



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Municipal Opioid Abatement Learning Opportunity: Regional Collaboration Efforts Across Municipalities

October 16th, 2025



Welcome

Welcome to Mosaic's learning opportunity webinar!

Today's session will focus on collaborative efforts to utilize municipal opioid abatement funds.

Agenda:

- Welcome and housekeeping
- MAHB: Opioid Abatement Municipal Collaboration
- Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative: Opioid Settlement Funds
- Northampton: Hampshire County Opioid Settlement Fund Collaborations
- Q&A

Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded and will be available at **mosaic.rizema.org** on the Municipal TTA Events page.
- Please submit questions anytime through **Zoom's Q&A feature**. We will address them during the Q&A portion at the end.
- The Q&A portion of today's meeting will not be recorded.
- At the end of today's session, please fill out the feedback survey.
- We will also share a link to update your municipality's contacts.

Zoom Webinar Housekeeping

Chat

Please introduce yourself by typing your name and where you are joining us from in the chat box.

To: Everyone ▾ More ▾

Type message here...

To view the meeting's live **transcript**, click the CC icon and select from the following:

Show Subtitle
View Full Transcript
Subtitle Settings...

Chat

Raise Hand

CC
Live Transcript

Leave

Q&A

Please ask the speakers any questions in the Q&A box (not the chat).

Welcome to Q&A

Questions you ask the host and panelists will show up here

Type your question here...

Chat

Q&A

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will:

- Understand the importance of collaborating within and between municipalities
- Learn about different ways to collaborate with other cities and towns
- Learn how to create an Opioid Abatement Collaborative
- Learn about recent examples of municipal collaboration efforts



The goal of the **Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership** is to create a pathway of access to apply for funds for both municipalities and community-based organizations, particularly those based in communities that are historically underserved and have experienced a disproportionately high rate of opioid-related overdose deaths. Mosaic also provides training, technical assistance, and support for capacity building.



Funded by MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of
Substance Addiction Services and Powered by RIZE

Guiding Principles

CENTER

THE VOICES OF PEOPLE
WITH LIVED AND LIVING
EXPERIENCE

ENSURE

EFFORTS ARE INFORMED BY
COMMITMENTS TO EQUITY,
INCLUSION, AND COMPASSION

WORK

TO REDUCE STIGMA

ADVOCATE

FOR APPROACHES THAT SUPPORT
PEOPLE IN UNDERSTANDING AND
ACHIEVING THEIR OWN GOALS
REGARDING HARM REDUCTION,
TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Meet the TTA Team

RIZE

Mass Association of
Health Boards



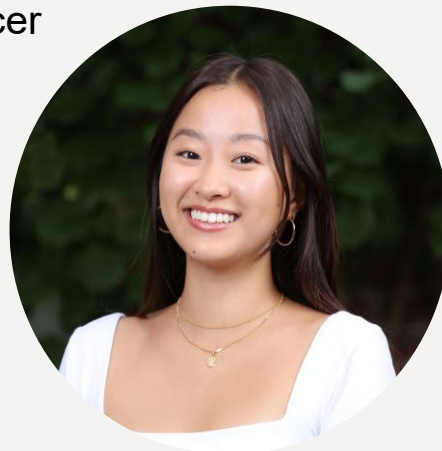
Julie Burns
President & CEO



Jen Tracey
Chief Program Officer



Liz Whynott
Senior Program Officer



Stephanie Son
Program Coordinator



Jenn Robertson



Cheryl Sbarra



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Opioid Abatement Municipal Collaboration

Options and Strategies

Cheryl Sbarra, Esq.

Executive Director and Senior Staff Attorney
Massachusetts Association of Health Boards



Inter-Municipal Collaboration

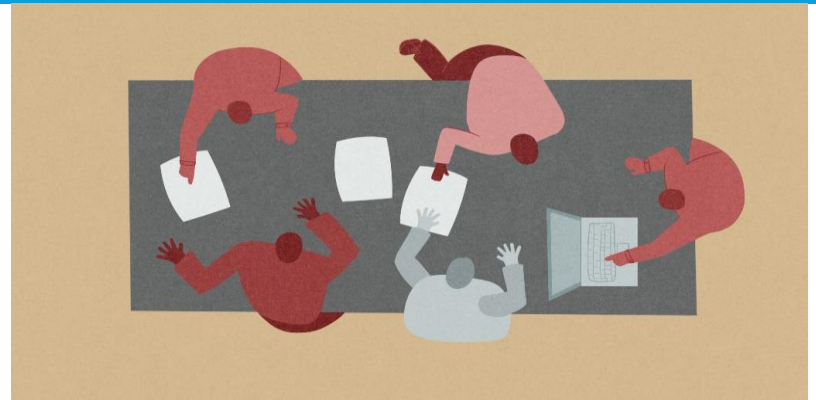
MA State Subdivision Agreement (SSA) Encourages Shared Resource and Funding Strategies:

