Session 2 of “Living, Working and Thriving in the Midst of a Struggling Economy”

**Title:** Housing First: Ending Homelessness and Supporting Recovery for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities and Substance Use Disorders

**Presenters:**
Sam Tsemberis, Ph.D. Founder and CEO, Pathways to Housing, Inc., Faculty Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center

**About the Presenter:**
Dr. Sam Tsemberis founded Pathways to Housing, an organization based on the belief that housing is a basic human right, in 1992. He currently serves as the CEO. Pathways developed the highly successful Housing First program that provides immediate access to permanent supported housing to individuals who are homeless and who have mental health and addiction problems. The program uses a person-centered harm reduction approach to housing and services. The success of this approach has created a paradigm shift in the operation of supportive housing.

Pathways’ Housing First programs now operate across the US, Canada and Europe. The program is included in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s (SAMHSA’s) National Registry of Evidence Based Programs. Pathways’ has received recognition and numerous awards including the American Psychiatric Association’s Gold Award in the area of community mental health.

Dr. Tsemberis is a clinical-community psychologist and is on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center. He currently serves as principal investigator for several federally funded studies of homelessness, mental illness, and addiction, and has published numerous articles and book chapters on these topics.