

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (**MOAR**) presents its 18th Annual Public Policy Dialogue, addressing next steps concerning COVID-19, Racial Justice, and the Future for Addiction Services.

Our Invited Guest Speakers!



Rep. Marjorie C. Decker (@MarjorieDecker)

State Representative 25th Middlesex District

Representative Marjorie C. Decker from Cambridge is House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health. She values the input coming from people with lived experience. Representative Decker in her past role as Mental Health Substance Use Recovery Co-Chair led a committee addressing COVID-19 behavioral health concerns, where she listened with action on telehealth, PPE- personal protective equipment, safety protocols and maintaining services. In the darkest of 2020 COVID 19 moments, she interacted at all **MOAR** events with positive follow up.



Rep. Adrian C Madaro (@adrianmadaro)

State Representative 1st Suffolk District

Representative Adrian C Madaro is both State Representative and long-time resident of East-Boston. He is the new House Co-Chair of the Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee. East Boston **MOAR** members know he cares about addiction – the people and the services. Rep. Adrian Madaro is an active leader in community-based organizations, working with residents, business owners and neighborhood leaders to draft legislation, advocate for policies, and solve challenges faced by constituents of East Boston. Adrian has been focused on addressing challenges faced by immigrant communities, advocating for equal pay for equal work, transgender communities, public transportation infrastructure, and green and open spaces. We congratulate Rep Madaro in his new role as Mental Health, Substance Use Recovery Chair!



Rep. Ruth B. Balsler (@RepRuthBalsler)

State Representative 12th Middlesex District

Representative Ruth B. Balsler is the State representative for the 12th Middlesex District, and a long-time resident in Newton. Serving her twelfth term in the House of Representatives, Representative Balsler continues to be an independent progressive voice, fighting for the values and priorities of her community. Considered to be a champion on mental health, recovery, and environmental issues, much of her focus is on improving behavioral health services to those who suffer from mental illness or addictions who land in the criminal justice system. Thank you, Representative Balsler!



Senator John F Keenan (@SenJohnFKeenan)

Massachusetts State Senate, representing Norfolk and Plymouth District

Senator John F Keenan is a long-time resident of Quincy, the Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing, and the vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. During his six terms in the senate, he has served as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Substance Use, Mental, Health and Recovery, among many others. Senator Keenan has worked on measures to combat the ongoing opioid epidemic. His focus lies on issues that affect the recovery community, including education, access to treatment, and harm prevention. Senator Keenan has been instrumental in the “Good Samaritan” law, and other strategies aimed at harm reduction. Thank you, Senator Keenan.



Jennifer Tracey

Director, Boston Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services

Jennifer Tracey is the Director of the Boston Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services (ORS). Before serving as ORS’ inaugural director, Jen served as the Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adults at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS). At BSAS, Jen developed age-appropriate recovery services for young adults, including the first young adult residential treatment programs in the City, and helped oversee the opening of Massachusetts’s first recovery high schools. Jennifer follows up with care and compassion.



Emily Stewart

Executive Director, Casa Esperanza

Emily Stewart is the Executive Director at Casa Esperanza a bilingual/bi-cultural behavioral health facility that specializes in serving the Latino community in Massachusetts. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare. For more than 20 years, Emily has worked with populations facing barriers to care, including marginalized racial and linguistic communities, at-risk women and girls, disadvantaged youth, homeless individuals and families, and individuals living with mental health and substance use diseases. She has secured and implemented grants, interventions, and strategic initiatives aimed at creating equal opportunities for the recovery community.



Father Joe White

Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Boston and Director of Archdiocesan Addiction Recovery Pastoral Support Services

Father Joe White is the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Boston's West End and is the director of the Archdiocesan Addiction Recovery Pastoral Support Services, an archdiocesan ministry that collaborates with various agencies and organizations to assist parishes with education, prevention, treatment, and solutions for the disease of addiction. He is the **MOAR** Board Vice President. Father Joe is well known for his dedication to ministering to those in recovery and is recognized as a leader in the field of addiction.



Mario Chaparro

Program Director, Boston Public Health Commission-Engagement Center at Boston Public Health Commission

Mario Chaparro is Boston Public Health Commission- Engagement Center Engagement Center Director. Mario has a history of non-profit work, crisis intervention and case-management from Recovery-based organizations- including Casa-Esperanza, **MOAR**, and the Gavin Foundation. A long-standing friend of the recovery community, he has a talent for community outreach and program development.



