



MOAR News

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

Raising Public Awareness About Addiction Recovery Begins with Educating Ourselves

It is 2003...people who are in need of addiction treatment may find themselves even MOAR challenged by effects of the state budget deficit and insurance coverage.

Addressing the challenge requires strategy that is played out in our mission to organize recovering individuals, families and friends into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other addictions.

What can MOAR do? We are doing recovery support education with continuum of care and health care access information. We can educate ourselves to become MOAR resourceful. We can strengthen the message of recovery to build a collective voice to raise the public conscience and awareness.

MOAR can Apply the CSAT National Treatment Plan to build partnerships to Change the Conversation About Addiction calling for No Wrong Doors to, Improving Quality and Access to Treatment, while reducing stigma.

The MOAR Second Annual Recovery Walk on The Boston Common & The Twelfth Annual State House Celebration took place on September 25th. MOAR co-sponsored regional celebrations across the state. Recovery Month is sponsored nationally by the federal government agency, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services's Administration (SAMHSA), and Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). In Massachusetts, we celebrate recovery from the individual, family, and community experience. This public awareness campaign credits addiction treatment is as effective as treatments from other chronic medical conditions, such



Diane Kurtz spoke at Recovery Day from the Heart of a Parent. She is a Western MA Parent Group Facilitator. MOAR is Offering Four Parent Support Group Presentations. Diane will Facilitate This "How to Do" Skillbuilding Presentation.

MOAR President Amos Marshall Speaks



as diabetes and high blood pressure. Five hundred attendees demonstrated the value of recovery by their visibility. Our aim is to reduce the stigma associated with the addiction recovery process.

Please read the Recovery Month Brochure. You will find fact sheets on "How to Start a Parent Support Group", "Stages Parents Go Through", "Recovery Telephone and Website Access", "How to Cope with a CORI", "Sober Housing" and "How to Tell Your Story". We turned that information into a **Mini Guide with MOAR to Come. Want a copy? Call MOAR toll free at 1-877-423-6627.**

MOAR Boston celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 28th honoring South Boston District Court Presiding Justice, Robert P. Ziemian, with the South Boston Neighborhood D.R.U.G. (Drug Resources Unity Group) Association. The South Boston group is made up of concerned community members who want to promote awareness about the need for resources supporting prevention and recovery. We honored The Honorable Robert P. Ziemian for starting Drug Courts in Massachusetts, establishing treatment as an alternative sentence to offenders, whose crimes are related to drug use. The Drug Court "plants" a resource for recovery. The ceremony included planting bulbs as a symbol of the *roots, or routes, to recovery, to blossom with the vision of freedom from drugs- red, white, and blue flowers.* **Red Ribbon Week** is promoted by The National Family Partnership with the theme **"Freedom is Drug Free - Plant the Promise for Recovery."**

Our NEAAR, New England Alliance for Addiction Recovery, CSAT grant project calls for peer recovery community service. So, we are providing recovery support education based on requests from the membership. Such as:

Parent or Family Support Group Education

Diane Kurtz, Western MA Parent Support Group Facilitator will do four presentations. Diane has ten years of experience, and is recognized for her supportive facilitation skills. The goal is to help parents or family members, who want to set up Peer Parent or Family Support Groups.

Addiction Recovery Education Support

Dana Moulton, MOAR Project Assistant, will be facilitating four one-hour informational groups. The groups will take place one hour per month over the next four months. Topics will include, but are not limited to the following important topics: CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information), Hepatitis C, and Sober Housing. MOAR is currently holding additional informational sessions entitled "Treatment and Health Care - Views and Resources", "Guidelines for Our Project", "Recovery Groups and Choices - AA, NA, GA, SMART Recovery". Once a month, a living "Referral Guide" is held to offer information and helpful resources. The experience provides the opportunity to build one's recovery and leadership skills. MOAR monthly presentations are being planned for Boston, Brockton, New Bedford and Cape Cod. Interested in learning MOAR about dates, times and locations of these events? Contact the MOAR at 1-877-423-6627. MOAR may be able to provide recovery education support services in your area.

(continued on Page 2)



John MacIsaac, Living in Recovery. Helping Others to Live in Recovery

The Boston Consortium of Families in Recovery Event
Wed., February 12, 2003; 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
The Great Hall, MA State House, Boston
Celebrating Mothers in Recovery;
Honoring Women in Recovery
Theme: Spirituality
Please fax Women in Recovery Nominations
to Kerri Ann, 617-534-9231
Questions to Ellen Walker, 617-263-0111
All are invited

(Raising Public Awareness Continued from page 1)

Our Western MA MOAR Group is planning a presentation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Patient Care Protection and Ombudsman. We want people to know about this service which guides you with questions about your rights to appeal private insurance denial to treatment. Since spreading the word about this service, we know of approximately four cases in which denials have been overturned.

MOAR is providing Educational Outreach for The Mass Health Basic Insured. Many may lose this coverage by April 1, 2003. People on Mass Health Basic need to find out if they qualify for Mass Health Standard or have another option. It is reported that as many as 50% of public treatment clients are on Mass Health Basic. Please call Health Care for All at: 617-350-7279, or Mass Health Customer Service 1-800-841-2900 to find out if you qualify.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month...and we will be celebrating! Stay tuned and participate. **Let us keep our mission in mind!**



Teen Challenge Choir Sings for Recovery

Thanks to Everyone Who Made Recovery Month 2002 a Reality

Join the Voices for Recovery: A Call to Action

The MOAR Wonderful and Extraordinary Sponsors - AdCare Hospital, Sameem Associates, Massachusetts Behavioral Partnership, HighPoint Communications, Boston Public Health Commission, Phoenix House were major contributors. Note: Sameem Associates dedicated time to make the Recovery Day Brochure. You, who supported the Recovery Month Brochure – Thank You! We thank The MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, The Center For Substance Abuse Treatment, and AdCare Ed Institute for their ongoing support. MOAR is appreciative to our meeting hosts-Faulkner Hospital, Phoenix House, Lowell House, Reflections, Community Healthlink, PIP Shelter, AdCare Hospital, and Boston ASAP. We want to thank Senator Therese Murray’s Office for helping to set up the Recovery Month Celebration for the last five years. Many thanks to everyone who supported Recovery Month Events in Northampton, New Bedford, Worcester, Lowell, Springfield and Tewksbury! Thank you to everyone!

Recovery Day Committees chaired by Greg Arsenaault, Lisa Clark, Matt Green, Amos Marshall, Jean Webb, and Linda Mazak were great. We thank Meridian House residents and the South Boston D.R.U.G. Neighborhood Association for adding MOAR support. We thank you!

Prepare for National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month Theme 2003,

Join The Voices for Recovery: Celebrating Health

Congratulations to Dr. Koh

Dr. Howard Koh, Commissioner of Public Health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1997, has agreed to join the faculty at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). As MA Public Health Commissioner, Dr. Koh was the leading health official for the state. He leaves that position to become Associate Dean and Professor of Public Health Practice in the Department of Health Policy and Management at HSPH.

One of Dr. Koh’s first DPH responsibilities was to speak at Recovery Day ’97. He always refers to that moment, as the first time, he personally experienced the positive impact of recovery. MOAR knows that Dr. Koh will make a positive impact at Harvard’s School of Public Health.

