



MOAR, *Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery*

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SPEAKING OUT FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY!

MOAR is a statewide recovery community association activating its mission to organize recovering individuals, families, and friends into a collective voice educating the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other addictions.

MOAR envisions a society where addiction is treated as a significant public health issue and

"Recovery is recognized as valuable to our communities."

MOAR collaborates with allied organizations to improve prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

We Thank and Welcome Familiar and New State House Policymakers Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee Chairs Representative Liz Malia and Senator John Keenan;

Assistant Majority Leader Senator Tolman; Senate President Therese Murray; House Speaker Robert DeLeo; MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, MA Coalition for Addiction Services; Coalitions; Parent Groups; and You!

Your Voices are Being Heard!

2011 MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Budget Made History with Alcohol Tax Dedicated to Services

**Campaign Against Repeal of Alcohol Tax Lost for Now;
Strategy for Best Funding Possible is Moving Forward!**

- Tax was defeated by a Ballot Question 52%- 48%. Alcohol industry out spent campaign by 15 to 1.
- Despite loss, Governor Deval Patrick made it possible to support funding for services through June 2011.
- With gratitude to Governor Patrick, his 2012 budget calls for level (the same as 2011) funding.
- Next steps require efforts to educate our legislators to support level funding for services in 2012.
- In the long run, strategy will move to revenue supporting addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Your Voices Help to Make The Following a Reality:

- 3 Recovery High Schools in Springfield, Boston, and Beverly with graduations
- 2 Statewide Adolescent Crisis Stabilization (Worcester & Brockton), a 25 bed detox with follow up
- Highpoint New Bedford rehabilitation unit for men, who are (section 35) civilly committed
- Highpoint's Tranquility Inn New Bedford, Women's Section 35,
- More alcohol and other drug education in public schools
- Alcohol and other drug screening, treatment referral in 7 hospital emergency rooms and beyond!
- Maintenance and Improved long-term, residential, addiction recovery services
- 6 Regional Clinical Support Services (rehab for post detox or that does not require medical detox)
- 6 Regional Recovery Support Centers with a variety of support services
- Office of Youth and Young Adult Services with Family Involvement
- Diversion (residential treatment vs. imprisonment) for low level offenders

What MOAR is Happening?

3859 Overdose Deaths manifest 2002-2008

As of December 2010: **8400 People** have been enrolled in Narcan (Naloxone) Trainings.
(Narcan is a medication that reverses an opioid Drug Overdose)

833 Overdoses were reversed,

This means 833 people are alive that without Narcan might not be

Policies guided by 2010 Oxycontin Commission,

MA Strategic Plan with coalitions to make the following a reality:

- Strategic Prevention Framework Action to address drug overdoses as well as underage drinking
- 15 Overdose Prevention Coalitions develop strategies and action plans
- Good Samaritan Campaign Move to reduce drug overdose deaths by removing barriers to calling 911
- Improved prescription monitoring law with safer storage of prescription medication, **passed see below**
- Prescription Disposal Take Back Days
- Call for Community, parent and teacher education; family intervention and support; school counseling
- Jail Diversion: Rehabilitation versus Recidivism
- Increased Access Throughout The Continuum of Care...with MOAR to do in 2011 for 2012

What MOAR is Law Now!

Your Voices Made Parity a Reality!

Rep Ruth Balser championed & Senator Tolman Sponsored

(Became Law July 2009)) National parity is now law. This should help to end insurance discrimination. Parity is included in National Health Care Reform. Next push is to reinforce that determination of length of stay (medical necessity) needs to be provider/person determined. Recovery Support Services need recognition.

*Note: If insurance denies treatment access; call **Matt Selig, Health Law Advocates at 617-338-5241** now!*

Provide Substance Abuse Education and Prevention (S2249) A Mental Health Substance Abuse Committee Bill-The Oxycontin Heroin Commission Recommendations Law *chaired by Senator Tolman.*

We know Opiate-related overdoses (sons and daughters dead) now exceed motor vehicle deaths as the number one cause of accidental deaths in the Commonwealth. What Happened? ***Prescription monitoring for all scheduled drugs and mandatory pain management education for medical professionals passed! Commissions are slated to study alcohol and other drug addiction education and counseling in schools, sober housing, and jail diversion.***

Provide Improved Access to Employment, Education and Housing with CORI Reform

Senator Harriet Chandler (Senate 2220 and Rep Elizabeth Malia (House 3523) were lead sponsors. This measure reduces barriers to employment and housing for people who have a favorably ending case (e.g., not guilty), and/or are demonstrating positive, changed lives. This bill passed with Commonwealth CORI Coalition at the forefront of this important move. Much of it goes into effect by end of 2012

- ✓ Implement automatic sealing of favorably ending cases (*e.g., not guilty*)
- ✓ Ban The Box implemented to rid criminal history question from employment application – ***effective now.***
- ✓ Require that only convictions and open cases be reported to non-law enforcement entities
- ✓ Prohibit employers from discriminating against CORI subjects based solely on a CORI
- ✓ Reduces time to seal misdemeanor to 5 years and felony records to 10 years

Bills of Interest 2011

Massachusetts 911 Good Samaritan Bill –
S907- Senator Steven Tolman
H2256 Rep. Alice Peisch and H1303 Rep William Galvin

- The bills provide limited protection from drug possession charges and prosecution when a drug-related overdose victim or a witness to an overdose seeks medical attention.
- The intent is to reduce drug-related overdose deaths by removing barriers to calling 911.
- Senator Tolman's bill adds legal authorization of naloxone, (narcan).