Leah Randolph

President, Black Alcoholism & Addiction Council Boston Chapter

Leah Randolph is the President of Massachusetts Black Alcoholism & Addiction Council, Boston chapter, and Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Commonwealth Mental Health & Wellness Center Inc. Leah is also a Certified and Licensed Alcohol/ Drug Abuse Counselor, who has supported thousands of families across Massachusetts through her work. She has served the League of Women for Community Service. Since 1997 she has been the Massachusetts Chair of The

March 29 2021



Annissa Essaibi George (@AnnissaForBos)

Boston City Councilor, At-Large

Annissa Essaibi-George is a Boston City Councilor At- Large, a former Boston Public Schools school teacher, a small business owner, a first generation American, a mother to four and a lifelong Boston resident. Annissa has led the Council's response to the impact of the opioid epidemic, the crisis of homelessness, and insufficient mental health care in Boston. Annissa uses her work to bring focus on the many critical issues affecting Bostonians and the recovery community. She has been fighting against addiction discrimination, increasing the number of safe collection sites for sharps, expanding access to mental health resources, ensuring mental health clinicians become a part of each Boston Police Department precinct. She is a positive change maker.



Lydia Conley

President/CEO for the Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Lydia Conley is the President/CEO for the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, where she oversees the daily operations of ABH while also serving as ABH's primary representative to state agencies, the legislature, and regulatory bodies. Lydia works closely with ABH member organizations to accomplish ABH's mission in promoting and advocating for community-based mental health and addiction treatment services. In her previous role as Vice President, Lydia led ABH's work in relation to MassHealth's implementation of its Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP). Lydia also was ABH's point person working with the Department of Mental Health as it designed and implemented the Adult Community Clinical Services (ACCS) program. Lydia also holds a Juris Doctor degree from New England School of Law and is a member of the Massachusetts bar. She cares about enhancing services.



Constance Peters

Vice President, Association for Behavioral Healthcare's Addiction Services

Constance Peters, MSPA, is the Association for Behavioral Healthcare's Vice President for Addiction Services and is ABH's primary representative for community-based provider organizations that deliver services to people with substance-use disorders. She represents ABH members with state and federal agencies, administration officials, and state and federal legislators. Connie coordinates the advocacy work of the Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services, and staffs the ABH committees on Acute Treatment Services, Clinical Stabilization Services, and Transitional Support Services, among many others. Connie possesses over 25 years of experience working with state and federal programs for people with mental health and substance use disorders and other disabilities. She is a true leader.



Deirdre Calvert

Director of the Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

Deirdre Calvert has been the Director of the Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services since April 2019. Previously Director Calvert worked for more than 20 years as a clinical director and social worker in the Massachusetts substance use disorder system. Her stated focus is on cutting edge and inclusive care for individuals contending with Substance Use and Co-Occurring Mental Disorders. Director Calvert holds a Master's in Social Work from Boston University, and is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW). She listens to the recovery community.



Kevin McCarthy

Social Justice Advocate, Recovery Program Developer, Clinical Consultant, Psychotherapist, and **MOAR** Board President

Kevin McCarthy is a person in long term recovery who, after 20 years in Sales Management and training, found his passion as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and recovery advocate. He specializes in the treatment of clients with co-occurring disorders, focusing their challenges with housing and the stigma of being in recovery. As **MOAR** Board President and Heading Home Inc Board member, he uses his expertise to facilitate systemic change in recovery, treatment, through legislation, advocacy, and non-profit board service.



Julia Ojeda

Recovery Support Services Statewide Coordinator

Julia Ojeda is an experienced manager, facilitator, trainer, coach, and change agent. In her current role, she oversees Recovery Support Services which includes 26 Peer Recovery Support Centers, and contracts for statewide education and advocacy organization, **MOAR**. She helped launch recovery coaching for the deaf and hard of hearing impacted by the disease of addiction. Julia also oversees all recovery coach related trainings, trainers, and curriculum for BSAS. She is a racial equity champion and was awarded the Commonwealth Equity in Governance Award from Governor Charlie Baker. Since 2008, Julia has been adjunct faculty at Boston University, Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership in the Questrom School of Business. She recently celebrated 36 years in active recovery from substance addiction.



Karran Larson

MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Statewide Substance Use Recovery Support Services Coordinator

Karran Larson is the MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Statewide Substance Use Recovery Support Services Coordinator. A person in long-term recovery, Karran has been guided to her current passion, which is developing and training Deaf Recovery Coach Services with the help of BSAS and the Commission. She is speaking up for increased addiction services marked with best practices for the deaf and hard of hearing.



Tyshaun Perryman

Certified Addiction Recovery Coach at Boston Medical Center

Tyshaun Perryman is a person in long-term recovery and Certified Addiction Recovery Coach at Boston Medical Center. Prior to his work at BMC, Tyshaun worked as a recovery coach for the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative through AmeriCorps, doing community outreach and steering individuals towards treatment instead of incarceration. As an individual who has experienced homelessness and involvement in the criminal justice system, Tyshaun represents the profound impact that recovery can have on a person's life. He is passionate about keeping Section 35 civil commitment in treatment settings vs prison.