EOHHS and DPH through its Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) ***“will support municipal [opioid] abatement initiatives by providing strategic guidance to help Massachusetts municipalities select and implement [opioid] abatement strategies and effectively pool their resources through inter-municipal Shared Service Agreements, as well as other technical assistance.”*** (Massachusetts Abatement Terms)

Regional Collaboration

- **Benefits of Regional Collaboration:**

- May reduce costs (e.g. admin, overhead)
- Minimize duplication of work
- More targeted and efficient use of funds



- **Formal Collaboration:** Forming an Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC) with municipalities in region to establish an ongoing commitment to implementing and funding regional opioid strategies

- **Informal Collaboration:** Sharing non-monetary resources and strategies with municipalities in the region without a formal agreement

Regional Collaboration: Getting Started

- **Outreach to regional municipalities and partners**

- If your muni or others in region are part of a Shared Services Arrangement, the shared services coordinator for that collaborative could help support this work

- **Determine the level of ongoing commitment to regional opioid strategies**

- **Bring in RIZE and MAHB to support, including:**

- Providing **regional strategy** and **best practice recommendations** for opioid abatement;
- Conducting **consultations with municipal leadership**;
- **Drafting** and amending **intermunicipal agreements** and memorandums of understanding; and
- Providing **guidance on complying with municipal finance laws** pertaining to fund appropriation and utilization



Opioid Abatement Collaboratives (OACs)

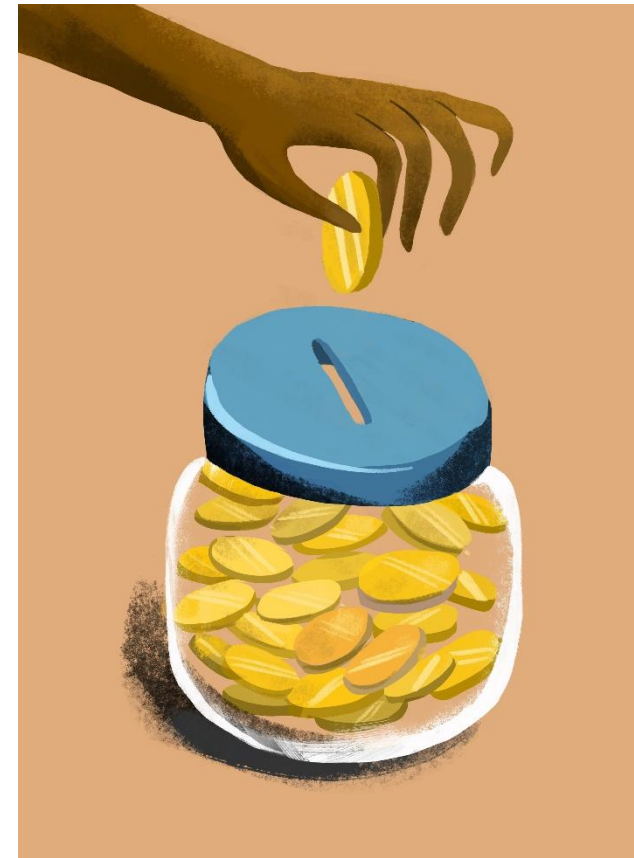
An OAC is defined as:

1. Two or more municipalities;
2. Who **dedicate** some or all of their opioid abatement funds **to implement regional state subdivision agreement (SSA) strategies**;
3. pursuant to a formalized agreement.

The formalized agreement can be either an existing Public Health Excellence (PHE) Collaborative, or a new Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) or other formalized agreement such a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Financial Collaboration

- **‘Dedicating Funds’** means that municipalities commit send some or all of their opioid abatement funds to implement regional strategies, and those funds are managed by a host municipality or agent pursuant to an agreement
- Funds can be pooled into one account or directly invoiced to municipalities with the host municipality/agent responsible for oversight



Creating an OAC

1. Agree on **participating municipalities** and **amount of funding** to be dedicated by each municipality
2. Determine **how funds will be managed** and who will be in charge of managing (host municipality/agent)
3. Request and receive **municipal approval**
4. Enter into a **written agreement**, either through a new IMA or MOU, or by amending an existing IMA



OAC Agreements

Regardless of the form it takes, OAC Agreement should include:

- ✓ a **governance structure** that dictates how funding decisions are made;
- ✓ **funding amounts** contributed by each municipality;
- ✓ **roles and responsibilities** of the municipalities;
- ✓ the **scope of work** jointly funded; and
- ✓ the **length of the agreement**

MAHB can help you draft an OAC agreement or provide template agreements that can be used by your town counsel

