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The **MOAR** You Know - Winter 2024
Newsletter from the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

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In This Issue

- A Note from Maryanne Frangules and Noel Sierra
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives
- Recap: Holiday Celebration
- Out in the Community
- Staffing Updates
- Save the Date: Boston Public Policy Forum
- **MOAR** Trainings
- The PAREnT Project
- The Recovery Education Collaborative (REC)
- Team Sharing's Overdose Awareness License Plates

A Note from Maryanne Frangules, MOAR Executive Director

Hello **MOAR** community,



First, as I say “Thank You” for everyone’s support throughout my duration and now retirement from the **MOAR** Executive Director role! Yes, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I would like to thank BSAS, the **MOAR** staff and board, Bay State Community Services (our fiscal sponsor), event sponsors, and coalition partners. The tribute given me on November 14th at the State House was beautiful! Thank you to Senators John Keenan and John Velis, Representatives Jim O’Day, Adrian Madaro, Mindy Domb, Kate Donaghue, Russell Holmes, and Ruth Balser, State Auditor – Diana DiZoglio, BSAS Director – Deirdre Calvert, Boston Public Health Commission – Christian Arthur, MOAR Board President and Vice President – Kevin McCarthy and Father Joe White, Bay State Community Service – Daurice Cox, plus Governor Maura Healey!!! Thank you to all the event sponsors - Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Casa Esperanza, Riverside Community Cares, Victory Programs, Advancement for Human Potential, Learn to Cope, Gavin Foundation, Advocates, Bay State Community Services and the RIZE Foundation. Thank you for the recognition and your leadership to end discrimination and support all with lived and living experience. Thank you to MOAR Staff, I treasure each one of you!

I further want to thank everyone for the many awards I received this past year and for the past 40 years. In the spring, I was presented with a Hope for Holyoke “Maryanne Puppet” and “Hope for Holyoke Key”. I have a plan to do a play with the puppet and The Devine Recovery Center award from years ago of a “megaphone” using both to “Speak up for Recovery.” I

will never forget being Keynote for the Women's Recovery Court Celebration and receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award – which was followed by recognition at the Annual Western MA Substance Addiction Provider Meeting. I will never forget the many tributes from our 2024 Recovery Month Celebration which was followed by recognition of North Suffolk Community Services, MA Peer Workers, and MA Black Addictions Council. Still Another tribute came in the form of a **\$25,000 Joanne Peterson Award** to MOAR from The RIZE Foundation. Please note Gavin Foundation received this wonderful award, too! Congratulations Gavin Foundation! I remain so grateful for all the legislative citations throughout the year and lifetime. This reminds me that as I am leaving my leadership role – so has John Mcgahan from Gavin Foundation, Katharine Thomas from Institute for Health and Recovery, and Ruth Jacobson Hardy from BSAS! All very special people leaving historical legacies!

Our 19th Annual Holiday Celebration was the best ever. Please see the pictures in this newsletter. Special "Thank You Awards" were given to Representative Jim O'Day, BSAS Director Deirdre Calvert, BSAS Director of Recovery Support Services Danielle O'Brien, and Bay State Community Services CEO Daurice Cox.

And, we are MOAR grateful for the new policy moves!! With over 2,125 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in 2023, it is important to take every opportunity to help save lives. Here is the MOAR good news. Governor Maura Healey **signed legislation** which moves to license Recovery Coaches under BSAS, 51A Reform to end among other practices automatic DCF involvement for women using the Medication Assisted Treatment/Recovery pathway, whose child is born with opioids, plus section 35 reform for men meaning closing MASAC, expand Narcan availability and more liability protection for first responders, and implement acupuncture detox!! We are very excited about all these measures but are very excited about the Licensure for Recovery Coaching. Thank you for using your voices to speak up for recovery. We thank our policy partners, policymakers, and Governor Maura Healey who made these measures a reality! We hope that Overdose Prevention Centers will become the next reality and the building of an even stronger continuum of care!

Please know 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 underserved 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 WROSC – Wellness Recovery Oriented System of Care.

With that, I say, "thank you" and "goodbye" in the role as Executive Director and look forward to documenting our recovery legacy in my next role as Recovery Historian. As with being Executive Director, I will want your help! Thank you!

