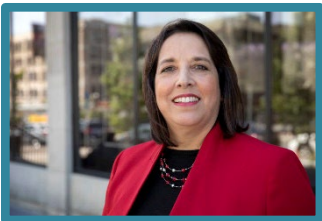


List of Speakers



Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

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.



Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts

Kim was elected the 73rd Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts in 2022 alongside Governor Maura Healey, making them the first-ever all-female executive team in Massachusetts. Kim is an integral part of Team Massachusetts, working alongside Governor Healey to grow the Massachusetts economy, make our state a more affordable place to live, work and retire, and ensure we remain the number one state in the nation for innovation in health, climate, and culture.



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.



Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Robbie Goldstein was appointed Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health by Governor Healey in April 2023. A physician specializing in infectious diseases, Dr. Goldstein oversees a workforce of more than 3,200 individuals committed to health equity and dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of people across the state. This work is carried out through a network of offices responsible for maternal and child health, nutrition, infectious diseases, injury prevention, substance use disorders, emergency preparedness and response, and problem gambling.



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 Independent Clinical Social Worker and recovery advocate. He specializes in the treatment of clients with co-occurring disorders, focusing on 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.



Danielle O'Brien

Director of Recovery Services, BSAS

Danielle O'Brien is the Recovery Community Support Coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services. She oversees and supports the growing statewide system of BSAS Peer Recovery Support Centers and other statewide Recovery Support Services initiatives throughout the Commonwealth, building provider capacity, statewide recovery networks and promoting recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC).



Matthew Ganem

CEO/Owner, Aftermath Addiction Treatment Center

Matt Ganem is in long-term recovery and has worked in the field of substance abuse treatment since 2014. As the CEO and Owner 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 sees as they enter in the door. Matt makes sure to let each client know 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, public speaker, and author.



Lovelee Harvey
Recovery Coach

Lovelee Harvey is a Recovery Coach, Peer Support Specialist, Community Engagement Coordinator, and motivational speaker in the Boston area, where he was born and raised. Throughout his journey, Lovelee has faced many challenges, such as Substance Use Disorder, incarceration, homelessness, mental health issues, and trauma. He has been able to overcome these challenges with his focus on recovery, spirituality, and the many pathways to recovery. He has turned his pain into purpose and his purpose into passion and finds nothing more fulfilling than being the change he wants to see through helping others. Lovelee's mission is to carry a message of hope that inspires and motivates others.



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 the hearing impaired have equitable access to treatment through multiple recovery pathways. Today, he is joined by Joseph Karnolisz and Laura Peters.



Jose Cruz
Peer Coordinator

Jose is a father of two in a 25-year marriage. Raised in the Bronx, NY, Jose began using drugs at the age of 12. He found himself going through rehab in his 50's after being in and out of rehabilitation programs, living in homeless shelters, and feeling his life wasn't going anywhere. Jose eventually began his recovery journey and is now dedicated to his recovery. He began coming to New Beginnings, and later volunteering and becoming a peer leader. Today, a little over eight years into his recovery and two years of employment at Spectrum Health Systems, Jose is passionate about helping others through similar struggles because he firmly believes, "Recovery is Possible!"



Haner Hernández, PhD, 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 that build equity.

Erika Hensel
Massachusetts Attorney General's Office



Erika Hensel is a licensed Community Health Worker and Harm Reduction Specialist currently working as the Project Manager for Opioid Response at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Prior to this role, Erika was the Springfield Community Coordinator for the HEALing Community Study that aimed to reduce opioid related deaths through evidence-based interventions in her community. Erika previously worked as an Overdose Engagement Coordinator for Tapestry Harm Reduction and was published for her work in naloxone peer distribution. Erika started in the field at Friends of the Homeless as a Clinical Case Manager in Springfield, where she began championing harm reduction strategies. Erika is an Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Master Trainer and has personally reversed over 50 overdoses in the community. She is currently in long-term recovery and a strong proponent of medications for opioid use disorder and multiple pathways. Erika works toward policy change and compassionate care for people in recovery, unsheltered individuals, people who exchange sex, and people who use drugs.

