

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (**MOAR**) presents its 32nd Annual Recovery Month Celebration Day.

List of Speakers



Michelle Wu
Boston Mayor

Michelle Wu is the Mayor of Boston. She is a daughter of immigrants, Boston Public Schools mom to two boys, MBTA commuter, and fierce believer that we can solve our deepest challenges through building community. As Mayor, Michelle is working to deliver bold, systemic change that includes supporting addiction recovery resources.



Marylou Sudders, MSW, ACSW
Secretary of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Marylou Sudders serves as Secretary of Health and Human Services for Massachusetts, overseeing 12 state agencies and the MassHealth program. EOHHS programs and services represent 56% of the state's budget and provide treatment, care, and support to one in every three residents. Sudders never forgets that behind those numbers are the lives of individuals, families, and communities in need of support. She is a social worker committed to the health and well-being of Massachusetts residents, including addressing equity and reforming behavioral health care so that residents can access care where and when they need it.



Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General

Maura Healey was sworn in as Attorney General on January 21, 2015, pledging to lead the People's Law Firm. Healey has tackled issues touching MA residents' lives such as escalating health care costs, workers' rights, student loan costs plus the heroin and prescription drug epidemic. AG Healey led the nation in exposing the wrongdoing of Purdue Pharma with Oxycontin. In 2020, she worked with the legislature to create a trust fund for resources to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.



Dr. Bisola Ojikutu
Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission

Bisola Ojikutu MD, MPH is a nationally recognized physician leader, health equity researcher, community advocate and expert in the prevention, care, and treatment of infectious diseases. Dr. Ojikutu was appointed Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) in September 2021. As Executive Director of the BPHC, Dr. Ojikutu manages a budget of \$162M and leads 1,200 employees to protect, preserve, and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, particularly the most vulnerable. Among other public health priorities, she is committed to addressing racism as a public health crisis and advancing health equity.



Julia Ojeda

Recovery Support Services Statewide Coordinator, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)

Julia Ojeda is being honored today for her recovery leadership inspiring many from many recovery pathways to appreciate culture with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive lens. She has worked to build meaningful integrity for peer recovery coaching and peer recovery support centers through research, training, and collaboration. In June of 2023, Julia will be leaving BSAS, and will move on to teach the world about the value of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care in a big way. We love Julia!



Kevin McCarthy, LICSW, MAPGS

MOAR Board President

Kevin McCarthy is a person in long term recovery that 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. He uses his expertise to facilitate systemic change in recovery treatment, through legislation change advocacy and non-profit board service.



Deirdre Calvert, MSW, LICSW

Director, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

Deirdre Calvert has been the Director of the MA Bureau of Substance Addiction Services since April of 2019. Previously, Director Calvert worked for more than 20 years as a clinical director and social worker in the MA 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 MSW from Boston University and is a licensed independent clinical social worker.



Jennifer Tracey, MSW

Director, Boston's Office for Recovery Services

Jennifer Tracey is the Director of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, the first and only municipal substance use recovery office in the United States. The Mayor's Office of Recovery Services leads all substance use recovery policy and initiatives for the City of Boston. Jen holds a Master of Social Work from Salem State College and a bachelor's degree from Providence college.



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.



Omar Olazabal

Lead Recovery Coach Supervisor, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Omar Olazabal is a Certified Addiction and Recovery Coach. He has many years of experience coaching individuals and families and supporting their recovery journey from the effects of addiction and mental health challenges. Omar previously worked at MCDHH as a Case Manager and in the CATTs Department, as well as supporting the youth summer intern program in collaboration with Mass Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). Omar is passionate about advocacy and ensuring that deaf and hard of hearing have equitable access to treatment through multiple recovery pathways.



Richard Winant

Chair of the Ethics Committee, Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing (MASH)

Richard Winant is the director of The Kelly House, a men's sober house in Wakefield. After working in corporate settings for more than 25 years, Rich made a career change to the recovery field. He is also a certified recovery coach and attended the University of Massachusetts Boston's Addiction Counselor program. He served as MASH's president from 2014 to 2018 and as a board member of the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse. He has a bachelor's degree from Clark University.



Matthew Ganem

CEO/Owner, Aftermath Addiction Treatment Center

Matthew Ganem is in long term recovery and has worked in the field of substance abuse treatment since 2014. As the Owner and CEO of Aftermath Addiction Treatment Center, Matt takes an active role in the day-to-day activities with the clients, he is usually the first person a client will see as they enter in the door. Matt makes sure to let each client know that they are not alone as they begin their journey on the path to recovery and tries to inspire them to achieve a better way of life in recovery. Matt is also an award-winning poet and public speaker, and the author of *The Shadow Of An Addict*.



Jodie Nealley, MS

VSE Recovery and Outreach Liaison, MA Council on Gaming & Health

Jodie Nealley has a B.A. from St. Lawrence University, a M.S. in Education from Indiana University and is a graduate of the UMass/Boston Addiction Counselor Education Program. Her responsibilities include assisting in the delivery of gambling related trainings aimed at capacity building for providers and serving as primary liaison for voluntary self-exclusion follow ups and the telephone recovery support program. She is a person in long term recovery.