Informal Regional Collaboration Agreement

- **Formalizing a regional collaborative may not be possible**
 - e.g. Municipal leadership will not agree to commit funds; No host can be identified
- Regional collaboration absent ongoing agreement is still **a very effective and important approach to opioid abatement work**
- **Work with other municipalities to:**
 - Develop and share non-monetary resources
 - Identify regional strategies or activities, and work within your municipality to gain support



Informal Regional Collaboration: Examples

Joint Planning and Needs Assessments

- Share existing opioid data, assessments and information in the region and each
- Munis work together to develop a **community survey**, share among towns, and aggregate data
- Develop a regional strategic plan for opioid abatement



Informal Regional Collaboration: Examples

Community Engagement

- One municipality hosts a **regional listening session** to get community feedback on opioid abatement strategies
- Municipalities work together to develop a **community survey**, share among towns, and aggregate data

Directing funds to common services

- Munis **identify regional opioid provider/s** to dedicate funds
- Region where transportation to opioid services is a concern **engage a regional transportation provider**



We Can Help!

MAHB can help municipalities navigate the fiscal and/or legal considerations associated with forming an OAC.

Submit a TTA Request Form on the RIZE Website at:
<https://mosaic.rizema.org/municipal-tta/>

RISE MOSAIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITY:

GREAT MEADOWS PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Bedford | Carlisle | Concord | Lincoln | Sudbury | Wayland | Weston

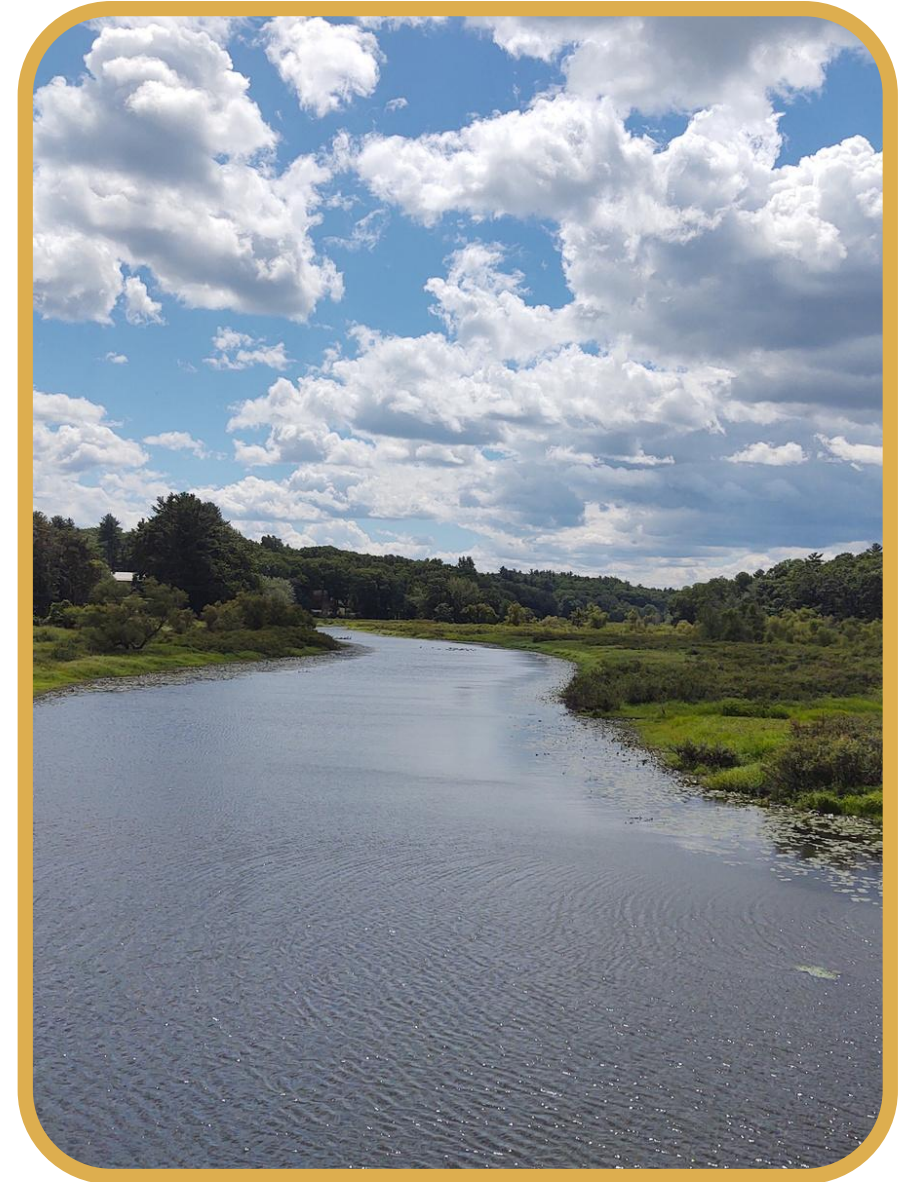
Olivia Dufour, MPH



REGIONAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY

- Heidi Porter, Bedford
- Linda Fantasia, Carlisle
- Melanie Dineen, Concord
- Dan Pereira, Lincoln
- Vivian Zeng, Sudbury*
- Julia Junghanns, Wayland
- Kelly Pawluczzonek, Weston