Julie Burns
RIZE Massachusetts, President & CEO



Julie Burns is the founding executive of RIZE Massachusetts and leads the foundation's work researching, investing in, and expanding evidence-based treatment solutions as well as building coalitions across the nonprofit, public, and private sectors to end the opioid overdose epidemic in Massachusetts. Previously, Julie was a senior director at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation overseeing communication strategy, strategic planning, and administration. Julie served as a member of the city of Boston's Office of Recovery Services Substance Use Prevention Advisory Board under former Mayor Marty Walsh and was appointed as a member of the Commission on Methamphetamine Use by former Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker in October 2021. She also serves her community on several nonprofit boards and commissions.

Exitfame

Artist



Exitfame is an artist born in Boston, MA. Exitfame uses his music and message to bring awareness to the harsh realities of poverty, drug addiction, and bad choices. He is a man of God and in recovery. As of now, Exitfame has five years of sobriety and speaks at schools and recovery centers to bring hope. ExitFame has made music with many celebrity artists and recently has been on tour with legendary groups like The Lox and more. Exitfame is a father of three and is currently a recovery coach out of the Gavin Foundation. ExitFame has had troubles in life and is now using them to change his life and, ultimately, in his own words, show the world what God can do with someone from the absolute bottom.

Mathematics

Artist



Mathematics is a recovery coach, consultant, group specialist, public speaker, and poet. He spent 15 winters and 14 summers in state prison, went to 131 detox facilities, 8 stabilization programs, 4 halfway houses and survived 7 overdoses. With personal experience in addiction and recovery, prison and street culture, Mathematics shares practical steps towards change. He attended The School of Hard Knocks, Cambridge Ridge and Latin, Roxbury Community College (The B.A.C.E. Program) and has certifications from Brandeis and Boston College for small business and life skills training. He has grown his brand, Motivated by Math, into a movement for personal and social transformation. He currently works at Bedrock Recovery Center, Ark Behavioral Health, and Norfolk House of Correction. He volunteers his time and learnings to people who are lost and struggling and serves as an example for hope, change, reinvention, and brighter futures.

Zakiya Alake

MA Substance Use Helpline



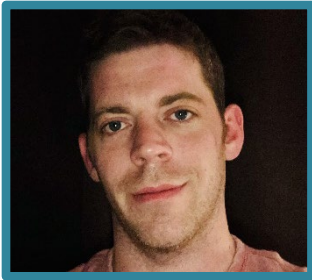
Zakiya has lived in Massachusetts for most of her 60+ years and is currently a recovery coach—completing additional training on addiction — to help others in her community on the path to health and wellness. Zakiya has been living in Recovery since 1990. She has been a proud volunteer with Metro Boston Alive’s Marcus Garvey Center, located in the heart of the historic “Nubian Square”. In March 2022, Zakiya received her first donation to create an online recovery community to support people suffering from SUD who cannot connect with their recovery community and/or support resources. Zakiya encourages “folks” to always be active participants in their journey to success from SUD, Mental Health Disorder, Spiritual Development and DEI as it applies to their lived experience.



Sarah Colby

Education and Outreach Manager, Fair Housing & Equity

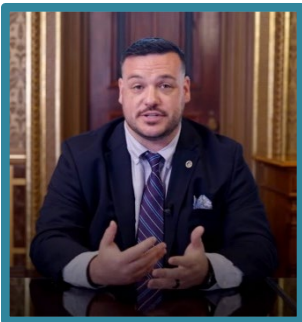
Sarah Colby is a mother in recovery who is not only a role model to her children, but an inspiration to individuals in recovery throughout her community. As the Recovery Coach at Hope for Holyoke Peer Recovery Support Center, Sarah works tirelessly to support members and peers seeking and engaged in recovery while raising her two boys and showing them the value of giving back and never giving up. Sarah has utilized different pathways of recovery from treatment to Medication Assisted Recovery and is now an active member of Celebrate Recovery.



