



Access to Outpatient Mental Health Services in Massachusetts: Research Results and Promising Practices

Speaker Biographies

Kent Boynton, PhD, LICSW, is the vice president of Integrated Behavioral Health and clinical director of the Tele-Behavioral Health Project at Riverside Community Care. During his career, he has directed child, adult, and geriatric inpatient psychiatric services and outpatient mental health and substance use programs. He was previously a senior manager at two behavioral health managed care companies. In the early 1980s, he and his colleagues at the Executive Office of Elder Affairs developed Massachusetts' Elder Protective Service Program and he was the first director of the program. He maintains his clinical skills by providing individual and family therapy on evenings and weekends. Dr. Boynton has a master's degree in social work with a PhD in social welfare from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

Martin Cohen, MSW, is the president/CEO of the MetroWest Health Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation, Mr. Cohen served as the executive director and senior consultant of the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc., a health and human services consulting firm. He previously served as a senior program consultant with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and was a deputy assistant secretary in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health & Human Services. He serves on the board of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and is a member of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission.

Vic DiGravio has been president/CEO of Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) since July 1, 2007. ABH is a leader in addressing public policy and financing issues impacting behavioral health care services in Massachusetts. ABH and Mr. DiGravio are the foremost advocates for community behavioral health care services as Massachusetts transitions to accountable care delivery structures. Early in his tenure at ABH, Mr. DiGravio was a key figure in the Campaign to Strengthen Human Services which resulted in the enactment of Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2008 and the Campaign for Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery which at that time led to the successful repeal of the sales tax exemption on alcohol sold in stores. More recently, Mr. DiGravio and ABH spearheaded the fight for passage of Chapter 258 of the Acts of 2014, transformative legislation to increase access to addiction treatment in Massachusetts. Soon after becoming president/CEO, Mr. DiGravio, in partnership with the Board of Directors, led an effort to rebrand the organization to better position it as the preeminent association representing community-based mental health and addiction treatment organizations in Massachusetts.

In addition to his work at ABH, Mr. DiGravio serves as secretary-treasurer of the Board of Directors of the National Council for Behavioral Health. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of Bridgton Academy in North Bridgton, Maine. Prior to joining ABH in 2006, he served for seven years as chief of staff to Massachusetts Senate Majority Leader Frederick Berry and before that served as director of public policy for Easter Seals Massachusetts. Mr. DiGravio is a graduate of Connecticut College and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and has extensive experience in governmental affairs and the not-for-profit sector.

Margaret Hannah, MEd, GCEC, is executive director of the Freedman Center for Child and Family Development at William James College. She received her master's degree in education with a concentration in community counseling and psychology from the University of Miami. She holds a graduate certificate in executive coaching from William James College and has completed two years of coursework in the school's doctoral program for leadership psychology. Ms. Hannah has worked in schools, agencies, and businesses for over 25 years, designing and developing programs and facilitating leadership programs, parent support groups, and evidence based mental health prevention programs. She has served as a project director for three federal grants for the delivery of mental health services within schools, and a grant to integrate mental health services between schools and community agencies. She serves on several committees and task forces within the state advocating for mental health and wellness services, including the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatrics Mental Health Task Force, Governor's Commission on Post-Partum Depression, Governor's Commission on Behavioral Health and Upstream Prevention, Stakeholder Group for the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative, City of Newton City-wide Emergency Response Team, and Newton Wellesley Hospital Community Benefits Advisory Council. In addition to serving as executive director of the Freedman Center at William James College, Ms. Hannah teaches in the psychology department as an adjunct faculty member and has a small coaching practice where her area of expertise focuses on helping individuals and teams gain clarity of role and build competencies and confidence for success.

Kaitlyn Kenney Walsh, PhD, is the Senior Director of Policy and Research at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. In this role, she oversees the policy and research arm of the Foundation's work, focusing on access and affordability of health care and health insurance, access to behavioral health services, and social determinants of health. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the Director of Policy & Research for the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority where she was responsible for identifying the implications of national health care reform for the Commonwealth and its residents and developing policy associated with the state's own health reform law. Dr. Kenney Walsh has served as a Rappaport Public Policy Fellow in the office of Senator Richard Moore and as a guest lecturer on the American health care system at Providence College. She holds a PhD in public & international affairs and a master's degree in political science from Northeastern University and a bachelor's degree from Providence College.

