



# **Where Do We Go From Here? Real-World Strategies to Reduce Health Disparities and Improve Health Equity**

A virtual integration forum presented by the  
Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)

**Wednesday, December 1, 2021 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*Program Booklet*

*Eighth Annual MBHP Integration Forum*

**Where Do We Go From Here? Real-World Strategies to Reduce Health Disparities and Improve Health Equity**

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**Welcome**

**9 a.m.**

***Nancy Norman, MD, MPH***

Medical Director of Integration, Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership

**Opening Remarks**

**9:10 a.m.**

***Sharon Hanson***, Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership

***Amanda Cassel Kraft***, Assistant Secretary and MassHealth Director

**Remarks**

**9:20 a.m.**

***Anne Saw, PhD***

Associate Professor, Clinical-Community Psychology, DePaul University College of Science and Health

***Grace Chan McKibben***

Executive Director, Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community

**Remarks**

**10:05 a.m.**

***Haner Hernandez, PhD, CPS, CADCI, LADCI***

New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center, Brown University

***Douglas Lomax***

Program Manager, Peer-to-Peer Project, Safe and Sound Recovery Center, Boston Public Health Commission

**Break**

**10:50 a.m.**

**Remarks**

**11 a.m.**

***John Rich, MD, MPH***

Professor of Health Management and Policy, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health; Co-Director, Drexel Center for Nonviolence and Justice

**Panel Discussion and Q & A**

**11:45 a.m.**

***A conversation moderated by Nancy Norman, MD, MPH***

Medical Director of Integration, Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership

**Closing Comments**

**12:25 p.m.**

***Nancy Norman, MD, MPH***

Medical Director of Integration, Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership

## Welcome and Moderator: *Nancy Norman, MD, MPH*



Dr. Norman, a native Bostonian, is the medical director of integration for the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership, a Beacon Health Options (Beacon) company. She has served in this role for nine 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 healthcare 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, Dr. Norman was 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 restructuring and expansion of the City's work to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. She was instrumental in realigning the Commission's focus to one of health equity and social justice, including a focus on the negative impact of systemic racism on health outcomes. Prior to this transition to more population-focused work, Dr. Norman spent nine years as a primary HIV care provider and director of Women's Health at Fenway Community Health Center in Boston.

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 an MD from Boston University School of Medicine. She later received an MPH from Harvard University School of Public Health and completed a clinical fellowship in Community Oriented Primary Care/Preventive Medicine at Carney Hospital. Dr. Norman has spent her career building coalitions, sustaining relationships, and exerting influence to effect change.

## Opening Remarks:

### ***Sharon Hanson***



Sharon Hanson joined the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership as its chief executive officer in 2021, after having initially worked at MBHP in the late 1990s. Sharon has over 30 years of experience in health plan operations, managed care, and government programs, most recently serving as the chief people officer at Community Care Cooperative (C3). She has also held leadership roles at MassHealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, and First Mental Health Services and has worked as an independent consultant at Health Management Associates. Sharon's educational background includes P.G. Teachers College, University of the West Indies, and Northeastern University.

### ***Amanda Cassel Kraft***



Amanda Cassel Kraft is the assistant secretary (a.k.a. Medicaid director) for MassHealth, Massachusetts' Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program. Before her appointment as assistant secretary for MassHealth in June 2021, Amanda served as deputy Medicaid director, overseeing MassHealth's provider and pharmacy programs, behavioral health, policy, safety-net programs, and other strategic initiatives. Amanda joined MassHealth in 2011 and served as chief of staff from 2014-2018. Prior to joining MassHealth, Amanda worked on state policy and voting access in California and Massachusetts. She received her BA from Stanford University and her master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

## Remarks:

### **Anne Saw, PhD**



Dr. Saw is an associate professor of Psychology and affiliated faculty with Global Asian Studies and Refugee and Forced Migration Studies programs at DePaul University. She is also vice president of the Asian American Psychological Association. Dr. Saw's research focuses broadly on health and mental health in Asian American immigrant and refugee communities. She is the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander project lead on a large, multiracial research project examining the needs and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color, which is supported by the National Urban League and the Tri-Congressional Caucus and funded by multiple philanthropic foundations. Dr. Saw also collaborates with Stop AAPI Hate to understand the psychological impacts of racism on Asian Americans. She partners with community organizations in Chicago and beyond to develop community-centered programs and initiatives to promote health and wellness for Asian Americans and other minoritized groups.

### **Grace Chan McKibben**



Grace Chan McKibben is currently executive director of Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (CBCAC), which engages and empowers the Chinese American community in greater Chicago through civic engagement and advocacy, community engagement, youth development, and community outreach. Grace holds a BA in Linguistics and Sociology, an MA in Linguistics from The University of Chicago, and an MBA from The Keller Graduate School of Management. She is a board member of the ACLU of Illinois and the National ACLU. She is also an appointed member of the Chicago Low-Income Real Estate Trust Fund Board, the Chicago Community Development Commission, and the Illinois Asian American Employment Plan Advisory Council and chairs the Mayor's AAPI Engagement Council. Grace is a well-respected community leader and has played leadership roles in many community civil engagement projects.