Quarterly Newsletter - Jan. 2003

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January 2003 Edition, Publication III



MOAR Board of Directors:

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- Treasurer: Joseph Kelleher,
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- Christine LaClair,
- Timothy Lineaweaver,
- Ronald Bratton

**National Alcoholism and Drug Addiction
Recovery Month Celebration Day
“Join The Voices of Recovery: A Call to Action”
Recognition Awards**

On Wednesday, September 25, 2002 MOAR recognized some of the individuals and organizations who have raised public awareness about the value of living recovery, and the value of recovery support services. Here are a few of the many people who “Joined the Voices of Recovery: and demonstrated - A Call to Action”



The Honorable Robert P. Ziemian was recognized for Starting the first Drug (Diversion) Court System in Massachusetts. Since its inception in 1995, the court has demonstrated remarkable success in lowering the recidivism rate of high risk, long term abusers. Judge Ziemian has also been instrumental in training other judges and court personnel resulting in twelve other drug courts in Massachusetts and New England. *Thank You, Judge Ziemian.*

*left: The Honorable Robert P. Ziemian.
MA Drug (Diversion) Court Founder*

*right: LaVerne Saunders & Judah Abijah
Dorrington accepting Recovery Month
Recognition Awards. Brother Bob Kinney is
on the right.*



Judah Abijah Dorrington was recognized for her 25 years of devotion to the recovery community. She is an energetic community educator and organizer. She is currently a partner in *Dorrington & Saunders and Associates*, where she works as a planning and development specialist, trainer, and contracts manager. She is also a founder of *People to People*, an organization that helps women build recovery after being in prison. *Thank you for your dedication, Judah.*

Laverne Saunders was recognized for her work in substance abuse treatment services as a counselor, educator and consultant. LaVerne is a highly skilled leader and currently serves as an independent training specialist and program leader for Families First. She has designed and implemented numerous seminars related to family issues, and she has helped many women, families and organizations turn their lives around in recovery. *Many Thanks LaVerne.*



STEP, Inc. was recognized for its thirty years of service to the community. STEP is a unique and vital recovery center that provides services to alcoholics, addicts and their family members. Today anyone in need of help can go to STEP to access an array of recovery and support services free of charge on a walk-in basis seven days a week. STEP, Inc.’s services include, but are not limited to crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, integrated recovery case management, advocacy, education and support for all kinds of lifestyle needs such as housing, employment, women’s services, violence intervention/prevention, and other recovery services in both English and Spanish. You can reach STEP, Inc. at 617-720-0153.

*Karen Wakefield & Staff celebrate STEP’s
30 Year History*

*right: MOAR Congratulates
Rep. Kevin Fitzgerald as the New Sergeant
of Arms at the MA General Court.
Rep. Martin Walsh & he are proponents of
The CSAT National Treatment Plan to
Change the Conversation about Addiction
Recovery.*



**MOAR recognized the following legislators for their support of
The CSAT National Treatment Plan to Change The Conversation
about Addiction Recovery**

Rep. Kevin W. Fitzgerald has retired from 27 years of representing the Mission Hill section of Boston in The Massachusetts House of Representatives. He is moving on to being Sergeant of Arms.

Sen. Mark C. Montigny, former Senate Ways and Means Chairman, and a Senator in the Massachusetts State Senate representing New Bedford and surrounding towns since 1993.

Rep. Martin J. Walsh has represented the Dorchester section of Boston in the Massachusetts State legislature since 1997.

MOAR thanks all of you!

Recovery Month

“Join the Voices of Recovery”



“Paving the Way Of and For Recovery”



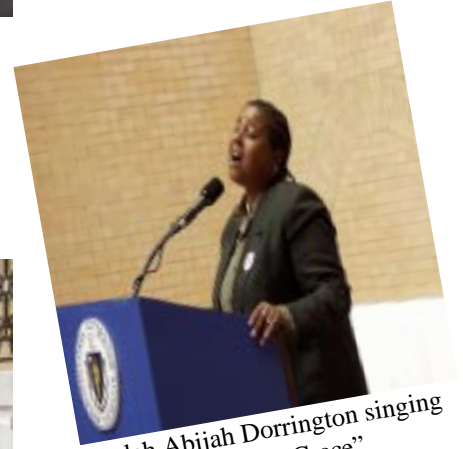
*“Join the Voices of Recovery”---
held by “Signs for Recovery”*



