

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!

2. Agenda review

- **Our topic for this month is Housing Justice.** Guest presenters include *Leslie Credle, Executive Director, Justice4Housing* who, in collaboration with the *Tenancy Advocacy Project at Harvard School of Law*, authored the groundbreaking report: [Far From Home: Reducing Barriers to Subsidized Housing for People with Criminal Records](#)
- *Brief Update: HEALing Community Study*

3. **Virtual introductions:** *Please take a moment to introduce yourself in the chat. Name, Affiliation and/or reason you are joining us today*

Contact info shared by attendees:

- ✓ Cara Olejarz, Youth Specialist, Prevention Team, LUK, Inc
colejarz@luk.org
- ✓ Carmen Clarkin, Campaign Manager, Justice 4 Housing,
cclarkin@justice4housing.org
- ✓ Carrie LeBlanc, Case Manager, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Fitchburg Community Justice Support Center (508) 320-1317, cleblanc@sdw.state.ma.us
- ✓ Celia J. Blue, President and CEO, Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition. MAWOCC.COM
- ✓ Chris Richard, Pocasset Land Trust
- ✓ Cyndi Lavin Stone Soup Kitchen - pantry, potluck, community-building activities, including harm reduction. Also on the Ayer Affordable Housing Trust
stonesoupkitchenministries@gmail.com
- ✓ David Nefussy, VP of Payor Relations, Spectrum Health Systems and the New England Recovery Center
david.nefussy@spectrumhealthsystems.org
- ✓ Denise Santaigo, Community Health Connections, Fitchburg
- ✓ Emma Austen Holt
- ✓ Geraldine Puerto, UMass Medical School
- ✓ Garry Gleckel - SHINE Counselor, UMassMemorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital Patient-Family Advisor, Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass (CHNA 9) Board Member, Three Pyramids, Inc. Board Member, SURJ North Central Massachusetts Member
- ✓ Jane Carpenter (she/her), Community Data Manager at Boston Medical Center
- ✓ Jackie Buckley, COO, Community Health Connections
- ✓ Jules Scott, Restoration Recovery Center Case Manager and housing supports for homelessness,
jscott@rrcifitchburg.com
- ✓ Jenna Montgomery, LCSW, Public Health Educator/Communications Specialist, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health,
jmontgomery@nashoba.org, (978) 772-3335 Ext. 342
- ✓ Jenny Smith, Substance Use Prevention Coordinator, LUK, jsmith@luk.org
- ✓ Krithis Gopalan
- ✓ Irene Hernandez
- ✓ Keith Barnaby, Fitchburg Outreach, Board of Health, City of Fitchburg, Fitchburgstreetoutreach@gmail.com
- ✓ Leia Harris, Restoration Recovery Center Volunteer. Residential Counselor, North County Supportive Housing Program at Community Healthlink.
- ✓ Lauren Baretta,
- ✓ Leslie Credle, Executive Director, Justice 4 Housing,
lcredle@justice4housing.org
- ✓ Lynn Faust, Executive Director, Metro Community Development Corp., Human Services Coalition,
lynn@strongcommunity.org
- ✓ Mary Dayotas Assistant Director of WCSO Fitchburg Community Justice Support Center, 774-256-1768
mdayotas@sdw.state.ma.us
- ✓ Peter C McConarty MD, retired Family doctor, formerly at CHC and Residency in Fitchburg, currently in Worcester, Buprenorphine provider, petermccconarty@gmail.com

Contact info shared by attendees (cont.):

- ✓ Julie Nowak (she/they/xe) BayPath Elder Services
jnowak@baypath.org 508-573-7288
- ✓ Jessica Fortier-Goss, Clinic Director Fitchburg, Comprehensive Treatment Center, (Methadone, etc.)
Jessica.FortierGoss@ctcprograms.com
- ✓ Susan Buchholz, Spanish American Center, JCOH, Coordinator, HEALing Communities Study
- ✓ Sue Lowe, Director of Patient Services and Community Outreach, slowe@chcfhc.org 978-878-8572
- ✓ Shelley Modzeleski, Territory Outreach Manager for Washburn House / Promises Behavioral Health.
Shelley.Modzeleski@promises.com
- ✓ Tara Rivera, Treatment Advocate, 978-870-7734 | 1-800-RECOVERY, TMRivera@RecoveryCOA.com
- ✓ Tascha Shahriari-Parsa, tshahriariparsa@jd23.law.harvard.edu, Tenant Advocacy Project at Harvard Law School
- ✓ Veronika Patty, GCAT and City of Gardner

