

Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (**MOAR**) presents its Statewide Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness Month Town Hall Meeting, addressing Statewide and Community Action, from Prevention to Recovery.

List of Speakers



Kevin McCarthy

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

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Kevin McCarthy is the **MOAR** Board President, Heading Home Inc Board member, and a person in long-term recovery. He uses his expertise to facilitate systemic change in recovery treatment, through legislation change advocacy and non-profit board service. In his practice as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, he specializes in the treatment of clients with co-occurring disorders.



Leah Randolph

President, Black Alcoholism & Addiction Council Boston Chapter

—
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.



Father Joe White

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

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



Senator John Velis

Represents the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire district in the Massachusetts State Senate

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Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. Sen. Velis is a lawyer, Veteran, and Major in the US Army Reserves. He cares deeply about addiction issues on a personal level, and for his community and state.



State Senator Julian Cyr

Massachusetts Senate representing Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket.

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State Senator Julian Cyr represents much of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. He is Senate Chair of the Mental Health Substance Use and Recovery Committee. He is a friend of **MOAR**. He is a leader in helping the behavioral health system respond to the COVID-19 epidemic and is active in improving our state's overall hospital and healthcare systems.

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Timothy Jean

Public Health Fellow, New England Regional Office for SAMHSA

—
Tim Jean is a community collaborator, recovery leader and a person in long-term recovery. He is the Public Health Fellow at the New England Regional Office for SAMHSA, and co-founded Greater Boston Collegiate Recovery (GBCR). Tim aims to elevate the voices of peers in recovery and reduce the stigma of substance-use disorder, particularly among youth and young adults.



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 (MCDHH) 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 Coaches with the help of BSAS and the MCDHH



Tabatha Ann Patrican

Deaf Substance Addiction Counselor, and Deaf Recovery Coach, CARC, and Deaf SBIRT trainer,

—
Tabatha Ann Patrican, Deaf, Female, is in recovery, and her gratitude for her new life knows no bounds. As an inspiration and grateful to be in recovery. Tabatha shares the tools she learned by working to help others live a sober life through sponsorship, awareness, understanding, living the present moment.



Elizabeth Parsons, M.Ed.

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition

—
A community and youth leader with international experience. She works with 7 cities and towns north of Boston, Massachusetts to support underage drinking and youth substance use prevention efforts. Elizabeth serves on the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association's Public Health Advisory Committee and American Public Health Association's Alcohol Action Network.



Roger Oser

Founding Principal, Ostiguy Recovery High School

—
Roger is the founding Principal of Ostiguy Recovery High School, and 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 also the national board chair of the Association of Recovery Schools.

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Julia Ojeda

MA Dept of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) Recovery Support Services Statewide Coordinator

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Julia Ojeda is an experienced manager, facilitator, trainer, coach, change agent, racial equity champion and person in long-term recovery. She currently oversees Recovery Support Services which includes 26 Peer Recovery Support Centers. Julia also oversees all recovery coach related trainings, trainers and curriculum for BSAS.



Alexander Fidalgo

Training associate in the Opioid Prevention Grant for Health Resources In Action

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Alex is a Certified Recovery Coach, and a person in long-term recovery. For the past 8 years, he has worked with BSAS as a trainer for the Recovery Coach Academy, and has helped develop curriculum around, and trainings on, overdose prevention, stigma and labels, and Spanish-language trainings. He functions as a subject matter expert in Online learning for his department.



Gerard Touchette

Outreach Coordinator, Turning Point Peer Recovery Support Center

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Gerard is the Outreach Coordinator for Turning Point Peer Recovery Support Center, and a person in long-term recovery. Gerard has expressed gratitude to be in this field, which has become a large part of his lifestyle. He also expresses his positive feelings around having a purpose, a place in life, and a voice to share his lived experiences with others, and hopefully inspire others to grow.



Domenic Fermano

Peer Leader and long-time member of Plymouth Peer Recovery Center

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Domenic Fermano is a long time member of the Plymouth Recovery Center. Domenic is a peer leader that facilitates a group held over Facebook live every Tuesday from noon-1 called "Recovery Kitchen". The group aims to teach the community how to cook delicious home cooked meals on a budget which an essential skill for people in recovery.