*MOAR President, Amos Marshall
sharing recovery to change public attitude*



*MA DPH Commissioner, Howard Koh,
singing “You’ve Got a Friend”*



*Judah Abijah Dorrington singing
“Amazing Grace”*



*The Improbable Players acting out
The Recovery Path*



*Dr. Yuk, calling for Culture Specific
Recovery Support Services*



*Brother Robert Kinney, MBAC President
“A Voice Of and For Recovery”*

Recovery Day Photographs
Courtesy of Michael Keegan
(781)585-3932

September 25, 2002

“A Call to Action”



The Great Hall, MA State House
500 Faces and Voices for Recovery



200 Recovery Month Walkers
march to the State House



Representative Kevin Fitzgerald,
Changing the Conversation
About Addiction



Suzanne Arbing & Robert Arbing,
Daughter & Father in Recovery



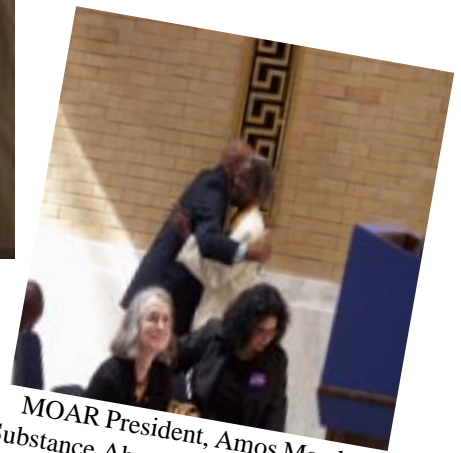
John Frazier, Homeless to Taxpaying
“A Result from Treatment Investment”



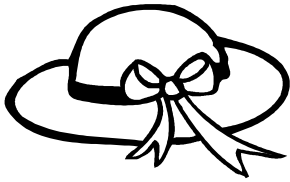
DPH Commissioner Howard Koh
Validating Efforts for Effective Treatment



Representative Gloria Fox calls for
“No Wrong Door” to Treatment



MOAR President, Amos Marshall,
Boston Substance Abuse Policy Advisor, Kattie Portis,
MA DPH Associate Commissioner & BSAS Director,
Deborah Klein Walker & CSAT’s Ivette Torres
“Build Partnerships to Improve Treatment”



**Dressed for Success
Worcester Women Working
Recovery Style
November 13th, 2002**



Approximately 35 women from Worcester area recovery homes celebrated “Dressed for Success’ with head to toe preparation for the world of work. The Central MA Substance Abuse Pregnancy, and Parenting Coalition scheduled the day complete with interviewing skills, resume preparation with CORI issues, job management with recovery skills. The ladies were treated to a luncheon prepared by the Massachusetts Veterans Shelter chefs...and it was delicious. MOAR delicious was the dessert. The women experienced new hair-dos, and learned how to apply makeup. At the end of the day, before and after results were presented, and were very dramatic. The women experienced “Dressed for Success” from head to toe...in body, spirit, and mind. MOAR was proud to be part of this recovery support service!



**Heroin Use Has Spiraled Across The State
MA Department of Public Health Reports**

Heroin is the number one illegal drug of choice among adults seeking substance abuse treatment in Massachusetts. The drug is also keeping pace with alcohol abuse as the reason people seek detox program treatment. Males and younger adults are the highest users, according to new information on heroin use in Massachusetts recently released by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Department examined the status of heroin use and trends over the past ten fiscal years from 1992 to 2002. The report also indicated that opioid-related death rates, which included heroin, increased 156 percent from 1990 to 1998.

