

2022 Virtual Recovery Forum  
Sponsored by the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership

## Health Equity: A Cornerstone of Recovery

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**Wednesday, September 28, 2022**

**9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

**9–9:15 a.m.**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*Clara Carr, Director of Behavioral Health Equity and Recovery, MBHP*  
*Sharon Hanson, CEO, MBHP*  
*Emily Bailey, Chief of Behavioral Health, MassHealth*  
*Julie Hwayoung Shepherd, Assistant Commissioner of Mental Health Services, Department of Mental Health*

**9:15–10:30 a.m.**

**Overcoming the Barriers and Reaping the Rewards of Behavioral Health Care**

Keynote Presentation by Dr. David Satcher  
*Dr. Satcher, 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. Surgeon General and Founder of the Satcher Leadership Institute, will discuss his history working at the intersection of health equity and mental health, as well as the importance of promoting health equity and dismantling health disparities in order to improve behavioral health care.*

**10:30–10:40 a.m.**

**Break**

**10:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m.**

**Health Equity as a Cornerstone of Recovery**

*Panelists will detail their experiences with health inequities both through their own lived experience of behavioral health issues and through their professional experience working in the field.*

**12:15 – 12:30 p.m.**

**Closing and Evaluation**

*Clarence Jordan, Vice President of Wellness and Recovery  
Beacon Health Options*

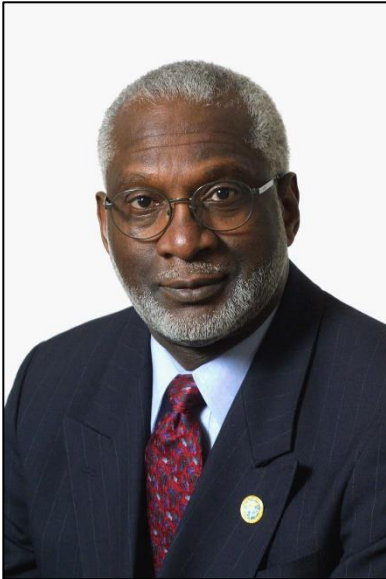
## 2022 Virtual Recovery Forum

Sponsored by  
the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)

# Health Equity: A Cornerstone of Recovery

## Keynote Speaker

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**David Satcher, MD, PhD, (he/him), 16th United States Surgeon General; Founding Director and Senior Advisor for the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine**

David Satcher, MD, PhD, is a physician-scientist and public health administrator with an extensive track record of leadership, research, and community engagement. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College and holds MD and PhD degrees from Case Western Reserve University, where he was also elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Dr. Satcher served as the 16<sup>th</sup> surgeon general of the United States (1998-2002) and the 10<sup>th</sup> assistant secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services (1998-2001). He also served as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Dr. Satcher has also held top leadership positions at the Charles R. Drew University for Medicine and Science, Meharry Medical College, and the Morehouse School of Medicine. He has received over 50 honorary degrees and has received numerous awards from diverse organizations and agencies. Currently, Dr. Satcher is the founding director and senior advisor for the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia.

## Panel Discussion: A Cornerstone of Recovery

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### Moderator



**David J. Wolfe, MD, MPH**, (he/him), *Chief Medical Officer, MBHP*

David Wolfe joined MBHP from Mass General Brigham Newton-Wellesley Hospital, where he had served as Chair, Department of Psychiatry since 2018. Since 2007, he has worked as an attending psychiatrist at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), where he held the roles of associate vice chair for Clinical Services; chief, Division of Ambulatory Services; director, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Services; and director of Psychiatric Education and Training. Dr. Wolfe completed his residency in the Harvard-Longwood Psychiatric Residency Training Program and a fellowship in psychosomatic medicine at BWH. He is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine (MD and MPH) and a current MBA candidate at the University of Massachusetts Isenberg School of Management. He holds a faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School.

### Panelists



**Julita Mir, MD**, (she/her), *Chief Medical Officer, Community Care Cooperative*

Dr. Mir is an Internist and Infectious diseases physician graduate of the Boston University School of Medicine. She completed her medical degree at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, where she developed a passion for community health and serving the most vulnerable populations. She has a 20-year career leading primary care transformation efforts, building bridges between stakeholders, and ensuring the highest quality of care. Dr. Mir has held multiple leadership positions, including chief medical officer for DotHouse Health in Dorchester, and is currently the chief medical officer at Community Care Cooperative (C3) where she leads the transition of our federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to a value-based model of care.



**Vesper Moore, CPS**, (they/them), *Chief Operating Officer, Kiva Centers*

Vesper Moore is an indigenous political activist, leader, organizer, public speaker, and educator in the disability rights movement. Vesper concentrates on building social movements and public knowledge to facilitate and sustain systems change. They have supported the development of peer-run organizations in different parts of the world. Vesper has brought the perspectives of disabled people to national and international spaces with their advocacy. Working with both the United States government and the United Nations in shaping strategies around trauma, intersectionality, and disability rights, they have been at the forefront of legislative reform to shift the societal paradigm surrounding mental health.



**Leah S. Randolph, MM, LADC, CADC, (she/her), Executive Director and Co-Owner of Commonwealth Mental Health & Wellness Center**

Ms. Randolph has been working with individuals suffering from substance use disorder, mental health disorder, trauma, and community violence for over two decades. She has been the Massachusetts co-chair of the Mass Black Alcohol & Addiction Council (MBAC), as well as an Executive Board member of the National Black Alcoholism and Addictions (NBAC) since 1997. As a senior member of NBAC, Ms. Randolph has been mentored and trained by Dr. Frances L. Brisbane on best practices used when working with African ancestral people with SUD and their families, cultural competency, overcoming compassion fatigue, and much more. Ms. Randolph holds a BA from the University of Massachusetts Boston, a master's degree from Cambridge College, is licensed as an LADC I/CADC II, and received numerous awards from both the private and public sectors. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters in Philosophy for her tireless commitment and dedication to helping others. She is currently a Board member of the Massachusetts Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification (MBSACC) and the DEI chair for the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR).



**Pata Suyemoto, PhD, (she/her), Director of Training, National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association**

Dr. Pata Suyemoto is a feminist scholar, writer, educator, curriculum developer, equity trainer, mental health activist, jewelry designer, and avid bicyclist. She earned her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and did her research on anti-racist education and issues of race and racism. She is the training director for the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA). Dr. Suyemoto is a master trainer for NAAPIMA's Achieving Whole Health Program and the director of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Empowerment Network. She is the associate director of Equity for the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention (MCSP), co-chair of the Greater Boston Regional Suicide Prevention Coalition, and the founder/co-chair of the MCSP Alliance for Equity. Dr. Suyemoto is one of the authors of *Widening the Lens: Exploring the Role of Social Justice in Suicide Prevention – A Racial Equity Toolkit*. She has spoken and written about being a suicide attempt survivor and her struggles with chronic depression and PTSD. She is a co-founder of The Breaking Silences Project, which is an artistic endeavor that educates about the high rates of depression and suicide among Asian American young women.



**Elisa Valles, MA, LMHC, (she/her), Director, Walden Community Services**

Elisa Valles is the program director for Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI)/Department of Children and Families (DCF). She is a licensed mental health counselor with certifications in clinical mental health counseling and writing and literature. She has previously presented to the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) about trauma-informed care for parents in the home and is trained in the GROW curriculum. In her spare time, Elisa enjoys baking.