

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.



Kate Walsh
Secretary of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Kate Walsh leads the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), which provides access to medical and behavioral health care, long-term services and supports, and key nutritional and financial benefits. She represents a team of more than 21,000 staff across 11 agencies and the MassHealth system, who work daily to provide services and programs for nearly 1 in every 3 Massachusetts residents.



Maura Healey
Massachusetts Governor

Maura Healey is the 73rd Governor of Massachusetts. She was sworn in on January 5, 2023, becoming the first woman and first openly LGBTQ person elected Governor in Massachusetts history. 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. 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.



Dr. Robert Goldstein

Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD, was appointed Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in April 2023. Previously, Dr. Goldstein was the Senior Policy Advisor at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and an infectious disease physician at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), and a faculty member at Harvard Medical School.



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.



Danielle O'Brien

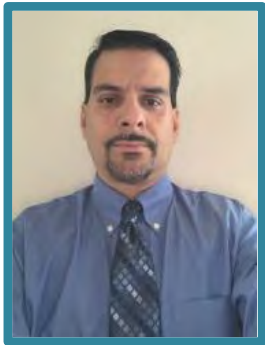
Recovery Community Support Coordinator, BSAS

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 RSS initiatives throughout the Commonwealth, building provider capacity, statewide recovery networks and promoting recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC).



Mike DiNatale
Rapper, Singer, Songwriter

Mike DiNatale is using music to share his experience, strength, and hope. With vivid detail, Mike has unleashed the truth behind the disease of addiction. The pain in his story becomes his strength as he attempts to reach the masses with his life through music. Mike's vision is to create a new style of music, a genre of its own, exposing the glorification of drugs in the music industry.



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. Omar is joined by Kristin Accetta and Michael Damelio.



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 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*.



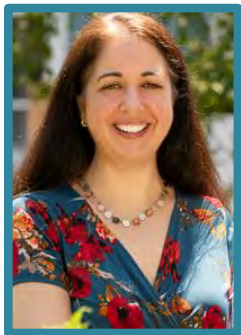
Recovery Education Collaborative

The REC mission is to promote lifelong learning enhanced by sustainable recovery for individuals with lived experience in addiction and recovery throughout Massachusetts, by providing culturally responsive educational training programs. We strive to create a community that values and uplifts all its members. We are dedicated to working in partnership with individuals and families to promote recovery, healing and wellness.



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.



Julie Sprenkle, PsyD
Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition

Dr. Julie Sprenkle is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist with lived experience in dual recovery. After over a decade of working as a clinician, Julie was driven into the peer recovery movement through her own wellness journey. She is currently the Dual Recovery Project Coordinator for the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition, supporting Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA) programming throughout the Commonwealth. Julie is a lead collaborator and instructor for the DRA-Certification Program, where she promotes leadership skills in others, and she is a proud Crossroads Clubhouse member.



Zachary Visinho
Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition

Zachary Visinho is a person in long-term dual recovery and is also a dedicated employee, father, husband, son, brother, and friend. He is employed as the LADC Director for Community Counseling of Bristol County's DMH ACCS programs. Zachary has made it his lifelong goal to show others that recovery is possible! He is a lead collaborator and instructor for the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition's Dual Recovery Anonymous-Certification Program, where he facilitates the leadership development of peers throughout the state. In addition to lived experience, Zachary has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management, LADC II, CADCI, and CARC.



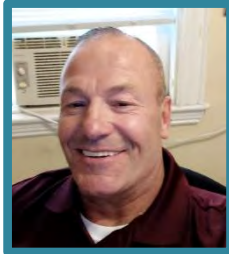
Rev. Dr. Isaias Rivera
Treatment Coordinator, Casa Esperanza

Rev. Dr. Isaias Rivera has been in Pastoral ministry since 1977. Isaias has directed Christian education programs for the Boston Pre-Release Center, located in Roslindale, MA. Isaias is currently working for Casa Esperanza in the Men's Program as a Treatment Coordinator, providing clinical counseling to clients in the process of recovery from SUD and alcohol use disorder.



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. Julie is joined by Sean Higgins, a recoveree. Sean was born and raised in Somerville, MA and currently works at local 25 teamsters and part-time at the Gavin House. He has over 19 months in recovery after battling addiction off and on for over 30 yrs. He is passionate about paying forward and remaining teachable.



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.



Andre StrongBearHeart Gaines Jr.