Highlights of the report included:

- 42% of people entering MDPH supported substance abuse treatment programs in fiscal year 2002 reported they’ve used heroin within the past 12 months compared to 19% in fiscal year 1992.
- In FY 2002, 37% reported heroin as the primary drug for which they were seeking all types of treatment.
- According to detox program admissions data, 60% reported using heroin...the same percentage of people reporting alcohol abuse.
- Between FY 1996 and 2001, rates of opioid-related hospitalizations rose 74%, including a 230% rise among 15-24 year olds and a 150% increase among individuals 45-54 years of age. Hospitalization rates were highest for individuals ages 25-44 years and among males. (Opioids include heroin, morphine, oxycodone and codeine, among others.)
- Opioid-related fatal overdose rates increased 156% between 1990 and 1998 and another 10% between 1999 and 2000. Fatality rates were the highest for individuals 35-44 years of age. Rates for this group rose 164% between 1990 and 1998 and another 18% between 1999 and 2000.
- According to data collected by the SAMHSA from hospitals in 5 counties in the Boston metropolitan area, the estimated rates of Emergency Department admissions for heroin increased 69% between 1994 and 2001.

The heroin trend data will be used by MDPH to plan and target services, from prevention to early identification, treatment and recovery services. The Department is developing information for parents, youth and providers to be used in all prevention initiatives. In addition, the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services is working with all providers and consumers to assure that community-based services, from detox to outpatient services, including opioid treatment to long term residential treatment, are available for heroin users across the Commonwealth. Since there is much overlap between individuals using heroin and HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services has worked collaboratively with the HIV/AIDS Bureau and the Bureau of Communicable Diseases to develop joint standards for all treatment programs.

Carol’s Story

There was a story in the local newspaper recently, that told of a woman “Carol” who was doing what she needed to do to build her recovery. She was at Beacon House in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Carol was very grateful for her recovery and for the support she has received from Beacon House, her family, her friends, and her community. The 37 year old woman had known a life of cocaine, alcohol, and heroin, but had gradually been putting her life back together. Yet she had to undergo a trial that could have put her in prison for four years. The possibility that she might be sent to prison seemed so ironic to her community, that they sent letters of support to the court, and were present in the court room. This is a true testimony to the value of recovery. The judge ruled in favor of the value of recovery. **What if he had not?**

The Impact of Public Funded Treatment Cuts

With dark clouds continuing to hang over the economy, MOAR once again contacted Matt Cornish, at the MDPH, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) to learn about the impact of state budget cuts to public prevention and treatment services. With a \$6.2 million cut in state funding in Fiscal Year 2002, BSAS fell short of the Federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement necessary to retain full federal funding. The decrease in funding for Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention Block Grant in FY2002 brings about a decrease in FY2003 Block Grant funds of \$4,067,129. Also, decreases in the State's MOE resulting from an additional \$5.7 million reduction in State funding in SFY2003 causes an additional loss of FY2004 Block Grant funds of \$8,719,449 for a total loss in Block Grant funds of \$12,786,578. Thus, Massachusetts could face another major cut to services for needy people.

In these difficult economic times, Massachusetts is one of many states in the position of falling short with monies available for treatment and prevention services. BSAS has submitted, to SAMHSA, a request for a waiver to the MOE requirement for the current fiscal year based upon the state's economic situation. It is likely that BSAS will be granted the waiver based upon the drastic decline in state revenue collections, an increase in unemployment, and a decrease in the number of jobs across the state. It is unknown at this time if BSAS would qualify for this waiver in fiscal year 2004. The double-edged sword in this issue is that an economic rebound in SFY2004 would cause BSAS to fail to meet the criteria for a waiver next year and the Bureau could lose \$8.7 million in Federal funding.

Matt reported to MOAR that the Department of Transitional Assistance was forced to trim 10% of its \$3.7 million in funding to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services. This money supports the Family Substance Abuse Shelters. The result: A Western Massachusetts family shelter, Grace House, almost closed its doors. It is the only family substance abuse shelter in the area.