Lisa Lambert is a writer, speaker and mental health advocate. She is the executive director of the Parent Professional Advocacy League (PPAL), a family-run, grassroots nonprofit organization based in Boston that advocates for families whose children have mental health needs. Ms. Lambert has won several awards for her mental health advocacy.

Danna Mauch, PhD, is the president and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH). MAMH serves as a public policy, knowledge dissemination, and legislative advocacy organization promoting mental health and well-being and ending discrimination and disparities in access to care for persons with behavioral health conditions and related disabilities. Dr. Mauch brings organization leadership, operations management, evaluation research, and strategic consulting experience gained in private and public sector enterprises to inform her work for MAMH. For the last ten years, Dr. Mauch served as senior fellow and principal associate at Abt Associates where she worked on policy, evaluation, and implementation assistance projects. Prior to joining Abt, Dr. Mauch was chief administrative officer for Comprehensive NeuroScience, Inc., president and chief executive officer for Magellan Public Solutions, Inc., and founder and president of Integrated Health Strategies, Inc. She served as director of the Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals and assistant commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, overseeing the Divisions of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Forensic Medicine. She presently serves as court monitor for the U.S. District Court of Western Washington, facilitating implementation of court ordered reforms to the services provided in jails and hospitals for persons ordered for evaluation or restoration of their competency to stand trial. She is a trustee and board officer for several public interest child and youth prevention and education entities. Dr. Mauch is a published author of government and foundation reports, book chapters, and articles in peer reviewed journals on topics in the organization, financing, and delivery of care to vulnerable populations. Dr. Mauch holds a PhD in social policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

Nancy Norman, MD, MPH, is the Medical Director of Integration for the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP). She has served in this role for 5 years focusing mainly on working with city and state public health officials, medical providers, consumer advocates and business leaders to improve health outcomes by working to improve health care systems. She brings a keen appreciation of the interdependency of medical, behavioral, and social dimensions of health to a career spent implementing actionable, practical strategies for health improvement and system redesign. The major focus of her work is to look at ways to better integrate behavioral health with primary care, partly by focusing on payment reform and health system redesign efforts.

Prior to joining MBHP she was the chief medical officer for the Boston Public Health Commission, the health department for the City of Boston. In this capacity she oversaw the clinical functions of the Commission and developed initiatives to address emerging health problems. One of her major responsibilities was the supervision of the Infectious Disease Bureau, which included the HIV/AIDS Services Division. This division was the grantee for the Ryan White Part A dollars that continue to support the collaborative/integrated approach to care for residents of the City of Boston living with HIV. Dr. Norman was also instrumental in the restructuring of the health disparities work to realign the focus on health equity and social justice. Dr. Norman completed her internship and residency, including chief residency in internal medicine at Faulkner Hospital after receiving a BA in biology from Bowdoin College and a MD from Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Norman later received a MPH from Harvard University School of Public Health and completed a clinical fellowship in Community Oriented Primary Care/Preventive Medicine at Carney Hospital. She is currently on staff at Boston Medical Center and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professor of medicine at Boston University.

Nancy Paull, MS, LADC1, has been with Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc. (SSTAR) since the doors first opened in the mid-1970s. The agency consisted of a 20 bed alcohol detox, an outpatient substance use program including a Woman's Center focusing on domestic violence issues. The agency has grown with the addition of mental health services, a federally qualified health center, HIV services, medication assisted treatments, clinical trials, prevention programs, grants and the expansion of inpatient treatment services. Ms. Paull has long-standing connections in the Greater Fall River area, going back to the 1970's responding to a need for detox services for men and women, at a time when services were only available for men. She was the first in the region to recognize and offer treatment for those living with HIV/AIDS, opening a community health center for those refused care elsewhere. Today over 7, 000 patients receive their healthcare at SSTAR's two health centers.

