



**MOAR –**  
*Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery*  
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**January 10, 2005**

**MOAR Action for The New Year!**

- \*MOAR Boston 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Policy Forum – January 31, The Shattuck Hospital, 6 to 8:30 PM
- \*Boston Consortium for Families in Recovery Day- February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 AM, The State House
- \*MA BSAS Announces Plans for the \$11.9 Million Supplemental Budget
- \*Please Inform Congress about Potential Impact of \$10 Million Loss of Federal Medicaid to Detox
- \*What is a Recovery High School? Learn about it and Get Involved.

**\*MOAR Boston 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Policy Forum – January 31, The Shattuck Hospital, 6 to 8:30 PM**

You – Person in recovery, family, friend, service provider, policymakers are wanted. Together we can build public awareness about the values of supporting addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery. Are you tired of barriers to treatment access and appropriate length of stay created by lean funding and mean insurance policies? Are you tired of the fact – that 80% of the prison population are there due to low level drug related crimes. Let's have the conversation as to how to change policies that will help our communities support prevention and recovery. Lets Make a Recovery Plan for Public Policy! See enclosed flyer, fact sheet, and get MOAR prepared.

**The Boston Consortium of Families in Recovery Day is Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 to Noon.**

All are invited to celebrate Families in Recovery Day, a Boston Public Health Commission supported event, honoring women in the recovery process. Hear the stories, celebrate the recovery journey. Afterwards, journey to elected legislator's offices, with your enthusiasm, informing them about what proposals are important to recovery. Questions about the event- call Ellen Walker at 617-734-4233. Want information and support about legislative visits, please call Maryanne Frangules, 617-298-1262. To make an appointment with your elected legislator, please call the State House at 617-722-2000. Do not know who your elected legislator is; please go to the web: <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/search.php>.

**MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Announces Plans for \$11.9 million Supplemental Budget**

The state legislature passed \$11.9 million in a supplemental budget this past fall, and as a result we will not lose federal funding. The money will be used to

- Purchase an additional 700 bed days of service for uninsured individuals from each currently contracted Acute Treatment Services program.
- Restore funding reductions to three major adult residential recovery service programs.
- Increase funding for each adult residential recovery service programs by 10%.
- Based primarily on funds specified in the FY05 budget for Transitional Support Services, and assert TSS program in the Boston region.
- Support the purchase of the newly designed model for youth residential rehabilitation services.
- Initiate a collaborative effort with the Executive Office of Public Safety and its agencies to integrate substance abuse services in newly created re-entry sites.

## **Here We Go Again ! Massachusetts stands to lose \$10 million in Medicaid Dollars Supporting Detoxification Services**

Massachusetts may lose \$10 million in federal funds for detoxification services if the continuance of a Medicaid waiver (exception to the law) is not approved by the federal government. The Federal Medicaid Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD), eliminates Medicaid coverage for people from ages 21 to 64 in an inpatient facility, where 50 % of the services are for mental health or addiction.

### **For a little MOAR History on Effects of Cuts to Services**

While some funding was restored to the state substance abuse treatment budget this fiscal year, there remains a critical need for more funding and services. Six public funded detoxification centers were closed in 2003. Emergency rooms are overcrowded, heroin use has doubled, and drug overdoses are devastating. Alcohol and drug – related crime is escalating. Detox services provide the medical safety procedure for physical withdrawal.

### **What MOAR Can You Do?**

#### **Call or Write:**

- 1) Senator Edward Kennedy - United States Senate, Hart Building 527, Washington DC 20510
- 2) Senator John Kerry - United States Senate, 304 Russell Building, Washington DC 20510
- 3) Your elected Congressperson, House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515

Remember, these are the people you elect to represent you in our nation's capitol. Please thank Senator Edward Kennedy for taking a lead on this issue. If you are unclear about who is your congressman, please call your town or city hall. You can, also, go to the web: <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/search.php>.

