



Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)
Annual Integration Forum
November 13, 2024
12 – 1:30 p.m.

**Advancing Treatment for Substance Use Disorders:
A Comprehensive Overview
for PCCs and Behavioral Health Care Providers**

Agenda

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| 12–12:10 | Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks
Steven Descoteaux, MD, Addiction Medical Director – New Hampshire, Carelon Behavioral Health
Maria Yerstein, MD, Associate Medical Director of Quality, MBHP |
| 12:10–12:40 | Screening for SUDs and Best Practices in Medication-Assisted Treatment
Steven Descoteaux, MD, Addiction Medical Director – New Hampshire, Carelon Behavioral Health |
| 12:40–12:55 | Massachusetts Levels of Care for Treating SUD
Tracey Nicolosi, LMHC, Director of Addiction Services, Office of Accountable Care and Behavioral Health, MassHealth |
| 12:55–1:05 | Massachusetts Resources to Support Patients with SUDs and their Providers
Heather Towers, LICSW, Director of Clinical Programs, MBHP |
| 1:05–1:15 | Putting It All Together: The Importance of Collaborative Care and Sample Cases of Caring for People with SUD in Primary Care
Steven Descoteaux, MD, Addiction Medical Director – New Hampshire, Carelon Behavioral Health |
| 1:15–1:25 | Q&A |
| 1:25–1:30 | Closing Comments |



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Speaker Bios

Steven Descoteaux, MD

Dr. Descoteaux is the Addiction Medical Director for New Hampshire at Carelon Behavioral Health. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. He has treated addiction in numerous settings, including primary care, urgent care, correctional facilities, and both inpatient and outpatient addiction treatment programs. He believes in expanding access to addiction treatment that meets patients at all stages of their recovery.

Tracey Nicolosi, LMHC

Ms. Nicolosi is the Director of Addiction Services, Office of Accountable Care and Behavioral Health at MassHealth. Previously she was the State Opioid Treatment Authority and Director of Quality Assurance and Licensing at BSAS and the VP of Addiction Services at Beth Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Services. She was also one of several recipients of the Nyswander/Dole Award in 2019 for excellence and dedication in treating individuals with opioid use disorders.

Heather Towers, LICSW

Ms. Towers is Director of Clinical Programs at MBHP. She has been with Carelon for 13 years in clinical leadership, supporting markets nationally as well as 24/7 call centers. Prior to joining the company, Heather's clinical practice experience was with MA emergency services, including 24/7 crisis stabilization, CBAT, and emergency departments.

Maria Yerstein, MD

Dr. Yerstein is Associate Medical Director of Quality at MBHP. She has an impressive track record of improving healthcare quality and reducing disparities, having led numerous initiatives at BWH and St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston. A passionate advocate for health equity, Dr. Yerstein has taught numerous courses in quality improvement and contributed to projects aimed at enhancing healthcare access and outcomes for underserved populations. She has also served as a member of the American Medical Association's Center for Health Equity, where she contributed to policies and initiatives that have had a lasting impact on the industry. Her work has been recognized through numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals.