Amy L. Kennedy

Amy L. Kennedy is the Education Director for The Kennedy Forum, providing consultation services that emphasizes evidence-based research and programming to facilitate policy change in the areas of education and mental health. Amy serves on the boards of Mental Health America, a leading national advocacy organization; Parity.org, which promotes gender parity at the highest levels of business; and Interaxon, a mental health technology company. She is an advisory board member of Set To Go, a JED program helping teens transition from high school to college and adulthood with special emphasis on mental wellness and emotional preparedness, and Brain Futures. Amy is a founder of Female Opioid Research & Clinical Experts (FORCE), a non-profit alliance of women with scientific, health policy and medical expertise in opioid addiction, and serves as an advisor to 7 Cups, an online peer support network, and Effective School Solutions, who provide in district clinical services to students aged pre-school through 12th grade.

Her research interests include the early identification and intervention of mental health concerns in children, the use of brain fitness and mindfulness within school systems in order to foster and improve mental wellness and developing prevention programs that utilize and promote student social and emotional learning.

Amy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Pennsylvania State University, and a Master of Science in Environmental Education from Nova Southeastern University. As part of her training, Amy has also obtained certification as a highly qualified instructor in the subjects of Science, English and History. Amy and her husband, former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, are the proud parents of five children and live in southern New Jersey.
During his 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Rhode Island’s First Congressional District, Patrick J. Kennedy fought to end discrimination against mental illness, addiction, and other brain diseases. He is best known as the lead sponsor of the groundbreaking Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), which was passed with bi-partisan support, and signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2008. The Federal Parity Law provides millions of Americans, previously denied care, with access to mental health and addiction treatment by requiring insurance companies to treat illnesses of the brain, such as depression and addiction, the same way they treat illnesses of the body, such as diabetes and cancer.

In 2013, he founded The Kennedy Forum, a non-profit organization whose mission is to lead a national dialogue on transforming mental health and addiction care delivery by uniting mental health advocates, business leaders, and government agencies around a common set of principles, including full implementation of the Federal Parity Law. The Forum aims to achieve health equity by advancing evidence-based practices, policies, political will and programming in mental health and substance use.

As co-founder of the non-profit One Mind (formerly One Mind for Research), Kennedy helped spark a global revolution in how scientists collaborate to study, diagnose, and treat brain diseases.

Kennedy served on the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. Kennedy’s personal contributions focused on the declaration of a federal emergency and strong parity recommendations.

Amid countless recognitions, meaningful partnerships, and political affiliations, Patrick J. Kennedy’s most important achievement continues to be leveraging his family legacy in the arenas of civil rights, mental health, and intellectual disabilities to advance the cause of social justice and health equity for all people. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, Amy, and their children.