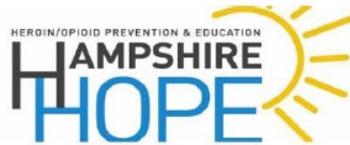




*Parent Support Group of
Western Mass*



SPIFFY Coalition



Agenda

Western MA Addiction Policy and Moving From COVID-19 Forum

June 22, 2022



*WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS
SUBSTANCE ADDICTION
PROVIDER'S ASSOCIATION
(WMSAPA)*

Valor Peer Recovery Support Center



Western Massachusetts

Addiction – Tragedy, Strategy, Solution

- Tragedy – Overdoses Up By 9 %
- Strategy – What are We Doing, and Where are We Going
- Solution - Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Peer Recovery Support

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to hear from the many individuals and organizations striving to cope and create a network with a seamless continuum of care to end overdoses, and to provide culturally appropriate support to communities of color. We thank our sponsors, speakers, organizers, and policymakers. Thank you to The Hampden County Addiction Task Force led by Sheriff Nick Cocchi with Ashley Jediny-Coordinator and District Attorney Anthony Gulluni with Tony Simmons, Gina Anselmo, and Zero Temple. Thank you to Magda Colon, former coordinator. Thank you to U Mass Amherst at Springfield for the space and opportunity to do an in person and hybrid forum. Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to The Four Counties of Western Massachusetts – Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire are Visible, Vocal, Valuable, and will be Victorious!

What did We Learn!

Continue to expand Quality Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, and Recovery Support

- Health Education and Overdose Prevention as Prevention for All and Intervention for Those Still Using
- Support for Families, from Parents of those still using, in treatment, - and for the Parents in need of or in Recovery and their children
- Enhance all levels of the Continuum of Care
- Listen to The Voices of Lived Experience

The Importance of Continuing to:

- Acknowledge the voices of community members.
- Listen to the problems identified by the community members.
- Create or provide resources to address the community identified problems.
- Engage with community members to show how and where to access resources.
- Support collaboration between government agencies, providers, and peer support

The Importance of Acknowledging Black, Indigenous, People of Color – Cultural Sensitivity

- Gaps in access and treatments for the Black community.
- Expand resources to hire more specialists (i.e., addiction counseling and education programs for the Black community).
- A need for grants tailored to the Indigenous community.

The Dialogue for Direction



Anthony Gulluni, DA, Hampden County, Hampden County Addiction Task Force, Co-Chair.

- DA Gulluni shared that HCAT brings together law enforcement, community resources and health care to focus on ways to address drug and alcohol addiction, overdoses, and prevention. He highlighted the “rapid response team” to aid the families of every reported overdose across the county. DA Gulluni listed programs to engage youth, prevent crime, help people overcome addiction, and promote social and racial equity in criminal justice.



Nick Cocchi, Sheriff, Hampden County, Hampden County Addiction Task Force, Co-Chair

- Sheriff Cocchi validated DA Gulluni’s HCAT description. He further shared that the Hampden County has a commitment to be compassionate agents of change and not just custodians of our fellow man – is the foundation of our sheriff’s department and how we ensure the welfare and well-being of all those placed in our care today and in the future. He emphasized supporting the path to recovery.



Maryanne Frangules MOAR Executive Director and Ashley Jediny, HCAT Co-Coordinator, Hampden County Sheriff’s Department Co-facilitated the discussion with Kelli Kydd, MOAR Western MA Regional Coordinator. The goal was to address the impact of overdoses and racial inequity within region, and what can be done.



Dallas Clark, in recovery, a MHA Recovery Coach, a MA Substance Use Helpline Navigator,

- Dallas makes all proud because of his commitment to recovery. He shared about living in a world of violence and drugs. He was able to take advantage of what was positive from the Hampden County correctional systems and use that same attitude while in treatment which led to recovery support service involvement. This led to getting involved with MOAR, and other organizations that would help him to grow. Today, he is moving towards building recovery support services that are principled in racial equity.



Senator John Velis, representing 2nd Hampden and Hampshire Counties, Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use & Recovery.

- He highlighted addiction prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. Most importantly, he shared about personally living in recovery, and highlighted legislative proposals emphasizing overdose prevention, health, insurance, and racial equity.



Senator Eric P. Lesser, First Hampden and Hampshire County

- “We have to work to support our caretakers and our providers, which means increasing reimbursement rates, the way insurance rates work, providing more professional development and training support, getting paid up, improving working conditions, making sure that we are hiring enough people, and attracting enough people to do this vital work.” –



Helen Caulton Harris, Springfield Health and Human Service Commissioner,

- acknowledged the heightened rate of overdoses, impact on communities of color, and coalition work addressing to make a turn around with an emphasis on disparity. She looks forward to working on the Boston Medical Center NIDA Grant, HEAL Initiatives, with Springfield being one of the 16 communities to reduce overdoses by 40%.