With that, let us all welcome Noel Sierra as the new MOAR Executive Director, who has been our outstanding MOAR Southeast Regional Coordinator for 5 years. Noel is committed to the MOAR mission to educate the public about the value of living in recovery. He is dedicated to proving that **"faces who are visible, voices which are vocal are proving that recovery**

is **valuable**, and that is how **we** become **victorious**.” He will lead MOAR with intentional compassion and deliberation with your support!

Thank you everyone!
Maryanne Frangules

Hi Everyone,



It is with great honor and deep appreciation that I have the privilege of greeting you all in this new capacity. As we bid farewell to our founder, Maryanne, whose vision and dedication have paved the way for our growth and success, I am both humbled and excited to carry on the incredible work she began across the state. With the continued support of our talented and committed team, we are more eager than ever to bring **MOAR** to every community, building on the foundation she has laid. Together, we will strive to make a meaningful and lasting impact as we move forward, ensuring that the mission of **MOAR** reaches even greater heights in the years to come.

Best,
Noel Sierra

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative



MOAR is continuously committed to working alongside and listening to the voices of all communities. **MOAR** has been taking concrete measures to help eliminate racial disparities in accessing recovery from substance use disorders.

The **MOAR** DEI Speaker Series is continuing to grow! In November 2024, we were lucky enough to hear from Tanisha Arena, Executive Director of **ARISE for Social Justice**. Tanisha Arena is a Black woman in community leadership as the executive director of **ARISE for Social Justice**, occupying the world’s messiest intersection, the space where race, gender, culture, identity, politics, history, and the law all collide. She is a commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, advocating for the needs of women and girls across the Commonwealth. She has a passion for social justice, authentic leadership, and speaking truth to power. She is the host of the award-winning podcast, *Unapologetic*, bringing the hard truths of our social issues to the forefront, connecting past to the present. As a consultant for Growing A New Heart, she trains on Holding Space: holding affinity, anti-racism, self-education, support groups and on Dialogues Across Differences of social location, including race and ethnicity, as well as Compassionate Accountable Conversations for those who work with people who cause harm. She is a founding advisory board member of Call for Change, a free, anonymous, and confidential intimate partner abuse prevention helpline. She teaches for The Sojourner Truth School as well, all focused on teaching new ways to build connections, facilitate learning, and drive social change. She is a published author, speaker, freelance writer, system disrupter and change agent. **Click here** to watch the event.

Recap: Holiday & Membership Celebration

On December 3rd, we hosted our 19th Annual Holiday and Membership Celebration at Mechanic's Hall in Worcester. Click [here](#) to view more photos from the event.



Thomika Bridwell, Poet



Ugly Sweater Contest Winner - Jacqui Peck
(Director of **Anchored in Recovery** PRSC)



Rapper **Mike DiNatale**



Mattie Castiel, Commissioner of Health and
Human Services, City of Worcester



Representative Jim O'Day



Carlos Garay, **Latin American Health
Alliance (LAHA)**

Watch a video recap of the
event!

Thank You to our Holiday Celebration Sponsors!



Out in the Community!



MOAR and Peer 2 Peer Recovery Support Center participated in the Shatterproof Walk for Recovery at Carson Beach in South South in October.



MOAR honored Indigenous People's Day by attending Newton's Indigenous People's Day event. It was a wonderful, educational field trip for the staff.



Marianne Frangules was awarded the Community Champion award at **North Suffolk Community Services'** 65th Anniversary Celebration!



The AREAS New Bedford meeting, facilitated by Jacquie Maloney & Steph Carlson meets every Thursday at 10AM at **RISE Recovery Support Center**.



Catrina Cooley (Boston Public Health Commission), Julie Bunch, Denise Pixley and Maryanne Frangules all attended The Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Council (MBAC)'s Mini Black Addictions Institute conference. Many thanks to Leah Randolph for organizing it.



Thank you to **Restoration Recovery Center** for hosting a fantastic AREAS meeting!



We had an excellent Middlesex East Action for Recovery meeting where we learned about **CHA's** growing behavioral health continuum of care with sites in Cambridge, Somerville, Malden, East Boston, Everett, and Revere.



On Saturday, November 9th, **Sigma Pi Theta** hosted their 2nd annual memorial walk for addiction recovery! All money raised was donated to MOAR. What an encouraging group of young women! We are MOAR grateful for their partnership!