Ms. Paull began her life's work at SSTAR as a counselor and has been chief executive officer since 1985. She is responsible for the administration of two multi-service social and health service organizations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. With every new challenge in behavioral health, she has risen as a visionary and champion for those most in need. Her belief is simple "Listen to what your patients tell you." In that spirit she was the first to not only recognize the AIDS epidemic at her doorstep, but also to treat those with the disease with dignity and grace – opening the regions first walk-in HIV testing clinic and the first inpatient substance use detoxification unit. Further she championed the opening of SSTAR's community health center in order to 'treat the whole person.' Under Ms. Paull's leadership, no one comes to SSTAR to get shipped off somewhere, rather they get the help they need, and help they didn't know existed. Ms. Paull participates on the Executive Committee of the Northern New England Node of the Clinical Trial Committee. She has developed a research arm which provides clinical trials for both government and private entities. She is currently involved in a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Grant with Value Option's MBHP and a National Institute on Drug Abuse clinical trial with Brown University. Ms. Paull has worked with the American International Health Alliance, providing assessments, and educational programs in the countries of Russia, Georgia, and Armenia.

Audrey Shelto is president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. As a proven leader with 30 years of achievement in improving the delivery of health care and human services, particularly for low-income and vulnerable populations, Ms. Shelto assumed leadership of the Foundation in August 2013. She is widely recognized for her expertise in all aspects of health care and leads the Foundation's strategic agenda to broaden health coverage and reduce barriers to care through grants, research, and policy initiatives.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Shelto directed Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts' efforts to develop a demonstration program for those dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Previous positions at Blue Cross Blue Shield included senior vice president for Health and Wellness, where she led the development of a new member-centered model of provider-integrated health management designed to improve health care quality and affordability. Ms. Shelto's other professional experience includes positions as chief operating officer of Neighborhood Health Plan, executive director for the Boston Mayor's Advisory Committee on Health Care, associate commissioner of Massachusetts's Department of Mental Health, and assistant budget director for the Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance. She holds a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree in management of human services from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

Jenna T. Sirkin, PhD, is a health services researcher at Abt Associates, an independent research and evaluation firm, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She leads mixed-methods research and multi-stakeholder projects focused on practice transformation, quality improvement and reporting, health care access, health IT implementation, and behavioral health integration. Dr. Sirkin is principal investigator for the mental health outpatient access study, funded by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, and leads the evaluation of the physical and mental health integration program area for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program. She designs and conducts research studies in collaboration with federal and state agencies, academic institutions, and health systems for clients such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and CMS. She was formerly associate director of the Brandeis Council on Health Economics and Policy and adjunct faculty at Northeastern Bouve College of Health Sciences.

Marylou Sudders, MSW, ACSW, was appointed Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) by Governor Charlie Baker. Secretary Sudders leads the largest executive agency in state government, overseeing a \$22 billion state budget, twelve agencies and 22,000 public servants. EOHHS services directly touch the lives of slightly more than 1 in 4 residents of the Commonwealth. Sudders' responsibilities include the state's MassHealth (Medicaid) program that provides health coverage to 1.9 million low income or disabled residents, chairing the board of the state's health care marketplace (The Connector), the Autism Commission and, the Center for Health Information and Analysis Oversight Council; and, co-chairs the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness and the state's first Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts. Sudders is leading the Commonwealth's efforts to address the opioid epidemic, strengthen the Department of Children and Families, and to ensure a sustainable MassHealth program.

Professionally trained as a social worker, Sudders has been a public official, private non-profit executive, advocate and college professor. She served as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health from 1996 to 2003. Prior to her appointment as Secretary, Sudders was an associate professor and chaired the health/mental health program at Boston College's Graduate School of Social Work. She also served as a behavioral health expert with the Department of Justice. She has been recognized by top business, social work and civic organizations, including the Boston Chamber of Commerce, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Eastern Bank, and the National Association of Social Work for her work. Sudders is an alumna of Boston University with a bachelor's degree with honors and a master's degree in social work, and received an honorary doctorate from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. Believing in community service, she has served on many charitable boards, including the Pine Street Inn, DentaQuest Foundation, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.