

## Minutes

## 1. Welcome!

- We're glad you are here.
- If you are here, and you are committed to the mission of "being catalysts for change and advocates for the underserved", you are a member of JCOH!
- Agenda review
  - Jennie Blake, Senior Program Officer, The Health Foundation of Central MA will present and answer question regarding the Foundation's Activation Grant opportunity
  - *The Drug War: Understanding Context & Why it Matters Now More than Ever*
  - Brief Update: NIH HEALing Community Study
- Virtual introductions: *Please take a moment to introduce yourself in the chat. Name, Affiliation and/or reason you are joining us today*

- ✓ Athena Haddon, Central Massachusetts Regional Coordinator, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR), [Athena@MOAR-recovery.org](mailto:Athena@MOAR-recovery.org) Join MOAR for updates and alerts regarding legislation and budget issues that impact the recovering community. <https://www.moar-recovery.org/membership>
- ✓ Beth Mazyck, MD. Program Director UMass Family Medicine Residency; [beth.mazyck2@umassmemorial.org](mailto:beth.mazyck2@umassmemorial.org); 978-343-5295
- ✓ Cassie Foley, Director of Community Engagement and Support Services for LUK, Inc.
- ✓ Carrie LeBlanc, Worcester County Sheriff's Office
- ✓ Julie Nowak (she/they/xs) BayPath Elder Services, Chelsey Patriss, the Health Equity Partnership (CHNA9)
- ✓ [jnowak@baypath.org](mailto:jnowak@baypath.org) 508-573-7288
- ✓ Garry Gleckel - SHINE Counselor, UMassMemorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital Patient-Family Advisor, Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass (CHNA9) Board Member, Three Pyramids, Inc. Board Member, SURJ North Central Massachusetts Member
- ✓ Jane Carpenter (she/her), Community Data Manager at Boston Medical Center
- ✓ Jill Wooldridge, DA Early's Office
- ✓ Jenny Smith, Substance Use Prevention Coordinator, LUK
- ✓ Jennie Blake, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, Email: [jblake@hfc.org](mailto:jblake@hfc.org)
- ✓ Kelsa Zereski, Reliant Foundation
- ✓ Leia Harris, Restoration Recovery Center Volunteer. Residential Counselor, North County Supportive Housing Program at Community Healthlink.
- ✓ Liz Benard, Substance Use Prevention, LUK, Inc
- ✓ Mary Dayotas Assistant Director of WCSO Fitchburg Community Justice Support Center, 774-256-1768 [mdayotas@sdw.state.ma.us](mailto:mdayotas@sdw.state.ma.us)
- ✓ Michelle Dunn Director of Community Engagement GAAMHA [mdunn@gaamha.org](mailto:mdunn@gaamha.org) 978-632-0934 ext.356
- ✓ Nate Erwin, Community Engagement Facilitator @ Boston Medical Center
- ✓ Peter C McConarty MD, retired Family doctor, formerly at CHC and Residency in Fitchburg, currently in Worcester, Buprenorphine provider, [petermcconarty@gmail.com](mailto:petermcconarty@gmail.com)
- ✓ Susan Buchholz, Spanish American Center, JCOH, Coordinator, HEALing Communities Study
- ✓ Sue Lowe Director of Patient Services and Community Outreach, [slowe@chcchc.org](mailto:slowe@chcchc.org) 978-878-8572
- ✓ Raffaella Fitzpatrick - SMOC temp. shelter in Leominster. [rfitzpatrick@smoc.org](mailto:rfitzpatrick@smoc.org)
- ✓ Susan O'Brien, Spanish American Center
- ✓ Tara Rivera, Treatment Advocate, 978-870-7734 | 1-800-RECOVERY, [TMRivera@RecoveryCOA.com](mailto:TMRivera@RecoveryCOA.com)
- ✓ Irene Hernandez, Active Life Adult Day Health Program Director, Civil Rights and Equity Consultant (978) 353-9571
- ✓ Veronika Patty, GCAT and City of Gardner

