services to regular and special education students in D.C. public schools. In addition to providing counseling services, Shawn conducted several community and motivational workshops in Washington, D.C. on mental health disorders, such as Major Depressive Disorder and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.