**Message:** I, as, a concerned voting constituent , want to thank \_\_\_\_\_ (senator or congressperson) for the good work he/she is doing to stop the potential loss of \$10 million in federal Medicaid funds for detoxification services, through the loss of the Massachusetts Section 1115 Waiver as it relates to federal Medicaid's Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion. I know from personal experience how critical it is that substance abuse treatment is available to those who need it. Massachusetts has already lost half of its detox services through prior budget cuts, and cannot afford to lose an additional \$10 million in services. I thank you for anything that you can do. Please get back to me on this issue.

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### **MOAR Invites You**

*to Join a Growing Momentum of People in Recovery, inclusive of families, and friends into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other addictions.*

**MOAR "Designer Look" Newsletter** Needs Recovery Stories and Pictures from You! Submit your 300 word or less story about you, your community, your family. Please send by email to [moarfran@aol.com](mailto:moarfran@aol.com) by February 5, 2005. All stories must have your signed permission before going into print.

## ***What MOAR is Happening in Your AREA?***

**MOAR Boston** learned about **The Father Friendly Initiative** from Roy Martin. It is a Boston Public Health Commission project. Roy shared that it supports men, many in recovery, and re-entering society after prison. The men learn communication skills, gain information, and opportunity to access health care, education, and jobs. They can learn parenting skills. For men separated from their children, there is opportunity to learn how to prepare for visitation and custody rights. Interested? Call: 617-534 9525

**MOAR Boston** celebrated the December holidays with LaVerne Saunders, Judah Abijah Dorrington of People to People. We were invigorated by Judah's "Amazing Grace" and LaVerne's "We do Recover"...and how about Latin Dancing with Latinas Y Ninas! We discussed and will follow up on possibly turning the Boston September Recovery Month event into a "Visible" walk, rally, and picnic. You are invited to make Recovery Month 2005 the best.

**MOAR Boston** invites you to a **MOAR Public Policy Information Forum, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 - 8:30 PM**. Turville Conference Room, Shattuck Hospital. Your Voice is a Capital Investment for Recovery!

**MOAR On The Harbor** learned **How to Share Recovery** publicly, and protect anonymity. The group articulated that skill at a recent public hearing, and at an East Boston Public Health Commission NODrug Coalition forum! Join us! Come to *The MOAR Winter Recovery Party* Thursday, January 20th, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Conexions Room, 14 Porter St, East Boston.

**MOAR Worcester** has been on a roll, with peer driven presentations and skill building sessions. We were honored to have MA DPH Associate Commissioner, Substance Abuse Services, Michael Botticelli engage in dialogue about the Youth Residential **RFR** (*Request for Response* - a project proposal for state review). The W MA Parent Support Group joined us. Commissioner Botticelli facilitated a great opportunity to learn about what goes into designing treatment services, and that we can have a voice. He invited people to join the MA BSAS Consumer Advisory Board. The contact is Karen Pressman, 617-624-5132. In December, we facilitated discussions about experiencing *Transitions in Recovery*. Francine and Annie shared their recovery stories, highlighting how they faced challenges. We are currently having informational discussions about preparing for job interviews to making career choices. Interested in *Relapse Prevention*? Please come: Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:15-8:00 PM, Thayer Auditorium, Community Healthlink, 72 Jacques Ave.

**MOAR Springfield** has been a strong voice for maintaining a youth residential treatment service in the area. People are pleased that we now know Phoenix Academy will continue! We have heard that people often do not know where to go for outpatient adolescent services. Tim Stanton, Child and Family Services of Pioneer Valley presented an array of services for both adolescents and family members. Most insurance accepted, and sliding scale fees arranged. Contact information: Child and Family Services of Pioneer Valley. (413) 737-1426, 367 Pine St.~ Springfield, MA 01105. MOAR Springfield, as is pursuing the possibility of a *Recovery High School* in the area... Are you interested. We are, also, going to be addressing *Public Awareness and Policy* strategies? MOAR interested? Please come Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM, Phoenix House, 5 Madison Ave. Dinner Served, and is a courtesy of the residents. Please come!