All in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary

- The MA Department of Public Health supports this move.

Join The Good Samaritan Campaign to get involved

- Contact **Maryanne Frangules** at Maryanne@moar-recovery.org and online at www.moar-recovery.org or
- **Deb Silva** at DSilva@aac.org and online www.aac.org

Provide Equitable Treatment for Substance Use Disorders –
S1553 Senator Steven Tolman & Rep Liz Malia; H2542 and H1696 and Rep Kay Khan

- Senator Tolman's bill removes the sales tax exemption on alcohol purchased in stores, and dedicates it to prevention, treatment and recovery.
- Rep Khan's bills increase the excise tax on alcohol beverages and remove the exemption of sales tax on alcohol purchased in stores. Her bills would put 50% of revenues to addiction services and 50% to MA schools.

Now in the Joint Committee on Revenue

An Act Regarding Adverse Determinations for Mental health and Substance Abuse Treatment. -
S475, Senator Steven Tolman

Too often, treatment is denied because the person suffering from addiction does not meet insurance defined medical necessity (meaning does the person's condition warrant detox or continued care). Maybe a reason for so many fatal drug overdoses is insurance denied treatment. This bill calls for treatment provider to determine medical necessity criteria

An Act to Improve Access to Alcohol and Other Drug Clinical Services -
S473 Senator Steven Tolman and H332 Rep Martin Walsh

- These identical bills would require insurers to reimburse Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor I services.
- Insurance reimbursement will permit individuals and their families who suffer from, or are affected by alcohol and other drug addiction, to choose the human services professional most appropriate for their needs.

Now in the Joint Committee on Financial Services

- **To get involved: contact Tim Stanton, MAADAC, MA Assoc of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, Public Policy Chair, and online www.maadac-ma.org**

Criminal Justice Reform

If 80% of incarcerates commit crimes under the influence of alcohol and other drugs
then sentence should fit the crime, and re-entry support be the norm

Acts to Repeal Mandated Minimums - S909 Senator Steven Tolman and **H 2266** Rep. Ben Swan,
H40 – Governor Deval Patrick

Acts to Amend School Zone Law – S908 Senator Steven Tolman and **H2267** Rep Swan

S909/H2266: repeals mandated minimums, institutes sentencing based on crime and supports work release

S908/H2267 : shrink criteria from 1000 to 100 feet, and repeal mandatory minimum

Now in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

To get involved: contact Barbara Dougan, Families Against Mandated Minimums at
bdougan@famm.org and online www.Famm.org

An Act to amend the Commonwealth's drug treatment program to allow for the diversion of low level offenders under court supervision – H1435 Rep. Martin Walsh

H1435 allows MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services treatment oversight for low level offenders who would opt for treatment as alternative sentencing. Without further crime, there would be no application of a criminal record. The City of Boston is spearheading this move.

Now in the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Research shows that the more alcohol advertisements young people see, the more they drink and drink to excess. A 2009 study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* concluded that alcohol ads were viewed an estimated 18,270 times by Boston Public School student transit passengers (grades 5 to 12) during an average weekday.

An Act to Remove Alcohol Beverage Advertising from Public Transit- H851 Rep. Martin Walsh

H851 seeks to remove alcohol beverage advertising from state property

Now in the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Supporting an Alcohol Ad Free Environment - **SAFE MA** (formerly MBTAA) is the moving force.

To get involved with this coalition, contact: Stacey Carruth at scarruth@healthier-communities.org.

**Do You Think it is Time to Make Prevention a Reality in Our Schools?
1 in 4 families is affected by addiction, 1 in 10 persons is afflicted with Addiction**

**An Act Relative to Health Education in Our Schools –
S257 Senator Steven Tolman, Rep Carlos Henriquez
An Act Relative to Substance Abuse Awareness in Our Schools
S255 Senator Steven Tolman**

- **S257** provides for Health Education in our schools, inclusive of alcohol and other drug education
- **S255** provides for alcohol and other drug prevention and education in middle schools

Interested... What MOAR can You Do?

- Please let **MOAR** know what interests you. You can make your voice count.
- Contact the lead organizations supporting some of these measures.
- You will learn how and when to educate your legislators on these issues; as well as legislative chairs and committees, and how to do testimony at a public hearing.
- You will learn the process of how a bill becomes law from bill filing to committee hearing to moving through House, Senate, and to the end – the Governor's signature.

To Find Your Legislator's Name and More –

Go to *State's Citizen Information Number* 1- 800-392-6090

Go on the Web:

www.wheredoivotema.com

Join MOAR- go to www.moar-recovery.org to get MOAR involved!