



Dear MOAR Friends,

I am writing to let you know that after 26 years of being the Executive Director of MOAR, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, I will be retiring from that role by the end of 2024. If all works out, I will assume a part time supportive role. In giving this notice, I am reliving some very vivid memories. All heartfelt, with gratitude to all of you for allowing my recovery journey to be shared with you.

Memory lane takes me back to 1990, I was an addictions clinician who was very concerned about changes happening within the field and the negative impact on clinicians, services, and the people being served. I searched outside of the clinic walls, and found others equally concerned. I found a mentor in Leroy Kelly, and by 1991 founded MOAR! Back then, MOAR consisted of professionals in the field, but mostly people in recovery. As a group, we witnessed even more eye-opening experiences, painful stigma, and discrimination for our community in the throes of addiction and those moving into recovery, as there were challenges within the continuum of care where our people were being served. There was the further impact of justice, child welfare, career, healthcare, and other social services. Being able to say that you were proudly in recovery was not the recommended thing to do. And yes, many related challenges exist today, as with the pain of ongoing fatal overdoses.

But I am proud to say that MOAR has helped to build a voice that is respected for building pathways to share our recovery stories that have helped to educate the public and policymakers about the value of living in recovery. We started our Annual MOAR and Friends Recovery Month Celebration in 1991 with about 50 people at the state house speaking about the value of recovery. The momentum has led to 33 years of celebrating with over 1,000 people every September. In fact, the momentum has spread so that celebrations are occurring everywhere!

In 1998, MOAR affiliated with the 5 other New England states and received a SAMHSA grant to put a face on recovery, in a venture called the New England Alliance for Addiction Recovery. I am forever grateful to The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services for supporting that venture, which put funding and strategy into our adventure. That exposure led to an incredible adventure of participating in a national recovery movement, which is now led by Faces and Voices of Recovery.

MOAR has grown from one staff member, to 18, who are doing recovery coaching, education, events, and coalition participation – sharing the value of speaking about recovery. I am very proud of our staff and board as all are invested in MOAR's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion journey. I have had an amazing DEI learning experience and am so grateful that MOAR is speaking out for equity for marginalized communities. I am also so grateful to be part of a movement that has led to 39 peer recovery support centers, peer recovery coaches, within the building of a ROSC – Recovery Oriented System of Care.

I am very proud to be in a state where our Governor Maura Healey, in her former role as Attorney General, succeeded in lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies whose false advertising was a precursor to over 20 years of fatal overdose. I am glad that MOAR is part of a team that wants all individuals and families most harmed to have a voice as to where those funds should go. I am further proud to have MOAR push for a seamless continuum of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services that includes overdose prevention centers and long-term residential services supported by a full, well-paid workforce.



Our MOAR staff, board, and fiscal sponsor, Bay State Community Services with a consultant, Betsy Reid, are invested in working as a team to find a “MOAR” than capable new Executive Director, who can strengthen our mission to organize people in recovery, families, and friends into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of living in recovery. This new Executive Director will be committed to work to create a collective voice for those seeking recovery for all people who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and oppressed.

Again, I am so very honored to have the friendship and comradery with you - people in recovery, families, friends, policymakers, treatment providers, prevention coalitions, organizations, and funders. My goal is to offer personal thanks throughout the remainder of my time as Executive Director.

All who believe that Faces who are Visible, Voices who are Vocal can prove that Recovery is Valuable!

You are MOAR Special!

Maryanne Franqules

MOAR Executive Director

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