4. Housing Justice

[Far From Home: Reducing Barriers to Subsidized Housing for People with Criminal Records](#) was shared by its authors:

Justice4Housing and Harvard School of Law Tenancy Advocacy Project

- Background and impetus for this report was shared by Leslie Credle, Executive Director of Justice4Housing.
- A synopsis of the report and its policy implications was presented by Tascha Shahriari-Parsa from the Tenant Advocacy Project at Harvard Law School.
- An introduction and overview of the Justice4Housing Campaign was provided by Carmen Clarkin, Campaign Manager, Justice4Housing
- Some of the legislation supported by this report and the campaign:
 - Automatic CORI Sealing (HD 1763 / SD1037)
 - Currently, to seal a CORI you have to go to EVERY court in which you have a charge and pay a fee to file the paperwork to seal the CORI which can take a very long time and requires economic resources and knowledge that you CAN seal your CORI
 - Rehabilitation Certificates (H.1908 / S.932)
 - <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD3843>
 - <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD667>
- Total cost of Homelessness (when a parent is separated from their child and or a family becomes homeless) in total is \$110,948,243 (According to a 2016 UCONN study)
- The report is receiving positive attention and to date has received more than 70 organization and individual endorsements from a broad group of sectors within the state and nationally.
- Attendees were invited to read, share, endorse and invite others to endorse the report in order to further illuminate the barriers faced by individuals and families who have been involved in the justice system and been denied housing unfairly.

5. HEALing Communities Study update/resources

Jules Scott provided an update on the services case managements services which are being provided at Restoration Recovery in Fitchburg. Housing is a huge need and efforts to help secure housing are very time and resource- intensive. Many community members who come to the center seeking services are struggling with multiple issues including housing insecurity.

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

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

Additional notes from chat:

- LGBTQ+ Initiative Coordinator for BayPath Elder Services, is inviting you to a FREE cultural competency training (90m appx. with questions welcome throughout):
GRAY PRIDE: Welcoming & Working with LGBT Elders
(All are welcome, please DO invite friends/colleagues!)
3/28 10 a.m. – noon
4/13 2 - 4 p.m
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/93721642347?pwd=amxtbXBVZlJtUVpCenRwQjhxeEtKUT09>
Meeting ID: 937 2164 2347
Passcode: R4inbows
RSVP to jnowak@baypath.org or 508-573-7288
YES! You may schedule a FREE training/event for YOUR agency, group, congregation, etc.!
Reach out to me for help finding info/support/resources regarding the rainbow community (all ages)!
- From Lynn Faust Metro Community Development. Programs are Financial Fitness center, ClearPath hoarding program, and Human Services Coalition, 508-658-0880 lynn@strongcommunity.org
- From Jackie Buckley, Community Health Connections. Update: ACTION Community Health Center's HUB program is open Monday through Friday mornings to serve homeless folks who need breakfast, showers, assistance accessing resources, plus medical, dental, behavioral health, podiatry, and substance use disorder treatment
- From Julie Nowak. Anyone seeking volunteers to help with a project/event, you're welcome to reach out to Gay For Good (G4G) Boston, we're a group of LGBTQ+ and Ally volunteers and we do all sorts of projects. www.gayforgood.org/boston

Reminders:

Next JCOH meeting: Thurs. 4/21, 9-10 Link for 2022

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81389913883?pwd=OEI2ZU9LVXhldXJuY1BKNnhBcy9SZz09>

Agenda:

- Climate Change: What Can I do? Presented by Tina Grosowski, Elders Climate Action – Massachusetts Chapter
- *Brief Update: HEALing Community Study - TBD*

For those who are new to the coalition, JCOH...

- *Is an all-volunteer, community health coalition which has been active in the region for 20+ years*
- *Is coordinated by Susan Buchholz who also co-chairs with Irene Hernandez. Tara Rivera leads JCOH's addiction-related work*
- *Meets virtually, 3rd Thursday of each month, 9-10am*
- *Is open to all / no RSVP is necessary*

If you have any suggestions for future meeting topics – please reach out and share your ideas. This is your Coalition.

<https://jointcoalitiononhealth.org/> "Catalysts for Change and Advocates for the Underserved since 1998"

Facing Addiction in North County [Facing Addiction in North County | Facebook](#)