**MOAR Berkshire** County along with The Whatever it Takes Parent Support Group honored both Representative Peter Larkin and Mayor James Ruberto for their support for addiction prevention and recovery. MOAR published a Berkshire County Adolescent and Family Resource Guide. (Thank you, Nanciellen Poulin) Now they are addressing the *CORI*. Adolescents who get addicted to drugs, such as heroin, often carry Criminal Offender Record Information (*CORI*) histories into adulthood. The *CORI* is a barrier for people trying to make positive changes, as in education, job, housing. So ***Let's Get CORI Guidance***, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Hillcrest Hospital, Torr Court, Pittsfield.

**MOAR New Bedford** has focused on policymaker education with concerns about the barriers to education and the workforce. They wrote 50 letters to policymakers educating and informing them about the value to supporting recovery. We meet again January 18, 11:00 AM, Reflections, 497 Belleville Ave.

**The Second Intro to MOAR Marshfield** meeting is happening in Marshfield, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, Ventress Memorial Library, 15 Library Plaza. A community activist called MOAR alarmed about the OxyContin and Heroin use in the area. She wants to promote prevention and recovery in the area. She is not alone. At the first meeting, we had representation from criminal justice to caring individuals and families in recovery. The need for a Drug Court to establish court structured probation with treatment became a strong focus. The issue true across the state is the need to support recovery for people, who commit low level crimes, which are related to drug addiction. Honorable Robert Ziemian, Presiding Justice of The Massachusetts Trial Courts, South Boston, and the founder of the commonwealth's drug court offered some helpful information. So we will continue to promote prevention and recovery in Marshfield.

### **Recovery High Schools in Massachusetts? MOAR of a Possibility!**

Alcohol, OxyContin, Heroin are infiltrating our communities and thus, our schools. Just what if the peer pressure to use alcohol and other drugs turned into peer pressure for prevention and recovery. Just what if we were to get a Boston Pilot School for recovery, or a state supported Charter School promoting recovery. Boston Fire Department Employee Assistance Program Director, Lieutenant Will Ostiguy, has heard the concern from parents of adolescents, who return from treatment and relapse. He has done much research and discovered Recovery High Schools. He has brought the need to the attention of the Boston City Council and other policy makers

#### **Recovery High School Facts for You**

- *Did you Know* the first recovery high school was founded in Minnesota, and there are 20 across the country.
- The difference between recovery schools and traditional high schools is that 100 percent of the students are in recovery, and staff and fellow students are dedicated to supporting all students in their recovery.
- Every student is expected to work a recovery program, and all students are required to be alcohol- and drug-free.
- While some schools conduct random urine screens, other schools have students sign a sobriety contract.
- Anecdotal evidence shows that the relapse rate is substantially lower for students who attend recovery schools after treatment versus those who attend traditional schools.
- Most recovery schools give students a second chance if they relapse and are honest about it and if they agree to do whatever they need to do to make their recovery program stronger.
- Recovery schools are quite small, ranging from six to 70 students.

Western Massachusetts is joining the momentum for recovery high schools. It has been a longstanding wish that deserves follow through to become reality. Adolescents are tomorrow's adults. Think about it. Get involved!  
MOAR Info: Go to [www.recoveryschools.org](http://www.recoveryschools.org). Join Lieutenant Will Ostiguy in this journey!

#### **What MOAR?**

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**The Great Hall, The State House  
Boston Public Health Commission Sponsored Event  
Hear the stories, celebrate the recovery journey.**

**Info: call Ellen Walker at 617-734-4233.  
Afterwards, journey to elected legislator's offices,  
educating them about policies that support recovery**

**Need Policymaker Education Support;  
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