Nicole O'Brien

Founder and Executive Director, Ruth's Way for Women

Nicole O'Brien is the Founder and Executive Director of Ruth's Way for Women, a faith-based community that supports women in recovery. It has a special concentration for those who have served in the military as well as experiencing homelessness. Ruth's Way for Women operates as a Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing (MASH) certified sober living facility. It provides recovery coach services. A person in long-term recovery, Nicole is also a Certified Addictions Recovery Coach (CARC), as well as being a dedicated **MOAR** member. She is a licensure for addiction recovery coach advocate.



Christopher E Conway

An Act Relative to Treatment, Not Imprisonment.

Christopher E Conway is a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Mental Health Advocate at Out for Good Inc, and a person in recovery. Christopher is a long-time **MOAR** volunteer! He has worked in the substance use field as a counselor and outreach worker for over 8 years. Christopher is well known to the recovery community, mentoring many towards the goal of living their best lives.



Joe Riggs

An Act Relative to Treatment, Not Imprisonment.

Joe Riggs, Founding Board Member at Student Society for Regenerative Medicine, Post-Doctoral Fellow at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, and Founder and Executive Director of the Student Society for Stem Cell Research. Known to be dedicated and hardworking individual, Joe is accomplished in Stem Cell research, Genomics, Cell Biology, among many others. Joe is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Neurology, Harvard Medical School at the Center for Genomic Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital studying neurological disorders including Huntington's Disease and other in vitro cellular models of human neurological disorders.

List of Speakers



Taylor Bryan Turner

Assistant Regional Administrator, SAMHSA Region 1

Taylor Bryan Turner joined SAMHSA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD), Regional Administrators office where she served as a Management Analyst. Taylor was responsible for implementing HUD Initiatives that focused on ending homelessness, promoting affordable housing, health and wellness, and sustainability. She has over 20 years of experience cultivating diverse relationships among stakeholders, elected officials, and private and non-profit organizations. Last September, she was one of ten individuals recognized nationally in Washington D.C. for outstanding customer relationship management by the HUD Secretary. In 2018, Taylor completed the Presidential Management Council Fellows leadership program where she served as the first-ever Regional Outreach Strategist on Opioids within our New England Department of Health and Human Services. Taylor studied Business Management at Johnson and Wales University and is currently a Manresa Scholar Leader at the Woods College of Advancing Studies at Boston College.



Senator Joseph Boncore

Massachusetts State Senate, representing First Suffolk and Middlesex

Senator Joe Boncore from Winthrop is the State Senator representing Winthrop, Boston, Cambridge, & Revere. He has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations and has been an active supporter of political reform for most of his life, particularly in the areas of affordable housing and criminal justice. He has led Winthrop's affordable housing programs, which has been ranked as one of the top performing in the Commonwealth during Joe's tenure. Senator Joe Boncore is also a public defender with Suffolk Lawyers for Justice, serving as a voice for those who cannot afford an attorney. In his work, he has seen first-hand the impact of the opioid epidemic, the tragic mishandling of cases of mental illness, and disparities in dealing with our immigrant population. Joe is committed to reforms that will ensure all are treated equally and justly under the law.



Roger Oser

Founding Principal, Ostiguy Recovery High School

As founding Principal of Ostiguy Recovery High School, Roger Oser is an education and youth development leader focused on providing and developing the best possible service for at-risk youth as well as serving as a strong advocate and voice for policy and systems change. Roger is the national board chair of The Association of Recovery Schools.



Lina Abdalla

Greater Boston Collegiate Recovery Leader

Lina Abdalla is a woman in recovery and strong advocate for collegiate recovery organizations. “Through my involvement with Recovery@UMB, I have gone from a place of complete and utter hopelessness to a place of hope and light, and I want to share how the collegiate recovery community (CRC) at the University of Massachusetts Boston changed my life.” She is a Greater Boston Collegiate Recovery Leader, advocating for a MCAS., Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services, request for \$1million funding transfer from MA Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to The Massachusetts Rehabilitation to support students in recovery, who want education in the addiction services field.



Bob Mills

Chief Executive Officer, Middlesex Human Services Agency,
President, Massachusetts Recovery Homes Collaborative

Bob Mills is the Chief Executive Officer of Middlesex Human Services Agency, which serves individuals experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders and hunger. MHSA’s programs include emergency shelters, post-shelter support, and recovery homes for those seeking recovery. The organization also operates a soup kitchen, food pantry, and monthly food market in the Greater Boston Area. Bob comes here tonight representing the Massachusetts Recovery Homes Collaborative, a Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services Member.