Indigenous Activist

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 15 years in recovery from drugs and alcohol, Andre is a recovery sponsor and integrated life coach for those in need. Andre's work focuses on bringing traditional knowledge back to Indigenous Peoples. He is also the creative director of (@No_Loose_Braids; https://linktr.ee/no_loose_braids). Andre's work is grounded in restoring balance between everyday life and traditional values while navigating the colonial systems we live in. Cultural revitalization, family, and traditions values are the driving force that keeps Andre ever diligent on his daily journey.

<https://www.andrestrongbearheart.com/>



Dallas Clark

MA Helpline Outreach and Engagement Associate

Dallas Clark is MA HRIA – Health Resource in Action- Helpline Outreach and Engagement Associate. He is in long term recovery and was previously a Helpline Champion for over two years. He also works as a recovery coach and is a volunteer mentor for Hampden County Sheriff's Department's addiction services. Dallas has completed the Black Addiction Counselor Education program and is actively involved in his community of Springfield, MA. Dallas is a passionate MOAR Recovery Advocate.



Roger Oser

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.



Woody Giessmann, LADC-1, CADC, CIP, AIS

Founder, Interventionist, Right Turn

Woody Giessmann is the founder of Right Turn on Watertown. Right Turn provides a broad range of evidence-based treatment programs for individuals and families recovering from substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders. Right Turn is a creative community for people in early recovery, and for those who are maintaining long-term recovery. Woody is also a certified interventionist, drummer of the Del Fuegos, and an active member of the Watertown Cares Opioid Task Force.



Gloria Johnson

Spoken Word Artist & Advocate

Gloria Johnson is a woman of color, in long term recovery from alcohol and other drugs for over 36 years. Gloria has worked in the addiction services field for many years, and her specialty is women services. In 1987, she started as Residential Case Manager at Dimock Health Center's Shelia Daniels supportive housing program for women in need of addiction treatment and HIV support. Now Gloria continues with the same vigorous support for women at the Dimock Ruth Kelley UMMI Housing Program. She exhibits that same zealousness as a volunteer for many organizations and communities supporting addiction recovery.



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

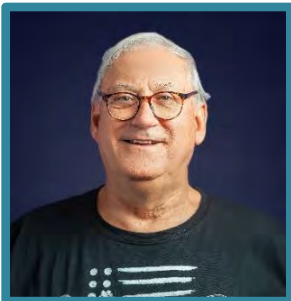
Keri McCallum and Kirsten Puccio are the founders of M.I.R.A.C.L.E. (Mothers In Recovery Advocating for Change, Leadership, and Empowerment) Mama's, a support group for mothers in recovery. They help facilitate the SAMHSA funded PARENt Project. Both aim to advocate for themselves and their children as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



Rob Demeo

Business Development Representative, Sunrise Detox

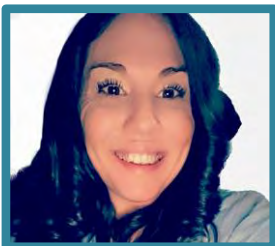
Rob has worked in many addiction treatment positions since finding recovery in 2015. Currently, Rob is a Sunrise Detox Business Developer. Since finding his recovery, Rob has dedicated his life and career to helping others struggling from alcohol and other drugs find their own recovery pathway. He is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



Dan Schneider

Pharmacist & Advocate

After losing his son Danny Jr. to a substance-related shooting, Louisiana pharmacist Dan Schneider was determined to hold the powerful figures behind the nation's opioid epidemic accountable. The critically acclaimed Netflix docuseries *The Pharmacist* recounts Dan's rigorous quest to find answers about his son's death, and his mission to stop the overprescribing of opioids taking place in his community.



Haley Barbieri

Program Director, MA Young People in Recovery

Haley Barbieri is a woman in long term recovery. She started her journey at 25 when the pain became unbearable for her, and she was left at a cross-roads in her life. Haley now serves as the Program Director for MA Young People in Recovery, a program of Bay State Community Services.



Kirsten Eriksen, RN

Co-coordinator of massFAS

Kristen Eriksen has been a nurse for over 35. After adopting infant twins with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) in 2007, she began a long slow educational process to learn more about the challenges that her twins faced. She began working with massFAS in 2022. Kristen collaborates with legislators, local advocates, and government agencies to increase awareness of FASD's, and provides trainings to social workers, physicians, nurses, DCF workers, and caregivers. She has also been co-leading a local support group for families raising children with FASD.