



Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

# MOAR

Join the Voices for Recovery!

## 17th Annual Membership and Holiday Celebration

Tuesday, December 6th  
5:00pm–8:00pm  
Mechanics Hall, Worcester



### Event Speakers & Performers



**Deirdre Calvert, MSW, LICSW**

Director, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)

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). She joined by two new BSAS Peer Recovery Support Coordinators, Mike Bryant, and Debbie Flynn-Gonzalez.



**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.



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**Mattie Castiel, MD**

Commissioner of Health and Human Services, City of Worcester

Mattie Castiel, M.D. has always held a professional and personal mission to work with the underserved. She was born in Camaguey, Cuba and immigrated to the U.S. in 1962. Dr. Castiel moved to Massachusetts to complete her residency at UMass Memorial, and she has worked as a Board-certified physician in Internal Medicine in the Worcester community for over 30 years. In 2009, Dr. Castiel founded the Latin American Health Alliance (LAHA), a nonprofit organization in Worcester dedicated to combating homelessness and drug addiction and at present she continues to serve as its Medical Director. Dr. Castiel has served on the boards of several Worcester nonprofits. In September of 2015, Dr. Castiel was appointed as the City of Worcester's Commissioner for Health and Human Services, where she oversees the divisions of Public Health, Youth Services, Human Rights and Disabilities, Veterans Affairs, and Elder Affairs, and Homelessness along with advancing important new initiatives that fall under the scope of youth violence and the current opioid crisis, mental health, reentry from jail and Covid 19.



**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.



**Barbara Sanford Epps**

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!





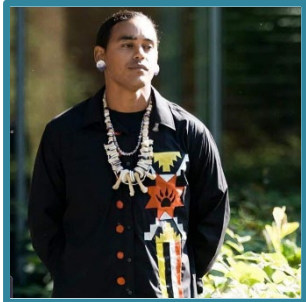
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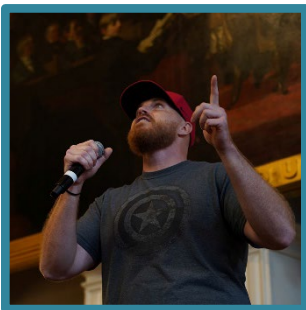
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**Andre StrongBearHeart Gaines Jr.**  
Indigenous Activist

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. Some of this consists of how to flesh and brain tan hides to make items such as drums, buckskin, and blankets. This work is focused on cultural revitalization and preservation. Andre was the first resident artist for the Ohketeau Cultural Center based in Ashfield, Massachusetts ([www.ohketeau.org](http://www.ohketeau.org)). He is also the creative director of (@No\_Loose\_Braids; [https://linktr.ee/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/>



**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.



**Julie Bunch**  
**MOAR** Boston & Northeast MA Regional Coordinator

Julie Bunch is a woman in long-term recovery. She is inspired to replace the discrimination of addiction with the value of living in recovery. Beyond her responsibilities as a regional coordinator, Julie is also the DEI Staff Lead for **MOAR**.



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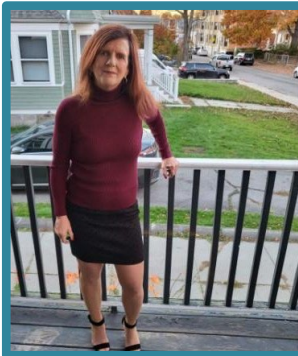
**Kim Krawczyk, CARC, CAMS**

**MOAR** Recovery Coaching & AREAS Supervisor

Kimberly Krawczyk has not used a substance of any kind since 08/08/2014. She speaks out for the voiceless, the hopeless, and the forgotten so one day they can find their way into recovery.

**Kris Fleurent**

Recoveree



Kris is a woman in recovery and participated in MOAR Recovery Coaching Services via ATR – Access to Recovery. She began her recovery journey at a halfway house and completed that about 2 months ago. Since, she has completed a hotel and hospitality course and received her certificate. Her recovery coach was MOAR’s Julie Pike. She spoke with Julie weekly and sometimes 2-3 times per week. “She [Julie] helped me a lot through my ups and downs. She helped me stay positive and kept my head up and helped me to achieve my goals”. Kris now lives in a sober home and participates in a running group called “Back on My Feet”. Kris is currently looking for work either as a recovery coach or in a residential program.

**Ashley Sproul**

Peer Facilitator Coordinator, Kiva Center



Ashley Sproul is a Certified Peer Specialist working in the Recovery Learning Community (RLC) at Kiva Centers and a member of the Certified Peer Specialist training team in Worcester, MA. Ashley is a psychiatric survivor who is deeply passionate about peer support and racial justice work, as these areas have been an instrumental part of her own recovery. Ashley began her peer support career working at The Living Room, a Peer-run crisis alternative drop-in center in Framingham, MA. Providing peer support to people navigating significant emotional distress in this setting deepened Ashley’s passion for advocacy around the importance of self-determined, anti-carceral crisis options. Ashley is dedicated to building trauma-informed communities and feels walking with others while they navigate self-healing has been her greatest calling in life. Ashley spends much of her time creating and facilitating trainings regarding Peer Support, racial equity, and anti-oppression. Some of her other passions include spending time with family, playing music and finding ways to incorporate artistic creativity into Peer Support spaces.





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**Nico Alicea**

**MOAR** Western MA Regional Coordinator

Nico Alicea is a person in recovery since December 24th, 2015. For many years he has worked as a recovery coach, recovery coach supervisor, and a member of the Massachusetts Recovery Coach Commission. In his own recovery journey, he has learned that if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together. RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE! LA RECUPERACION ES POSIBLE!



**Matt Gear**

**MOAR** Central MA Regional Coordinator

Matt Gear is a man in long term recovery who brings love and compassion to everything he does! He has the ability to be his own voice and his own advocate. He meets people where they are but never leaves them there! His saying is "change your lens, change your whole life."