

Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services

MCAS FY2023 State Budget Request for DPH/Bureau of Substance Addiction Services Line-item 4512-0200

The *Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services (MCAS)* is a group of organizations that advocate to strengthen funding and support for harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery support services with the goal of increasing access to services for people with substance use disorders and saving lives.

In 2020, over 2,100 individuals in Massachusetts died of opioid-related overdoses, the most since overdose deaths last peaked in 2016. Particularly concerning are the changing demographics and trends in fatal opioid-related overdoses, with rates in Black men increasing 69% over the year prior and an increasing proportion of overdoses with a stimulant present.

For the House Ways and Means FY23 budget, MCAS respectfully requests:

1. New Funding Priorities

- **\$3 million for BSAS to develop and provide technical assistance to providers serving communities of color**, including what is required to become a licensed BSAS provider and how to track and respond to procurements. Services should be delivered that reflect the cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity of individuals served.
- **\$3 million to expand multi-disciplinary, team-based substance use treatment care**. The utilization of this model would provide treatment, rehabilitation, and supportive services to adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or substance use disorder. Services could be offered in home- and community-settings and for those experiencing homelessness, and are adaptable to fit individuals with a high acuity of need who may not meet criteria for other programs. The multi-disciplinary approach promotes independent living and an individual process of recovery, geared towards increasing tenure in the community and providing stabilizing support.
- **\$1 Million for contingency management support for individuals with stimulant use disorder**. Contingency management is a strongly evidence-based behavioral therapy for stimulant use disorder that focuses on positively reinforcing desired behaviors, such as cessation or reduction of stimulant use and engagement in treatment, through rewards like prizes and privileges. Contingency management has also been shown to be successful for specific populations of individuals with stimulant use disorder, including men who have sex with men, individuals with co-occurring stimulant and opioid use disorder, and individuals with severe mental health disorders.
- **\$10 Million for Family Supportive Housing Programs**. This housing model is designed to address the complex issues involved in family substance use treatment and recovery. This program model stabilizes families by providing a safe haven; a holistic approach to recovery that addresses the inter-relationships between a families' physical and psychological health as well as parenting responsibilities and other supportive services to further develop the skill levels needed for independent living.
- **\$10 Million for low threshold housing for homeless individuals with substance use and co-occurring disorders at risk of HIV (Housing First model)**. This funding would give BSAS the capacity to procure congregate care or individual housing units through licensed addiction treatment providers. It is a "housing first" model that does not require sobriety for placement, and provides supervised case management services. The procurement could be targeted to communities with high rates of homelessness, opioid overdose/deaths and HIV infection. The goal of this model is to reduce homelessness, improve health outcomes, and advance health equity.

- **\$7 million for a BSAS workforce development assistance program** to support staff who work in BSAS-licensed programs (addiction treatment safety net) for purposes including, but not limited to, financial support to complete trainings and continuing education curriculum. The program should prioritize the recruitment and retention of a culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse workforce.
- **\$5 Million for BSAS to provide technical assistance to addiction treatment providers.** This funding allows BSAS to assist providers with medications for addiction treatment, medication management, and serving people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
- **\$1 Million for the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for people in recovery.** BSAS employs an Interagency Service Agreement with MRC to approach workforce development and strategic planning with a wide range of stakeholders, in order to identify educational pathways with local community colleges and universities and train individuals with lived experience to work in the addiction treatment field.
- **\$3 Million for the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program.** MA-ATR offers comprehensive care coordination, job readiness, skills training and access to services for individuals who are re-entering the community post-incarceration, pregnant women and veterans. The program saves the state money in healthcare, incarceration and social costs through the empowerment of individuals and has served over 26,000 individuals throughout the state. MA-ATR continues to be funded at \$7 million by SAMHSA through the Federal State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, and \$3 million by the state. While federal funding has been renewed, the \$3 million in state funding must continue as well.

2. FY22 Prior Appropriations Continued

MCAS requests that FY22 funding appropriated to Line Item 4512-0200 that was not procured and/or expended be continued in the FY23 budget, to allow for additional time and opportunity for important services to be implemented.

Members of MCAS include:

Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH)
 EndHepC MA Coalition
 Fenway Health
 Learn to Cope
 Massachusetts Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (MAADAC)
 Massachusetts Black Alcohol & Addiction Counselors Council (MBAC)
 Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance (MHSA)
 Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
 Massachusetts Public Health Association
 Recovery Homes Collaborative of Massachusetts (RHC)
 RIZE Massachusetts
 Student Coalition on Addiction (SCA)
 The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)
 Western Massachusetts Substance Addiction Providers Association (WMSAPA)

Please contact Abby Kim on behalf of MCAS at akim@abhmass.org for any additional information.

Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services

Membership List FY2023

Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH): ABH is a statewide association representing over eighty community-based mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations. Our members are the primary providers of publicly-funded behavioral healthcare services in the Commonwealth, serving approximately 81,000 Massachusetts residents daily and over three-quarters of a million residents annually, employing 37,500 people. Contact Abby Kim at akim@abhmass.org or (508) 647-8385

EndHepC MA Coalition: EndHepC Massachusetts is a statewide collaboration combining the efforts of health and social service organizations, providers, and consumers to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and to advocate for programs addressing the needs of those who are affected by or at higher risk of developing the disease. Victory Programs is the convening agency of the Coalition. Contact Richard Baker at rbaker@vpi.org or www.vpi.org/endhepcma, 617-927-0836 x 188

Fenway Health: Motivated by the belief that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, Fenway Health advocates for and delivers innovative, equitable, accessible health care, supportive services, and transformative research and education. We center LGBTQIA+ people, BIPOC individuals, and other underserved communities to enable our local, national, and global neighbors to flourish. Contact Carrie Richgels at CRichgels@genwayhealth.org or the office at 857.313.6595.

Learn to Cope: Learn to Cope is a non-profit support network that offers education, resources, peer support and hope for parents and family members coping with a loved one addicted to opiates or other drugs. Founded by Joanne Peterson in 2004, the organization has grown to include over 7000 members as of August 2015, and has become a nationally recognized model for peer support and prevention programming. Contact Joanne Peterson at 508-738-5148

Massachusetts Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (MAADAC): MAADAC is a statewide organization of addiction-focused professionals who enhance the health and recovery of individuals, families and communities. Its mission is to lead, unify and empower addiction-focused professionals to achieve excellence through education, advocacy, and knowledge, standards of practice, ethics, professional development and research. Contact Joe Kelleher, (617) - 269-2933, x 204

Massachusetts Black Alcohol & Addiction Counselors Council (MBAC): MBAC is the Massachusetts chapter of NBAC- National Black Alcoholism & Addictions Council. It is an advocacy group that has been providing education, training and support for culturally appropriate services in Substance Use Disorder and Co-occurring Disorders for 40 years. Contact Leah Randolph, Leah@moar-recovery.org

Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance (MHSA): MHSA is a nonprofit, public policy advocacy organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Massachusetts. MHSA membership includes nearly 100 community-based member agencies throughout Massachusetts. From permanent housing, transitional programs and emergency shelter to street outreach, health care and much more, MHSA member agencies are on the front lines providing housing and services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Due to the high rates of individuals experiencing homelessness with mental health and/or substance use disorders, it is imperative that these health concerns be addressed as a critical component to ending homelessness. Contact Joe Finn, jfinn@mhsa.net, 617-367-6447

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR): MOAR represents/organizes over 4,000 recovering individuals, families and friends across the state into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions. MOAR provides peer recovery support services to build a strong voice for recovery; and seeks to enhance the continuum of care by building recovery informed communities. Contact Maryanne Frangules, 617-423-6627

Massachusetts Public Health Association: The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a private, non-profit, statewide membership organization that promotes a healthy Massachusetts through advocacy, education, community organizing, and coalition-building. Our focus is on policies and programs that prevent illness, disease, and injury, particularly among those vulnerable to disparities in health status. Contact Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director, 857-263-7072

Recovery Homes Collaborative of Massachusetts (RHC): The RHC is a statewide group of more than 35 long-term residential treatment programs providing treatment to people experiencing a Substance Use Disorder and the tools they need for sustained recovery. We represent over 2000 clients and 400 staff members as well as many thousands of graduates and their family members who support our efforts. Contact Bob Mills, President of RHC, 781-894-6110 x 1400

RIZE Massachusetts: RIZE Massachusetts Foundation is solely dedicated to funding and creating solutions to end the overdose crisis. Guided by those with lived experience and unafraid of new ideas, RIZE is building networks, designing programming, and supporting community partners who are using novel approaches to preventing overdose and increasing access to treatment. Learn more at www.rizema.org.

Student Coalition on Addiction (SCA): SCA is a group of healthcare students from Boston University, Harvard University, Tufts University, and University of Massachusetts working to advocate for residents with and at risk for substance use disorders, including those disadvantaged by homelessness, poverty, racism, and other systemic forces. We envision a future in which Massachusetts residents with substance use disorders can live healthy and fulfilled lives. Contact: studentcoalitiononaddiction@gmail.com

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC): BPHC protects, promotes and preserves the health and well-being of all residents of Boston, particularly the most vulnerable. It strives to fulfill its mission through a wide range of health initiatives that target preventable disease and injury, including the provision of prevention and treatment services for people with substance use disorders. It sits on the Coalition as representative of Public Health Commissions across the state. Contact P.J. McCann at PMccann@bphc.org

Western Massachusetts Substance Addiction Providers Association (WMSAPA): WMSAPA was founded for charitable and educational purposes, to represent the interests of the alcohol and drug service providers and their clients to all sectors of the community. WMSAPA is recovery oriented and provides advocacy, planning and training so as to promote a well-coordinated system of substance use recovery services. Contact Nellie F. Maldonado at www.tapestryhealth.org