



James D. Huysman, PsyD, LCSW, CCFT Biography

Thought leader, influencer, visionary, motivator, reformer - these are all terms that best describe “Dr. Jamie” over the years.

Fostering social entrepreneurship, advocacy, and innovation have been the touchstones and driving force throughout the good doctor’s 40-year career encompassing both for-profit and nonprofit leadership roles.

Beginning in the 1980s, he undertook his first advocacy in areas of outreach and clinical programming for addiction and dual diagnosis treatment facilities. A thriving private practice also developed during that decade.

The 1990s found him serving as the clinical consultant for ten of the major talk, court, and reality television shows of the day, appearing on more than 200 episodes. Seeing the need, he created and developed TV Aftercare®, the first national program dedicated to the clinical and corrective follow-up support for guests of the reality TV genre. The program established treatment solutions and case management for over 800 guests and their families, securing over \$8 million of pro bono healthcare services; this program is still active today.

Dr. Jamie gained notoriety as a guest expert in the media for this work and was identified as the only licensed clinician who worked behind the scenes of these shows at the time. As a result, he was called as the clinical expert witness in the infamous 1996 Jenny Jones / Sony Murder case, which forever changed the way television utilized its guests for their shows.

Partnering with media personality Leeza Gibbons in 2002, he co-founded The Leeza Gibbons Memory Foundation (LGMF) and designed its unique psychosocial programming. This 501(c)(3) organization became a network of individually funded drop-in centers around the country with a trained staff dedicated to supporting the family caregivers of loved ones with memory disorders. At its height, The LGMF set the standard for successful programs and events for family caregivers and their loved ones in ten US cities. Together with Rosemary DeAngelis Laird, MD, he and Gibbons co-wrote the bestselling **Take Your Oxygen First: Protecting Your Health and Happiness While Caring for a Loved One with Memory Loss**, published in 2009.

Keynotes and speaking requests began to pour in as he became known as an engaging and inspiring educator on caregiving and other senior issues. For several years, Dr. Jamie kept a robust schedule, speaking at numerous organizational Lunch & Learn sessions, presenting at many national conferences such as Aging in America, Caregiver Magazine, and National Association of Areas on Aging (N4A), in addition to National Association of Social Work (NASW) events and senior trade shows.

In 2008, Dr. Jamie was one of a specially selected national blue-ribbon panel of experts to craft the new NASW “Standards for Social Work Practice with Family Caregivers of Older Adults.” He was honored as the Florida Social Worker of the Year for this and his successful leadership of the LGMF.

In 2010, Dr. Jamie joined WellMed Medical Management as Vice President of Provider Relations and Government Affairs. Seeing the need to take care of the vicarious trauma experienced by thousands of physicians and other healthcare professionals, he created a program focusing on employees’ mental health within a primary service delivery system. He then became WellMed’s Chief Compassion Officer tasked with mitigating physician burnout and developing an employee outreach program across the organization. Additionally, he has hosted a regular radio show for caregivers called “**Caregiver SOS**” for the past four years.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought new challenges to Dr. Jamie and WellMed. Spearheading WellMed’s ground-breaking Emotional Support Response Team (ESRT), Dr. Jamie brought his special brand of connective magic of integrative care to physicians and professionals, but also included staffers and partners into wellness programs. Through his private practice, he has networked with several organizations and foundations to develop the TAR Network™, a service focusing on supporting, educating, and empowering people in toxic abusive relationships.

Today, Dr. Jamie sits on the Executive Board of Directors for the Florida Council on Aging, a 501(c)(3) organization that includes every lead agency and senior provider in the State of Florida. He is also an Advisory Board Member for the Polyvagal Institute, a cutting edge organization which includes International Thought Leaders of Autonomic Safety and Trauma responses. He has also contributed to book projects including *Voices of Caregiving* and *Voices of Alcoholism* for The Healing Project, and he was featured in *The 100 Mile Walk: A Quest to Find the Essence of Leadership*.

Dr. Jamie attended the University of Florida and graduated Magna Cum Laude in the field of Community Psychology. He earned his Master’s degree at Barry University and was licensed in Clinical Social Work in 1986. After he began TV Aftercare® in 1992, he graduated with his Doctorate in Psychology (PsyD) from Southern California University. He became a Certified Addictions Counselor with the Washington Council on Drug Abuse. Attending the Green Cross School of Traumatology, he became certified as a Compassion Fatigue Therapist in 2000. Dr. Jamie’s commitment to education and compassion led him to work with First Responders in the field of Trauma, in addition to teaching Group Therapy in the College of Education at Florida International University as well as the Penn State University for Eating Disorders. Dr. Jamie has also been invited as a guest professor/lecturer in many other academic settings.