



MOAR, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
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SPEAKING OUT FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY!

MOAR is a statewide recovery community organization activating its mission 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.

We envision a society where addiction is treated as a significant public health issue and recovery is recognized as valuable to our communities.

We are working in coalition with allied organizations to implement strategies to increase access to treatment and recovery services, as we celebrate the value of recovery.

- *Massachusetts ranks among the top 5% of states for alcohol and drug use among adults and youth (NSUDH)*
- *From 2001-2004, the MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services funding was cut by nearly 50%.*

**Now Thanks to The 2007 Leadership of
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee Chaired by Representative Ruth Balser and Senator
Gale Candaras,
'06 Chair Senator Tolman; Senate President Therese Murray; House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi;
The Ways and Means Committees; MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services with MOAR, Coalitions,
Parent Groups and You!**

Your Voices are Being Heard!

- ***The 2008 MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Budget Makes History with \$16 Million More than Ever!
We will do MOAR for MORE for 2009!***
- **MA Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Strategic Plan Outcomes:**
 - Three Recovery High Schools in Springfield, Boston, and Beverly with graduations
 - Statewide Adolescent Crisis Stabilization Unit—a 25 bed detox offering thorough assessment is coming
 - A new male Section 35 rehabilitation unit for men, who are civilly committed, is on the horizon
 - Highpoint Tranquility Inn New Bedford, Women's Section 35, has been at full capacity for over a year
 - Increased services for criminal justice and recovery
 - More alcohol and other drug education in public schools
 - Six plus hospital emergency rooms with alcohol and other drug screening capacity
 - \$2.7 million more in long-term, residential, addiction recovery service contracts
 - Regional Step Down Services, post detox, (not always required), approximate 30 day residential rehab
 - Regional Recovery Engagement Centers with a variety of support services are in the plans
 - Office of Youth and Young Adult Services with Family Involvement
- **2006 Oxycontin Commission chaired by Rep. Peter Koutoujian found:
Oxycontin and other prescription drug addiction increased 950% in 10 years,
Opioid-related deaths increased 600% from 1990-2003.
The overdoses continue to manifest**

The outcome is movement to make your following requests a reality.

- Improved prescription monitoring
- Community, parent and teacher education
- Safer storage of prescription medication
- A statewide disposal program for unused pills

- Increased Access to Treatment

MOAR Believes Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Save Lives, Families, and Dollars

MOAR AGENDA AND VISION FOR 2007 AND 2008

▪ **Provide Insurance Parity for Addiction Treatment**

Legislative proposals (H1871 and H1872 sponsored by Rep. Balser; S607 sponsored by Senator Moore) would provide the same levels of health insurance coverage for addiction (children, family, adult – Rep Balser’s bills call for full mental health and substance use disorder parity) with other diseases. Treatment is less expensive than alternatives, such as not treating or imprisonment. Massachusetts would save \$6 to \$25 million annually under parity. Treatment costs on average \$7,000 annually; the untreated medical costs of substance abuse are \$14,000 annually.

▪ **Provide Insurance Reimbursement for Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor I**

Legislative proposals (H1118 sponsored by Rep. Walsh and S642 sponsored by Senator Tolman) would require insurers to reimburse for the services of a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor I. Through insurance reimbursement, it will permit individuals and their families who suffer from, or are affected by alcohol and other drug abuse or addiction, to choose the human services professional most appropriate for their needs.

▪ **Provide Access to Treatment Right Away, in The Right Way**

Legislative Proposal (H1897 sponsored by Rep. Rushing)

One out of every five people seeking addiction treatment is turned away. In Massachusetts, 570,343 people in have substance use disorders, of which 117,424 are seeking treatment but can not gain access! This bill sets up a format to provide immediate access and appropriate continuum of care services

▪ **Provide a Minimum of 30 Days Treatment when Addiction Becomes Life Threatening**

Legislative Proposals (S1134 sponsored by Senator Tolman)

In 2005, 14 % of Suicides and 7% of Homicides, and in 2004, 475 Fatal Overdoses were due to drug (mostly opiate) and alcohol use. This bill amends current Section 35 (civil commitment) from up to 30 days to a minimum of 30 days inpatient stay for individuals, whose alcohol or other drug addiction is life threatening to self or others. Less than 30 days is often not enough to heal from withdrawal and focus on recovery life skills.

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

Legislative Proposals (H1416 sponsored by Rep Festa)

MA Alliance to Reform CORI (MOAR is a member of MARC), is the mobilizing force to make this act a reality, which will reduce barriers to employment and housing for people who have a favorably ending case (e.g., not guilty), and/or are demonstrating positive, changed lives. The goal is to:

- Implement automatic sealing of favorably ending cases (e.g., not guilty)
- 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
- Reduce length of time required to seal misdemeanor and felony records

▪ **Provide a Substance Abuse Health Protection Fund**

Legislative Proposal (S1144 sponsored by Senator Marion Walsh)

The Health Protection Fund would be managed by MA Department of Public Health to assure treatment for the uninsured, across state agencies covering corrections, social services, education, prevention, plus driver and alcohol education programs. The fund will be financed by lifting the current exemption on the 5 % sales tax on the retail sale of alcohol beverages for off premises consumption. This act is estimated to realize \$92 million in one year.

