



Community Health Workers, Peer Specialists and Recovery Coaches: How Lived Experience Can Strengthen Member Engagements

A MassHealth DSRIP TA Program
Virtual SWI Pop Up

Friday, April 30th, 2021
10:00^{am} – 11:30^{pm}

Please join us for additional conversation after the event from 11:30am – 12:00pm

BACKGROUND ON PANELISTS



Mercy Anampiu, CHW, MBA

Panelist

Mercy is a Community Health Worker with over 17 years of experience in the Community Health field. She is currently employed at Lowell Community Health Center (Lowell CHC) as the Director of Community Health Programs. In this role, Ms. Anampiu promotes health services for patients, supports professional development for staff and other health care specialists in the community, stimulates community engagement, and actively participates in health and community improvement initiatives. She consistently facilitates specialized trainings in Cultural Competency, Medical Interpretation and Community Outreach Education. She initiated Lowell CHC's African Advisory Board and holds an MBA from Fitchburg University. Additionally, Mercy has received additional trainings from various health care and nonprofit leadership entities as part of her postgraduate education to enhance her health care knowledge. Her passion is community organizing and working with marginalized populations to promote overall well-being.



Erica Guimaraes, CHW

Panelist

Erica Guimaraes is a program coordinator in the Office of Community Health Workers at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where she supports CHW workforce development initiatives. Her role includes promoting implementation of CHW certification in MA and providing technical assistance to advance best practices for CHW integration into teams. Prior to joining DPH, Erica worked for 11 years in the roles of a CHW, CHW supervisor and CHW program manager, at community-based organizations and clinical settings. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and is a Certified CHW. Erica grew up in Brazil and speaks Portuguese and Spanish.

BACKGROUND ON PANELISTS



Vesper Moore, CPS, IPS

Panelist

Vesper is the Senior Director of Organizational Equity & Young Adult Supports for the Kiva Centers. Within their role, they are the Kiva Centers Director of Equity, the Zia Young Adult Access Center, and are the administrative oversight for Karaya Peer Respite. Vesper is a community activist, survivor, trainer, and writer. They have been a part of the Kiva Centers for several years and have been instrumental in the Kiva Centers' growth as an organization. They have brought the perspectives of survivors to national and international spaces. They have experience working as a consultant for both the United States government and the United Nations in shaping strategies around trauma, intersectionality, and disability rights. They gave an address on "Intersectionality as a Human Rights Issue" for the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). They have been at the forefront of legislative reform to shift the societal paradigm around mental health.

Vesper concentrates on building social movements and public knowledge to facilitate and sustain systems change. They are a skilled certified trainer of Intentional Peer Support and the MA Certified Peer Specialist Training. They have supported the development of peer-run organizations in different parts of the world. They have been a lecturer for many universities and institutions across the United States. They are a very well-known leader in peer support and are known as a powerful advocate.



Justin Brown, MA, CPS

Panelist

Justin Brown is the Director of Rehabilitation and Recovery for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's Northeast Area. As a person who has lived through major life disruptions due to mental health challenges, Justin became a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) in 2014. As well as receiving mental health services, Justin has a long career providing mental health support. Over the past 30 years, Justin served as the director of multiple programs: a DMH-funded employment program, young adult residential program, Recovery Learning Community, statewide programs providing training and advocacy for the CPS profession, and inpatient peer support at Tewksbury Hospital.

BACKGROUND ON PANELISTS



Julia Ojeda

Panelist

Julia has worked for over 25 years providing solution-based leadership training in the education, healthcare, and social services sectors. She is an experienced facilitator, trainer, coach, networker, and change agent. Her work is rooted in an equitable, people-centered, integrated approach to progressive change, system-wide reform, strategic management, and organizational development. From 2011 to 2020, she was adjunct faculty at Boston University, School of Business, Non-Profit Management and Leadership Program working with non-profit organizational leaders.

Since 2013, Ms. Ojeda has overseen Recovery Support Services for the MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS). She is dedicated to Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) and oversees development and oversight for the 26 peer recovery support centers; manages the statewide peer recovery coach trainings, curriculum and trainers; and oversees accessibility of treatment services for the deaf/hard of hearing affected by substance addiction. Ms. Ojeda is a champion for the peer workforce recovery movement and has worked with Prevention, Intervention and Treatment locally and nationally. Ms. Ojeda is a person in long-term recovery and an active member of the recovery community. In 2018, she was awarded the Commonwealth Equity in Governance Award from Governor Charlie Baker.