MOAR’s mission is to organize recovering individuals, families, and friends into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other addictions.

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MOAR envisions a society where addiction is treated as a serious public health issue and recovery is recognized as valuable by all our communities.
CELEBRATING RECOVERY ON A NATIONAL SCALE

National Recovery Month is a nationwide observance held every September to promote the fact that it is possible to recover from a mental and/or substance use disorder and live a rewarding life. Recovery month began in 1989 as Treatment Works! Month, which honored the work of substance use treatment professionals and eventually became Recovery Month, of which MOAR is a Planning Partner. The federal government’s Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) took the lead in the late 90’s.

In observance of National Recovery Month, MOAR has held our Annual Recovery Day March and Celebration every year since 1991. Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery just as we celebrate improvements made by those who are managing other health conditions such as diabetes or heart disease, and honors the treatment and recovery service providers who make recovery possible. It is important to remember that we do recover and lead positive lives.

Let’s promote the fact that people in recovery are “visible, vocal, and valuable.” The National Recovery Month 2019 theme is “Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We are Stronger.” Thank you to the Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Department of Public Health, City of Boston’s Office of Recovery Services for their partnership! We would also like to thank our Recovery Month sponsors especially Greater Boston Council on Alcoholism, High Point, NE ATTC, Association for Behavioral Healthcare and you for making September 16, 2019 the best Recovery Day ever.

Like Recovery Day? See the insert in this newsletter for information on how to become a member and do MOAR!

MOAR Thanks to all of our Speakers, Sponsors, Artists and Supporters for an unforgettable Recovery Month Celebration
To The Recovery Community and Our Friends,

In 1991, alongside friend and leader, Leroy Kelly, MOAR was formed in direct response to the diminishing health care coverage and lack of clinician reimbursement for addiction services. We were the first grass roots organization of persons in recovery, families, and friends requested to participate in SAMHSA’s National Recovery Month, known then as “Treatment Works Month”, and thus we initiated our own “MOAR and Friends Recovery Month Celebration.” The MOAR and Friends Recovery Month Celebration is now entering its 29th year! We thank MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and our many sponsors for continued support.

The 2018 Recovery Month event was amazing. Our March for Recovery publicly demonstrated the joys of recovery with signs and chants. Recoverees discussed their journeys to becoming recovery advocates, and four recovery coaches spoke of their roles in this new emerging profession and highlighted the amazing work being done to support those in early recovery to a crowd of roughly 1,000 people.

Twenty-nine years after our first Recovery Month event, MOAR and our partners are moving to eliminate societal stigma and discrimination by amplifying the voices of people in recovery. This has been a year for which we all should be proud. Alongside our partners, we are educating all about changes:
1) criminal justice reform so more people can get treatment not jail;
2) funding for recovery supports;

MOAR and our members have been represented on four commissions to address Medication Assisted Treatment, Section 35, Prevention, and Recovery Coaching. MOAR is participating in Attorney General Maura Healey’s Opioid Advisory Group concerning the Purdue Pharma court case. We love the energy to move ahead so that no organization will have the capacity to cause such pain and suffering. We celebrated additional funding for recovery centers to help people sustain recovery within their communities. We expanded our Recovery Messaging and Recovery Life Skills trainings. We are grateful to Governor Baker, EOHHS Secretary Marylou Sudders, Attorney General Maura Healey, and other policymakers for their partnership to advance these major system reforms and for ensuring the voice of the recovery community is present.

MOAR looks forward to the day addiction is treated as a significant public health issue and recovery is valued in all communities. We will continue to support the implementation of the landmark systems reforms for recovery coaching, criminal justice reform, diversion programs and co-occurring residential treatment. There’s MOAR! There is now funding for another 5 recovery centers above the current 18, education and technical assistance for building an addiction services workforce. We are grateful to the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and the Department of Public Health as well as to leaders, health care providers, law enforcement, and you for moving from TRAGEDY to STRATEGY to ACTION. Most of all, we are grateful to our members; MOAR could not exist without you.

Maryanne Frangules
MOAR Executive Director

Loretta Leverett from STEPRox Received MOAR’s 2019 Community Advocate Award at our Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness Town Hall Meeting
Recovery Community Networking

MOAR Inc. was awarded a three-year grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to implement the Speaking Out for Addiction Recovery (SOAR) “Network in Action” grant beginning September 30, 2017. As a second time awardee, SOAR continues to build on our statewide network of more than 30 Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) to include RCOs serving under-represented communities. A goal is to expand peer-driven and broader recovery supports.