MOAR attended the 33rd annual **Labor Assistance Professionals, Massachusetts Chapter Luncheon**, a tribute to exceptional accomplishments in substance use disorder and mental health!



Maryanne Frangules received the lifetime achievement award at the wonderful **Massachusetts Peer Workforce Coalition 2nd annual submit!**



Julie Bunch and Marshall Lane facilitated a Lunch N' Learn for the **Recovery Education Collaborative** at the JP Recovery Center!



MOAR hosted a listening session for our Latino Project at **Hope for Holyoke Peer Recovery Center**.

Staffing Updates

Help us welcome Stephanie Barboza to our team! Stephanie is our new Southeast MA Regional Coordinator and is eager to connect with the recovery community in the area!

Stephanie Barboza brings over 27 years of lived experience in addiction recovery, dedicating her life to encouraging, equipping, and empowering others to understand that addiction is a chronic brain disease that deserves compassionate, professional treatment. Certified by Overdose Lifeline to administer naloxone, Stephanie is also a Human Rights Officer, Recovery Coach, Wellness Coach, Personal Trainer, Nutritionist, and an ordained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Her own recovery journey is rooted in faith and a commitment to a wellness-centered lifestyle. Stephanie firmly believes that individuals with substance use disorders can recover, overcome adversity, and lead healthy, productive lives while becoming the best versions of themselves.




We are excited to announce that Hannah Koepper (Page) has been promoted to Director of Policy & Communications at MOAR.



In her new role, Hannah will be working closely with Noel Sierra, **MOAR's** Executive Director, to tackle critical addiction recovery policy issues. Together, they will advocate for positive change and strengthen **MOAR's** mission to support individuals and families affected by addiction.

Please join us in congratulating Hannah on her well-deserved promotion as she takes on this new leadership role. We look forward to her continued success and the valuable contributions she will bring to our team and the community.

We will be hosting our 22nd Annual Boston Public Policy Forum on Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 5:00 - 8:00PM at the IBEW in Dorchester, MA. Stay tuned for more details.



Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

MOAR

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BOSTON PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Thursday, March 20, 2025
5:00PM - 8:00PM

IBEW Local 103
256 Freeport St #1, Dorchester, MA 02122

For more info: info@moar-recovery.org // 617-423-6627

MOAR Trainings

MOAR offers two important trainings aimed at helping individuals use their voices for productive change!

Recovery Messaging: This training helps individuals understand the impact of stigma and language on recovery. We can assist you in identifying key elements of recovery messages. Ultimately, attendees will be able to craft and deliver their own positive recovery messages.

Advocacy 101: This training helps individuals understand how public policies and laws are developed and changed. Additionally, the training covers the state budget process. Finally, we will demonstrate strategies and best practices for effective visits/calls with your legislators.

These trainings are put on by our awesome team of regional coordinators and can run anywhere between 45-90 minutes each.

Please reach out via **phone (617-423-6627)**, or **email (info@moar-recovery.org)** if you are interested in scheduling a training or would like to learn more!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING FREE RECOVERY TRAININGS?

RECOVERY MESSAGING

- Describe the impact of stigma & language on recovery
- Identify recovery messages to be modeled for people in recovery
- Craft & deliver positive recovery messages

ADVOCACY 101

- Explain how public policies & laws are developed and changed
- Understand the state budget process
- Demonstrate strategies & best practices for effective visits with legislators

CONTACT US

Reach out to MOAR and we will accommodate all requests for FREE trainings!

Trainings can range in length, from 45-90 minutes



CONTACT US

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The PARENt Project

The Parents in Addiction Recovery Engaging Together Project, or PARENt Project, is a **MOAR** initiative that supports low-income families in early recovery who, because of addiction, have mandated child welfare and/or justice engagement. The Project offers group support in three locations throughout Worcester and Hampden County.



A Peer Recovery Group for Parents Navigating Early Recovery

The PARENt (Parents in Addiction Recovery Engaging Together) Project, a **MOAR** initiative, provides no-cost, specialized, culturally-reflective peer recovery support services (PRSS) to help parents who are trying to navigate their addiction recovery, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the criminal justice system, and other challenges.