Daniel Kelly

Program Director, Plymouth Peer Recovery Center

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Daniel Kelly is the Program Director for Plymouth Peer Recovery Center. The Center is one of five peer recovery support centers under Gandara. Daniel has been the director for two years. He is also a professional musician and a base guitarist and singer for the New Motif Band.

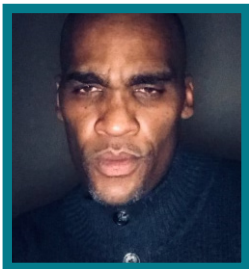
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Roscoe Gorham

Mass Rehab Advocate

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Roscoe Gorham has been working in the human service field for over 30 years. Mr. Gorham is one of the co-founders of Boston Partners in Mentoring, Family Intervention Team (FIT), which works very closely with youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance and their families. Mr. Gorham continues to participate and do service work for NA and has been doing it on and off for the past 33 years.



George Halfkenny

Outreach Coordinator for Kiva Centers.

—
A social justice advocate, restorative justice circle keeper, and returning citizen, George has experienced the school to prison pipeline firsthand. His life's work focus is on dismantling the school to prison pipeline and organizing communities around issues of mass incarceration.



Chief Sachem Larry Fisher, PhD

Mattakeeset Tribe of the Massachuset Indian Nation

—
Since 2014, Sachem Fisher has served as the ambassador delegate to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He has been largely instrumental to the indigenous people's recovery community and is well known for his work with the recovery coaching academy, drug healing and wellness court, Tribal models of care, among many others.



Andre StrongBearHeart Gaines, Jr.,

Cultural Steward, Indigenous Activist, Citizen of the Nipmuc people

—
Andre StrongBearHeart Gaines, Jr., is a citizen of the Nipmuc people. He serves as a cultural steward for his Tribe, is a father, public speaker, traditional dancer, Indigenous Activist for Indigenous rights, carpenter by trade and educator. With over a decade in recovery from drugs and alcohol, Andre is a recovery sponsor and integrated life coach for those in need.



Constance Peters

Vice President, Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH)

—
Connie Peters has over 25 years of experience working with state and federal programs for people with mental health and substance use disorders and other disabilities. Connie coordinates the advocacy work for the Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services, and represents ABH with state and federal agencies, administration officials, and state and federal legislators.

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Joanne Peterson

Founder, Executive Director, Learn to Cope Inc.

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Joanne Peterson is the Founder and Executive Director of Learn to Cope (LTC), a non-profit peer-led support network which began in 2004. Joanne's journey started as a young girl with siblings experiencing issues with mental illness and addiction. She designed LTC to offer families the support, education, resources, and hope that her family would have benefited from.



Magda Colon

Western Mass Regional Manager, Learn to Cope

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Magda joined Learn to Cope in October 2020 as Western Mass Regional Manager. She is bilingual and bi-cultural, with over 20 years' experience in behavioral health, community health education and public safety. She has developed a greater understanding of mental health and substance use disorders, family dynamics, and the challenges of Non-native English speakers in accessing recovery.



Elizabeth Reardon

Manager, Substance Use Services, Health Resources in Action

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Elizabeth Reardon Hinkley is the Manager of Substance Use Services at Health Resources in Action. She conducts outreach for the MA Substance Use Helpline and facilitates trainings statewide for the Opioid Overdose Prevention Training Project. She is grateful and proud to be a person in long term recovery.



Dallas Clark

Western Mass Outreach Coordinator, The Mass Substance Use Helpline

—
Dallas Clark is a graduate of the Phoenix House who transformed life in recovery. Dallas is a recovery coach and the Western Mass Outreach Coordinator for The Mass Substance Use Helpline at Health Resources in Action.



Richard Winant

Current Board Member of MASH, Certified Recovery Coach, Owner/Director of The Kelly House

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Richard is a Board Member and Former President of the Mass Alliance for Sober Housing (MASH). He is a Certified Recovery Coach, Owner/Director of the Kelly House, and an Instructor in the RSAT program at Norfolk County Jail. Richard is also a person in long term recovery. As a sober house owner, Richard strives to support this population in various areas of their lives.

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Lina Abdalla

Greater Boston Collegiate Recovery Leader

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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.”