The SOAR project intersects with the MA DPH-BSAS grant, which focuses on building a statewide peer to peer network with a communication infrastructure to initiate and enhance regional and statewide action for addiction recovery. Beyond our local action for recovery meetings MOAR offers peer to peer recovery support education, public policy opportunities, messaging, and networking. It is all about building visible, vocal, and valuable voices for the recovery network.

2019 SOAR RCO Bootcamp and Summit

Largest Gathering of RCOs in the State Speaking Out for Addiction Recovery!

On August 7 and 8, the 2nd Annual SOAR Bootcamp Training and Summit were held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. The 2-day event welcomed 55 directors and peer staff leaders representing 26 recovery community organizations (RCOs) in 25 communities across the state. Several of the 18 BSAS-funded peer recovery centers attended thanks to the continued bi-partisan support of the state legislature. The RCOs were joined by recovery allies ranging from state representatives to public health who provided training support and resources. Honored guests included keynote speaker, Michael Botticelli, Executive Director of Boston Medical Center’s Grayken Center for Addiction and State Representative Tami Gouveia of the 14th Middlesex District. Michael discussed the impactful role of our stories in changing public attitudes and policies, while Representative Gouveia shared her professional and research background in opioid addiction as well as her own personal activism.

MOAR’s national training and advocacy partner, Faces and Voices of Recovery, was on hand to provide expert training. The RCOs benefited immensely from the national perspective of the trainers who brought their personal experience in recovery and their passion for educating and empowering recovery. The event wrapped up with a profoundly impactful and humbling panel presentation featuring members of “hard to reach” populations including the deaf and hard of hearing, veterans, LGBTQ, and indigenous groups.
Recovery Education

At MOAR, we believe that introducing a wide range of stakeholders to “Visible, Vocal, Valuable” people in recovery can change the public perception of people with addictions. MOAR education has the goal of raising awareness and helping people in recovery overcome barriers to find their voice. Our educational foci include 4 major areas: recovery life skills; recovery messaging and advocacy training; broader community education; and specialized technical assistance.

MOAR’s Peer Facilitated Addiction Recovery Education Access Service. Helping people early in recovery build skills they need to overcome barriers such as finding employment and housing.

Recovery Messaging and Advocacy 101

Recovery Messaging Curriculum with tools to support non-stigmatizing language, story-telling, and public speaking. Advocacy 101 Program educates participants on how to effectively use their recovery messages.

Specialized Recovery Education for Public

MOAR educates the public with specially tailored presentations on addiction treatment and recovery for state agencies, medical professionals, nonprofits, and private companies.

Technical Assistance for Recovery

Working with our SOAR network of Recovery Community Organizations, we offer specialized webinars and technical assistance to help the recovery community grow.

AREAS in Action

During the last year at least four participants sealed their record because of information provided from the AREAS Curriculum. One person had severe drug charges and had been incarcerated for 8 years. She had the same position since pre-release and wanted to improve her life. Due to her past, she was having a very hard time finding a better position. After sealing her record she was offered a position in retail where she can grow in her career.

Another participant was struggling to find stable employment despite having 7 years in recovery. With the information provided in AREAS, he was able to apply for a position in which he found a sense of purpose.
As part of MOAR’s mission we seek to educate the public about policy issues important to people in recovery. With the ongoing opioid and other drug addiction epidemic, MOAR’s advocacy programs have increased in size and urgency. As a statewide voice for recovery, MOAR staff work to facilitate dialogue between recovery community members and policymakers.

MOAR continues to facilitate 11 monthly Regional Action for Recovery meetings across the Commonwealth (open to the public) to assess the needs of the recovery community; to educate and organize our advocacy efforts. In addition to our 5 statewide events, MOAR helped to organized 2 special policy forums in Boston and Springfield which serve to raise awareness about addiction issues by people in recovery.

MOAR participates in numerous coalitions and working groups statewide. We focus on providing a knowledge gained from lived experience to give voice for people in recovery in major policy decisions. Our overall goal is to increase access to treatment and create a seamless continuum of care for treatment and recovery support services. This includes addressing issues with our criminal justice system so that every individual can get the treatment they need when they need it.
MOAR has identified several public policy priorities to help address the ongoing opioid epidemic including increasing the length of stay in treatment covered by private insurance. With a new policy proposal, we are collaborating with the ACLU, Attorney Lisa Newman-Polk, and others to prevent people on probation from being incarcerated for relapse while they are engaging in treatment. We are educating policymakers about building the infrastructure for addiction services including sustaining MA Access to Recovery by increasing Family Recovery Housing, Addiction Workforce Development, and Medication Assisted Treatment programs in correctional facilities.

**Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform – Jobs Not Jails!**

We have been educating our members about many positive reforms that will help people with addictions to find sustained recovery including reduced CORI sealing times, increased diversion, and more evidence-based sentencing laws. Did you know that you can get your felony record sealed at the end of 7 years, and misdemeanor at the end of 3 years? We know this means a great deal to persons in recovery seeking jobs and housing.

**Addressing gaps to improve addiction services**

MOAR is a MA Coalition for Addiction Services member. Every year we come together with providers, advocacy organizations, and allies to identify gaps in addiction services and call on state lawmakers to support improvements. These requests are driven by the needs of the recovery community identified through our Peer-to-Peer network. For instance, MOAR heard several communities express their need for a peer Recovery Community Center. In 2019, MOAR members and others shared their stories with policymakers. As a result, state funding came through for 5 more recovery centers which means there will be 23 in 2020!

**Commissions, an Opportunity to have the Recovery Community Voice Heard**

MOAR is now taking part in 4 Commissions created by the CARE Act. The Section 35 Commission was set up to study the efficiency of involuntary inpatient treatment for non-court involved individuals diagnosed with a substance use disorders. Section 35 is used for those with alcohol or substance use disorder who are at harm to themselves or others. Section 35 is being widely used, with 6,048 persons were committed in 2018. MOAR took two approaches to make sure that your voices are heard on this crucial issue.

First, we invited persons with section 35 experience to provide input that MOAR Director Maryanne Frangules could relate to all the other commission members. We also polled our members with a Public Policy Survey. One important issue is whether correctional facilities should be used to house people who have been committed to treatment under Section 35. We found that 92% of the respondents believed that persons should not be sent to correctional institutions for civil commitments. The Section 35 Commission voted to:

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The state legislature will review this issue. Go to http://www.mass.gov/orgs/section-35-commission for more information. Please know you can be on a commission, task force, or committee to take positive action.
As part of the CARE Act legislation, a recovery coach commission was set up to review the emerging recovery coach profession. Kim Krawczyk, MOAR Recovery Coach Supervisor, was appointed to this Commission of 15 people led by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Commissioners reviewed training, supervision, credentialing, community education, and awareness. There were 6 listening sessions across the Commonwealth where over 300 people gave testimony.

The Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR), in collaboration with others concerned about the future of recovery coaching formed a committee. We built a two-way communication channel between those from our community appointed to the Recovery Coach Commission and the recovery community they are intended to represent. The goal was to ensure that those appointed to represent our recovery community understand the community’s needs, concerns, and assets to better inform the work of the Recovery Coach Commission. We wanted to make sure everyone knew they had a voice.

Our committee recommendations included that any state governed certificate process provide assurance that recovery coaching:
1. stays fluid and flexible
2. model maintains fidelity
3. is an important part of a full continuum of care, not a substitute for treatment

The commission shall recommend standards for credentialing a recovery coach
1. Credentialing standards should require lived experience and sustained recovery. Sustained recovery should mean at least two years in recovery.
2. An alternative avenue for individuals without lived experience to serve as a support should be considered.
3. Recovery coach supervisors should be certified recovery coaches as part of their qualifications.
4. The credentialing process should be overseen by a state-sponsored board of registration in order to increase transparency, authority, and responsiveness to the public.
5. The re-credentialing process should include continuing education requirements.
6. Any credentialing process established should compare the fees of similar certifications.

Additional recommendations were made regarding employers of recovery coaches and enforcing standards. You can view the full report at the commission’s website: www.mass.gov/orgs/recovery-coach-commission

Commission’s Recommendations

MOAR Staff

Maryanne Frangules - Executive Director
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Administrative Assistant- Frank Abner
Recovery Educators: Barbara Gallo, Trevor Dayton, Stephanie Carlson, Jacqui Maloney, John Fortes
Recovery Coaches: Darrell Wright (Lead), Julie Pike, Ozy Acevedo, Seanna Crawford, and Mark Muhammad

MOAR Board

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Maureen Harvey - Vice President
Kevin McCarthy - Clerk
Joe Kelleher - Treasurer
Board Members: Father Joe White, Kate McHugh, Woody Giessmann, Haner Hernandez, Vicente Sanabria, Trudy Avery