Haner Hernández, Ph.D., CPS, CADCI, LADCI

Addiction Transfer and Technology Center of New England

Dr. Hernández is Puerto Rican, bilingual and has worked for over 30 years in the health and human service field developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally and linguistically intelligent youth and adult health prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support programs. He is a master trainer and facilitator and provides individualized technical assistance and support to organizations that provide substance use disorder, mental health, and gambling prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery supports. Haner is a person in long-term recovery from addiction and is committed to eliminating health disparities by participating in processes the build equity.



Tommy Caccavaro

Recovery Coach Specialist, Town of Arlington

Tommy Caccavaro is in long-term recovery and was recently hired as the town of Arlington's new part-time recovery specialist. In his role, he supplements the town's current jail diversion work and the department's ability to provide important resources and treatment services to those living with substance use disorder. He is a business owner and a co-founder of Arlington Overcoming Addiction. Utilizing his lived experience, he offers peer support and recovery coaching meeting Arlington residents where they are at, offering support throughout their recovery process.



Christopher Henry

Recoveree & Advocate

Christopher Henry is learning about serious health issues and choosing to address them, he also decided to give recovery a chance. He has faced obstacles along the way; however, he has taken suggestions while building his recovery network and realizing that there is life and freedom in recovery!



Julie Pike

MOAR Recovery Coach & AREAS Facilitator

Julie Pike is in long-term recovery and a full-time recovery coach for **MOAR** as well as an AREAS facilitator. She is honored to be a recovery coach giving back to those who are looking to make a transition in their life.



Patricia Saint James, Esq.

President, Let's Give It Up Foundation

Pat is a partner at the law firm of Tarlow, Breed, Hart & Rogers, where she chairs the Family Law Department. She has worked extensively with the Massachusetts Legislature, the Courts, and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to shape legislation, train other lawyers, and enhance the practice of family law in the Commonwealth. Pat currently serves as a commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on Judicial Conduct. Pat is also a composer and producer. She wrote The Serenity Song that has been performed in the off-Broadway play *Recovery* and used in the Massachusetts Drug Courts. This song led to the creation of the Let's Give It Up Foundation.



Father Joe White

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

Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Boston's West End, Director of the Archdiocesan Addiction Recovery Pastoral Support Services, and serves as 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.



Elizabeth Malia

Massachusetts State Representative, 11th Suffolk District

Elected to the House of Representatives in 1998, Liz Malia represents the 11th Suffolk District. Serving a district that consists of parts of Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Dorchester and Roslindale, Representative Malia has dedicated her tenure to constituent services and improving the quality of life for residents in her district. As the former House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery for more than a decade, Representative Malia led efforts to improve access to mental health and substance abuse services, especially in communities of color.



Roger Oser & Auden

Principal, 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. He is joined by Auden, a graduate who follows a recovery program that has helped her tremendously as she experiences extreme health challenges.

Mary Mahon McCauley

Executive Director, Massachusetts Office on Disability



Mary Mahon McCauley is in long-term recovery and has been the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) since the fall of 2019. She has 34 years of experience working in the field of disabilities having been Area Director at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). She holds a BA in Sociology and a M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Barbara Sanford

Director, Voices of Hope Choir



The Voices of Hope Choir is a newly formed Recovery Choir, located in Quincy, MA. The 'Voices of Hope' is comprised of members who are passionate about bringing inspiration and awareness of overcoming addiction, to our communities through song and are working together to uplift each other as we strive to provide connection and motivation to all we touch with our music!

Kirsten Doherty

Director, The PAREnT Project



Kirsten Doherty is the Project Coordinator for The PAREnT Project (Parents in Addiction Recovery Engaging Together), which is an initiative of MOAR. The Project builds the knowledge and capacity of recovery coaches to support moms and families in recovery involved with the Department of Children and Families and the Justice systems. The pilot is being implemented in Hampden and Worcester Counties and works with stakeholders to engage specially trained recovery coaches to provide individual and group support within their organizations.



Debra Flynn Gonzalez

Director, Hope for Holyoke Peer Support Center

Debbie Flynn Gonzalez is nothing less than amazing. She is a woman in long term recovery, who has helped families through their addiction, and the many Hope for Holyoke members. She inspires self-worth in the participants by helping all find a sense of involvement through music, volunteering, and becoming a puppet master! **MOAR** was inspired by Debbie to go for a SAMHSA grant to help parents in recovery replace system barriers with navigation skills while building their parenting and recovery skills.



Rebecca Zwicker, CARC

Rebecca Zwicker is a woman in recovery, who is inspirational to all. She is a leader for peer recovery coaching, recovery centers, recovery advocacy, and recovery education. Rebecca leads CPAR (Community Program for Addiction Recovery) to help reduce the gap between police officers and individuals in need of recovery from active addiction linking to resources. Through Worcester Parents in Recovery, she inspired **MOAR** to apply for a SAMHSA grant to help parents in recovery replace system barriers with navigation skills while building their parenting and recovery skills.