Paul Smith

MA Young People in Recovery

Paul Smith is a first-generation American, a person in recovery, and the Assistant Program Director for MyPiR (Massachusetts' Young People in Recovery). He started his recovery journey in 2020 after a decade of struggling. Paul became involved with MyPiR first as a peer, then as a volunteer, before joining the staff in 2023. He is passionate about peer support, recovery coaching, and working with young people to aid them to a self-directed life.



Stephen Murray

Director, SafeSpot Overdose Hotline

Stephen Murray, MPH, NRP, is an overdose researcher, Harm Reduction Program Manager, and the Director of the SafeSpot Overdose Hotline at Boston Medical Center. In 2021, he retired as a Lieutenant at a large regional ambulance service in Western Massachusetts, having served as both a firefighter and paramedic since 2013. He regularly shares for a national audience about his lived experience as a person who used drugs and overdose survivor. Stephen provides expert technical assistance around the topics of overdose prevention, emergency medical services and harm reduction to a variety of organizations, county and state governments across the country.



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.



Keri McCallum & Kirsten Puccio
M.I.R.A.C.L.E. Mama's

Keri McCallum and Kirsten Puccio are the founders of M.I.R.A.C.L.E. (Mothers In Recovery Advocating for Change, Leadership, and Empowerment) Mama's, a support group for mothers in recovery. They help facilitate the SAMHSA funded PARENt Project. Both aim to advocate for themselves and their children as they navigate their own pathway of recovery and everything that comes along with it.



Rob Demeo
Business Development Representative, Sunrise Detox

Rob has worked in many addiction treatment positions since finding recovery in 2015. Currently, Rob is a Sunrise Detox Business Developer. Rob has now dedicated his life and career to helping others who are struggling from alcohol and other drugs find their own recovery pathway. He is involved in numerous community organizations that help fight the disease of addiction. He has been a long-time **MOAR** member!



Adrian Madaro
Massachusetts State Representative

Adrian Madaro is a State Representative who represents the 1st Suffolk District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He represents the East Boston section of the City of Boston. He is the Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. He has been a strong ally to the recovery community.



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

Father Joe is the 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. He is well-known for his dedication to ministering to those in recovery and is recognized as a leader in the field of addiction.



Ruth Balsler

Massachusetts State Representative

Ruth Balsler is the State Representative for the 12th Middlesex District, which includes parts of Newton and Brookline. As the first psychologist to serve in the Massachusetts legislature, Representative Balsler brings a unique perspective. She has made mental health public policy a top priority. She has championed many bills and budget amendments with the goal of expanding access to and quality of mental health and addiction services, and reducing the stigma associated with these illnesses. She is credited with expanding mental health parity in Massachusetts, enactment of an omnibus children's mental health bill, and protecting behavioral health in health care reform legislation.

Naomi Frye

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe



Naomi Frye, a native of Wareham, Massachusetts, moved to Maryland in 1993 to further her education and career. In 2018, Naomi returned to Cape Cod to reconnect with her Wampanoag heritage and address the opioid crisis affecting her community. She trained as a Peer Recovery Specialist at 4 C's and started working at the Mashpee Wampanoag Government Center, managing substance use disorders and teaching a weekly "Red Road to Wellbriety" class. Naomi's efforts extend to broader community engagement through organizing Healing Fire Events on tribal grounds, which bring together community members and experts to discuss substance abuse. She has also facilitated the placement of tribal members into productive sober homes and actively networks with Cape Cod communities. Her work reflects a deep commitment to holistic and community-focused approaches in addressing substance use disorder and promoting wellness.

Emily Godin

MPH Graduate Student, Massachusetts Alcohol Policy Coalition



As a former Chemical Dependency Counselor, Emily recognized the critical need for meaningful substance use policy improvements to address the widespread impact of addiction. Combining her personal and professional experiences with addiction, Emily advocates for policies that support prevention, recovery, and stronger systems of care for those affected by substance use. Now pursuing her MPH with a focus on Health Policy & Law at Boston University School of Public Health, she is involved with the Massachusetts Alcohol Policy Coalition, advocating for policies that prevent alcohol misuse and support recovery, such as the Resolution to Increase Massachusetts' Alcoholic Beverage Excise Tax.