## Remarks:

### ***Haner Hernandez, PhD, CPS, CADCI, LADCI***



Dr. Hernández is originally from Puerto Rico, is bilingual, and has worked for 32 years in the health and human service field developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally and linguistically intelligent youth and adult health prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support programs. Dr. Hernández also has many years of experience in delivering addiction counseling and clinical supervision to professionals in the field. Furthermore, he is a professional trainer and facilitator and provides individualized technical assistance and support to organizations that provide addiction prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery supports.

Dr. Hernández is in long-term recovery from addiction and is committed to eliminating health disparities by working at the national, state, and local levels. He is currently a senior consultant to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, with a focus on disparities, building health equity, addiction treatment, recovery supports, and the Recovery Support Centers located throughout the Commonwealth. He also consults and teaches a number of courses at the New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) at Brown University and the National Latino and Hispanic Mental Health TTC. Dr. Hernández serves as faculty at the New England School of Addiction Studies since 1998, has taught a number of undergraduate and graduate courses, and has presented at several national and state conferences.

Dr. Hernández earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Springfield College and a Master of Education with concentrations in Counseling Psychology and Addiction Studies from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. His doctoral degree was earned at the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In addition, Dr. Hernández holds an Advanced Certification in Drug and Alcohol Counseling at the reciprocal level, is licensed in Massachusetts, and is a certified prevention specialist.

## ***Douglas Lomax***



Douglas Lomax worked in the Boston Municipal Court (BMC) for 20 years as a senior substance abuse specialist, referring people into treatment and creating the first onsite substance abuse group counseling within BMC. He was instrumental in helping to create the first drug court in the Commonwealth by establishing the treatment portion of that court. He worked with judges, probation officers, and lawyers, helping to educate and advocate for people that came before the court struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

For the past seven years, Douglas has been working at the Boston Public Health Commission where he managed the Men's Health and Recovery Outpatient Substance Abuse Program, which was supported by a grant from the federal government that had a focus on men of color. This particular program had a major Men's Trauma Group (M-TREM) component that looked at addiction as one of the main traumas that paralyzed men from gaining full recovery. After four years, another grant was awarded because of the outcomes of the work. This grant supported the Peer-to-Peer Project.

The Peer-to-Peer grant is a project that has a focus on men and women in recovery and training them to become peer leaders. After the completion of the Peer Leader training, each participant is given a six-week paid internship. Upon completion of the internships, they continue on to train as recovery coaches, and then they are offered 12-week paid internships. The idea of this project is to use paid internships while individuals are still in treatment to assist them as they enter the workforce.

Douglas is a member of Community Voices, a national initiative focusing on healthcare for the underserved that is based at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is currently working as a consultant for the group, creating an evidence-based re-entry program for men that is currently being piloted in Boston. STRONG Men Recovery is geared to rebuild men from a treatment and spiritual perspective as they re-enter society.

Recently, Douglas has become the director of Outreach and Addiction Service for the Corey Johnson Program for Post Traumatic Healing at Roxbury Presbyterian Church. He is married and has four children and three grandchildren, which he feels is his greatest accomplishment.

## ***John Rich, MD, MPH***



Dr. Rich is a professor of Health Management and Policy at the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health. He is also the co-director of the Drexel Center for Nonviolence and Justice, a multidisciplinary effort to address violence and trauma to improve physical and mental health. Dr. Rich's work has focused on issues of urban violence, trauma, and health disparities, particularly as they affect the health of men of color. Dr. Rich is also an expert in qualitative research methods and narrative analysis. In 2006, Dr. Rich was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. In awarding this distinction, the Foundation cited his work to design "new models of healthcare that stretch across the boundaries of public health, education, social service, and justice systems to engage young men in caring for themselves and their peers."

Prior to joining Drexel University, Dr. Rich served as the medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission where he led the city's initiatives on Men's Health, Cancer, Cardiovascular Health and Health Disparities. As a primary care doctor at Boston Medical Center, he created the Young Men's Health Clinic and initiated the Boston HealthCREW, a program to train inner city young men as peer health educators.



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| Grace Chan McKibben                     | Faculty           | N/A          | N/A                              |
| Haner Hernandez, PhD, CPS, CADCI, LADCI | Faculty           | N/A          | N/A                              |
| Douglas Lomax                           | Faculty           | N/A          | N/A                              |
| John Rich, MD, MPH                      | Faculty           | N/A          | N/A                              |
| Nancy Norman, MD, MPH                   | Course Director   | N/A          | N/A                              |

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| Nancy Norman, MD, MPH - Director                            | None                             | N/A          |
| Amanda Sepulveda – Administrative Coordinator/CME Associate | None                             | N/A          |
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| Clara Carr, MS, CAGS, LMHC – Planning Committee             | None                             | N/A          |
| Erin Donohue Lanzo, MSW – Planning Committee                | None                             | N/A          |
| Hayley L'Heureux – Planning Committee                       | None                             | N/A          |
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