Groups Offer:

- Recovery Living Skills
- Healthy Relationship Building
- Family Addiction & Recovery Support
- Coping with CORI Support
- Mental Health Wellness

Support Group Locations:

Hope for Holyoke
 Thursdays @ 11am EST
 Zoom & In-Person Hybrid Group
 Meeting ID: 853 6912 4513

Valor
 Tuesdays @ 1pm EST
 Zoom & In-Person Hybrid Group
 Meeting ID: 854 6317 8686

Miracle Mamas at Every Day Miracles
 Mondays @ 3:30pm EST
 Zoom & In-Person Hybrid Group
 Meeting ID: 891 8024 9216

If you or someone are interested in the group, please contact **MOAR** at info@moar-recovery.org

Have questions about the PARENt Project Support Groups? Call 617-423-6627 to learn more



@moarrecovery

www.moar-recovery.com



RECOVERY EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

The Recovery Education Collaborative (REC) enjoyed a very successful first full year of trainings!

The REC's 2024 highlights include:

- Over **75** Recovery Coach Trainings
- Trained over **1,200** participants
- Held 9 Recovery Coach Academies (2 In-person at Peer Recovery Centers in Southbridge & Plymouth)

We are excited for 2025! The REC has many trainings planned for the 1st half of the year, including **5 Recovery Coach Academies** - 1 will be delivered in Spanish and April's will be held in person.

Check out our website at massrec.org to learn more about the REC, to sign up for our newsletter, and to register for upcoming trainings!

Academia de Entrenadores de Recuperación (RCA)

Ayúdanos a aumentar la fuerza laboral de pares de habla Hispana y a elevar a la comunidad Latinx.

completar la solicitud RCA

Enero 27 - Enero 31; 9 am - 1:30 pm a través de zoom
¿Preguntas? Comunícate con dhernandez@c4innovates.org o (781) 247-1783

[Pagina de Entrenamiento](#)

[La Solicitud RCA](#)

When asked about their experience working with the REC this past year:

Bro. Jeffrey Lewis responded: "This year's trainings were very impactful. Not only have participants shared this sentiment, but as a facilitator and a person in long term recovery, all of the rich, thoughtful and open dialogues I was blessed to be a part of have had a lasting and strengthening effect on me as well!!!! 2025 Here We Come!! 😊 "

and

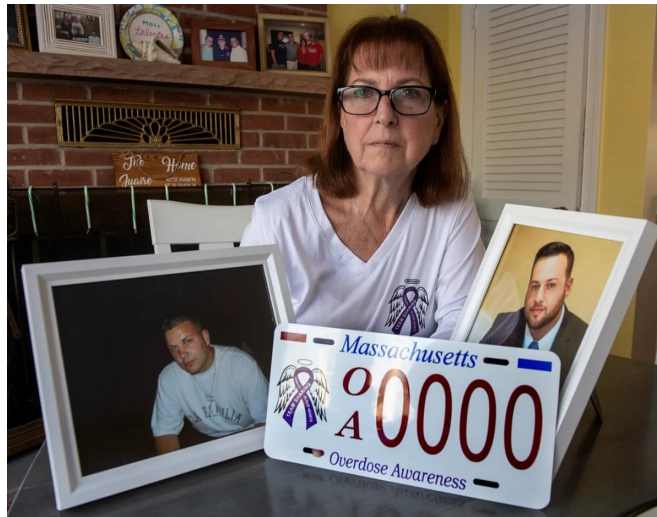
Angela D'Alessio had this to say: "I love my job! In 2024, I had the opportunity to collaborate and build capacity with my fellow Recovery Education facilitators, supporting the development and success of our Peer Recovery Workforce. Alone I can't, together we can... Thank you to REC for making this happen!"

Update: Overdose Awareness License Plate

After more than three years, Team Sharing has reached its goal to have a specialty license plate produced and sold by the Registry of Motor Vehicles to raise awareness about overdoses. **Team Sharing**, founded by Marlborough resident Cheryl Juairé in 2017, is a nonprofit that helps those who lose their children due to substance use disorder.

Cheryl has lost two sons due to overdose — Corey in 2011, and Sean in 2021. "The reasons we wanted to get these plates is one, to end the stigma, and two, to start a conversation and through those conversations, save a life. Someone may see a license plate, ask you about it and you have an opportunity to share those stories and that just may save a life."

Team Sharing worked tirelessly for three and half years, and they have finally reached the minimum requirement! The plates are now in production! Although the goal has been met, it will still take 6-8 months once production begins before folks will see their plates. Once this happens the plates will be available on the RMV website for people to get.



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