## 2. Recognition and Reflection: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday – Susan B

- Susan introduced the intention for today's conversation
  - o Acknowledged MLK's Birthday
  - o Montachusett MLK Coalition held their 24<sup>th</sup> annual celebration honoring MLK on Monday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. The recording is still available at <https://www.facebook.com/MontachusettMLKCoalition/>
  - o Group viewed video by MLK <https://youtu.be/fmauhsmcY2c>

3. The War on Drugs: *Understanding Context & Why it Matters Now More than Ever* – Susan B

- Concise historical perspective - Susan
- **“What is the Drug War? With Jay-Z & Molly Crabapple”** <https://youtu.be/HSozqaVcOU8>
- Brief discussion:
  - Reminder of why studying history matters
  - The importance of **Direct Action** (referred to by MLK)
  - Housing justice has been particularly impacted by the war on drugs
    - ❖ JCOH agenda for 3/17: **Housing Justice, Leslie Credle, Executive Director, Justice 4 Housing**
  - Policy changes and resources are required to catalyze change

#### 4. *The Health Foundation of Central MA* Activation Grant

Susan introduced *Jennie Blake, Senior Program Officer, The Health Foundation of Central MA.*

- Jennie presented and answered questions regarding the Foundation’s Activation Grant opportunity
- For info on Activation Fund: [www.hfcm.org](http://www.hfcm.org)

#### 5. **HEALing Communities Study update** – Tara Rivera, Recovery Advocate, Recovery Centers of America & Director of JCOH's addiction initiatives

Tara provided brief overview of the HEALing Community Study including how it is currently being implemented in North County in the communities of Shirley and Townsend.

- There has been recent discussion among areas providers re capacity concerns, urgent need to collaborate and share information, etc.
- Behavioral Health Roundtable in Feb Networking & Information Sharing: JCOH mtg on 2/17:
  - If your organization provides SUD services and these services are available to the people in North Central MA, we hope you will attend and participate. Each org will be asked to provide an “elevator speech” on services provided & how to access
  - Please reach out to Susan Buchholz or Tara Rivera if your org would like to participate/share info & answer questions.

For more info about the NIH funded HEALing Community Study, please reach out to Tara Rivera, Susan Buchholz or Nate Erwin [Nathan.Erwin@bmc.org](mailto:Nathan.Erwin@bmc.org)

#### 6. **Thank you all for attending and participating in this meeting!**

- Many thanks to all who attended! Feel free to stay on for a few mins if desired.

Additional notes from chat: Shared by Athena: For the Governor’s FY23 H2 budget, MCAS respectfully requests:

- \$10 Million in New Funding
- \$22 Million in Continued Programmatic Support
- \$4 Million to Support Programs for Individuals in Recovery
- Prior Appropriations Continued for FY22 Services

Julie Nowak (she/they/xs) BayPath Elder Services: Good morning! LGBTQ+ Initiative Coordinator for BayPath Elder Services. You are warmly welcome to reach out to me if you are seeking programming/events or support/resources/info for your consumers, loved ones, or your own journey!

- FREE trainings live on Zoom: GRAY PRIDE: Welcoming & Working with LGBT Elders (90m appx. with questions welcome throughout the presentation). This training meets EOEA standards, contact me to schedule a session for your group. [jnowak@baypath.org](mailto:jnowak@baypath.org) or 508-573-7288 (direct line w/vmail)

#### **Reminders:**

- Mtgs are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 9-10 via Zoom.
- We are an all-volunteer coalition. We have no paid staff. We are proud of all we are accomplish together and always welcome new members and new voices.
- If you would like to volunteer or become more involved in JCOH, please reach out and let us know.
- Our strength is our diversity!
- Our email: [JointCoalitionOnHealth@gmail.com](mailto:JointCoalitionOnHealth@gmail.com)
- JCOH Overview available at <https://jointcoalitiononhealth.org/>
- Reminder: Facing Addiction in Fitchburg and Beyond is now Facing Addiction in North County. Visit us on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/FacingAddictioninNorthCounty>