Kevin McCarthy, MOAR Board President

- “The Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery is here to let people know that recovery is not only real, but that it works if the processes and systems are provided in the manner that is needed for the person in recovery.” -



Garry Porter, African Diaspora for Mental Health Services

- “If we are all in the treatment field and haven’t addressed our implicit bias, then how people of color gain access to treatment is impacted.” –



- - **Della Blake, Black Addiction Counselor Education (BACE), Black Behavioral Health Network** - “One of the things that we need to pay attention to is our culturally specific services.” Della provides a framework of addiction counseling specific for future Black addiction counselors and is organizing to build a network of providers focused on the needs of those who identify as Black, to provide culturally specific services



- – **Kirsten Doherty, MOAR SOAR and PAREnt Project Director**
- “Being focused on working with individuals who are brown, black, and Indigenous because we know statistically that they are mostly affected in having their children removed or fearing their children will be removed. ”



- **Heather Warner, (SPIFFY) Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth Coalition**

- “We know that we need to educate people about what is happening, but we also need to create policies that stop the flow of substances coming in. We need to stop access to these substances.” –

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- **Trevor Dayton, Outreach Coordinator for Northampton Recovery Center**

“The only thing that gets in the way of recovery is death. Recovery isn't a straight line. Whatever your recovery is, we are here to support it. Community is the antidote to the isolation of addiction.” –



- **Shalonda Mabry, FIRST Steps Together Coordinator at Square One**

“Both my parents suffered from addiction, and I am a product of that environment, so I am passionate about the children because we don't hear their cries and they are overlooked.” –



- **Daniella Grimaldi, Program Director at Goodwin House, a co-occurring young men’s (13 to 17) residential service** “ It is important to remember that family is part of their recovery. It is important for their families to see the changes that they have made with us at the program.” –



- “Collaborating with others has really helped our community build and learn how to access resources.” - **Julie Gagne, Program Director for Gandara’s Springfield Peer Recovery Center, Valor**



- **Peter Babineau, Western MA Program Director for Learn to Cope, Family Support Network** “107, 622...that’s how many people we lost between December 2020 and December 2021 in the United States. The number is terrible, but I just want to ask you...I want to invite you...I want to implore you...Can you live in the coma for long? Who decides the number? I refuse to accept that even one more is okay.” –



- **Panel on Building Overdose Prevention and Outreach;**
Ashley Jediny, Hampden County, Sheriff’s Dept; Deb Flynn Gonzalez, Hope for Holyoke (on screen); Pedro Alvarez (Tapestry); Gary Pratt Rural Recovery, Southern Berkshire Recovery Center; Peter Babineau, Learn to Cope; kathi Cotugno, DART – Panel facilitated by Kelli Kidd, **W MOAR** Regional Coordinator---- Emphasis on going to where the people in need are – on the street – in their homes – and in rural area of Southern Berkshire County – from community to health education to public safety to continuum of care, harm reduction support to keep our family members alive --- so they might first stay alive and then get to recovery!

What **MOAR** Did We Learn?

How do Grants Help?

- Aid with navigating different systems such as welfare and justice.
- Assistance collaboration.
- Expand the recovery support centers
- Provide training.
- Give trauma support.

The Need to Understand Implicit Bias

- Operates at the subconscious level.
- Leads to health disparities.
- Triggers microaggressions, which may result in racial stress and trauma.
- Exposure comes from anyone (parents or friends) and anywhere (homes, community, and media).
- Preventative measures are necessary, incorporating a test to determine likelihood of an individual’s behavior to be fueled by implicit bias.
- Discuss implicit bias openly to reduce shame.

Opioids and Do Not Forget Alcohol and Other Drugs

- Fentanyl is a growing challenge.
- What about stimulants, benzodiazepene, and alcohol!

- Prevention is key, delaying an individual's first experience with illicit or prescribed substance abuse.
- Build in culturally appropriate services

The Importance of Policy

- Promote healthy choice and equity based on cultural sensitivity
- Understand political policy and climate.
- Support teachers through appropriate wages.
- Encourage positive school-based environments.
- Work to reduce discrimination and that is culturally sensitive
- More resources that involve naloxone training.

The Value of Addiction Recovery

- Everyone is recovering from something.
- Recovery is not linear and it is never complete. Always acknowledge cultural sensitivity.
- Consider harm reduction as a pathway to recovery.
- Family is part of recovery. It is important to support, nurture, and work with family members

Workforce in Substance Addiction

- Staff member burnout and growing gap of staffing capacity.
- Expand professionals to be credential and license in the field.
- Gratitude for legislators that have lived through and understand addiction recovery.
- Progress halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but not undone
- Honor Lived Experience and Peer Support – Recovery Coaching and Centers
- Support culturally sensitive programming

What is **MOAR Positive Coming Out of The State House this Summer!**

Expect Positive Outcome from the State Budget

We thank the legislators for supporting the following

- \$3M in funding for the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) Program;
- \$5M for technical assistance and training for medication management, medication-assisted treatment and treatment of co-occurring disorders;
- \$1M in funding for workforce development efforts in concert with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC);
- \$10M to expand low-threshold housing for homeless individuals with substance use and mental health disorders at risk of HIV;

- \$3M to provide technical assistance and training to increase the number of providers delivering culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse services in communities of color;
- \$3M to support multidisciplinary, team-based substance use services;
- \$10M to procure additional family supportive housing programs;
- \$7M to address the addiction treatment workforce crisis through outreach and recruitment efforts; and
- \$2M to address the addiction treatment workforce crisis through efforts at local and regional educational institutions.

Legislative Proposals before The State House Now –

H221 –

Ends automatic 51A for women on suboxone, who give birth to a baby addicted to opioids-

S1551 – H240 –

Supports persons exiting prison with proper identification

S2584 - H4891 –

Improves health insurance coverage for persons with Behavioral Health Needs

H.2088/S.1272 -

Sets up Safe Consumption sites for persons still using drugs with support for preventing infection, promoting health, and referral to other supports

If interested ! email Maryanne Frangules – maryanne@moar-recovery.org

Want to do **MOAR! email Kelli Kydd – W MA MOAR Regional Coordinator
Kelli@moar-recovery.org**

MOAR would like to thank our funders – MA Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, DPH; Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts, Cultural Humility Grant – Attorney General’s Office, The RIZE Foundation of Massachusetts, SAMHSA for capacity building and education support.