Never Another Death Day

November 21st ~ Northampton, Massachusetts

On Nov 21, 2002 the Second Annual "Never Another Death Day" was proclaimed by Mayor Claire Higgins of Northampton. A candlelight vigil was held in Pulaski Park. MOAR was represented by Maryanne Frangules, Peter Crumb, and Tanyss Martula who spoke to raise awareness about the need for adolescent, young adult and family support services. Peter could draw hope from his recovery and his role as a school substance abuse counselor. Tanyss shared her involvement in The Western MA Parent Support Group, which offers peer hope and help for parents. The names of adolescents and adults who have lost their lives to the disease of addiction were read aloud. Joyce Sabin-Rescia founded NAD (Never Another Death) in memory of her son, Matthew Michael Giovanni Rescia who died at age 18 awaiting a bed in a treatment facility.

Joyce read over 100 names from families and friends who wanted to remember them. She is devoted to helping people in need of addiction recovery find that path. MOAR supports Joyce's goals of no waiting lists to public/private treatment. MOAR will continue to promote peer recovery support services and information to help people find a path to recovery.

Red Ribbon Ceremony Pictures

Freedom is Drug Free - Plant the Promise of Recovery



South Boston Court House



City Councilor Jimmy Kelly reads the Red Ribbon Proclamation



The Honorable Robert Ziemian "Plants the Promise for Recovery"... to Bloom with Red, White and Blue flowers in front of the South Boston Court House this April

Maureen Harvey and Karen McDonald, S. Boston Neighborhood D.R.U.G. Association say "Thank You" to former Boston Drug Court Coordinator, Theresa Finnegan



MOAR is Providing Recovery Community Education Services ~ What, When, and Where?

Boston, February 3rd, MOAR Invites You!

Recovery Community Services Education Forum That Includes Mass Health - Part II
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Atrium 2, Faulkner Hospital, Jamaica Plain, MA
RSVP to 617-423-6627

Hyannis, February 4th

Getting Educated about Mass Health Changes
5:30 PM to 6:45 PM, Gosnold, One Centerville Plaza, Hyannis, MA

Worcester, February 11th

An Open Dialogue about Next Steps for MOAR, as a CSAT Recovery Community Grantee? How do we Plan for Year Three? What Did we Think About Year Two?
6:15 PM, Thayer Auditorium, Community Healthlink, 72 Jacques Ave., Worcester, MA

New Bedford, February 18th

Educational Opportunities for Employment, Explore Your Opportunities
11 AM, Reflections, 497 Belleville Ave., New Bedford, MA

Springfield, February 27th Focus: Help Plan a Presentation

How Can The Office of Patient Care Protection and The Ombudsman Help You Access Your Insurance Benefits?
5:30 PM - 7:15 PM., Dinner Served Courtesy of The Residents,
Phoenix House, 5 Madison Ave., Springfield, MA

Lowell, February 25 or 27th (date not yet confirmed)

Mass Health and Substance Abuse Services Update
Call Toll Free: 1-877-423-6627 to confirm date and time
Middlesex Community College, Lowell, MA

Worcester, Tuesdays at 4PM, except for 2nd Tuesday of the month evening meeting, PIP Shelter, Main Street

- February Focus: *A Review of Our CSAT Peer to Peer Services Focus: What kinds of Guidelines do we Need?*
- March Focus: *Recovery Meeting Choices - AA, NA, GA, SMART Recovery (that is not all)*

Brockton, Date to be determined

Mass Health Update
Restoration Community Baptist Church, 75 Lawrence St., Brockton, MA

50,000 people may lose their MassHealth Basic health insurance benefits by April 1st

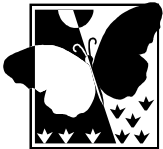
Some MassHealth Basic recipients may qualify for MassHealth Standard benefits. Please call:

Health Care for All (617) 350-7279
Mass Health Customer Service (800) 841-2900

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MOAR Inc is solely responsible for the update's contents.



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MOAR is an affiliate of NEAAR, CSAT/SAMHSA grantee