*host
municipality

OUR TEAM



KELLI M. CALO (1 FTE)

SHARED SERVICES COORDINATOR



OLIVIA DUFOUR (1 FTE)

REGIONAL SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION SPECIALIST*



ANN LOREE (1 FTE)

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



ERIN OLSON (0.5 FTE)

REGIONAL HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

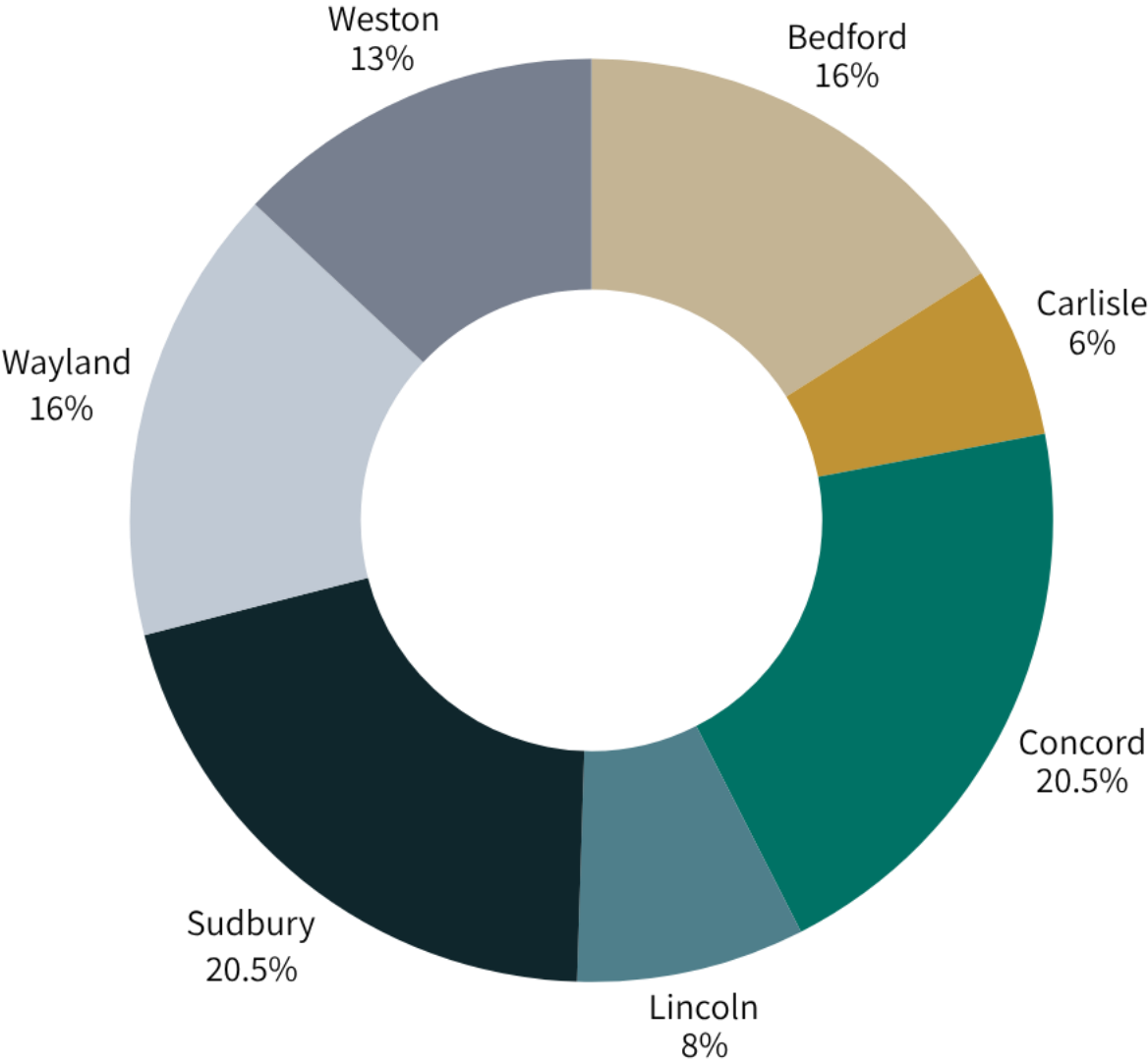


VACANT (0.5 FTE)

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

COST BREAKDOWN

Cost based on each town's share of the total regional population

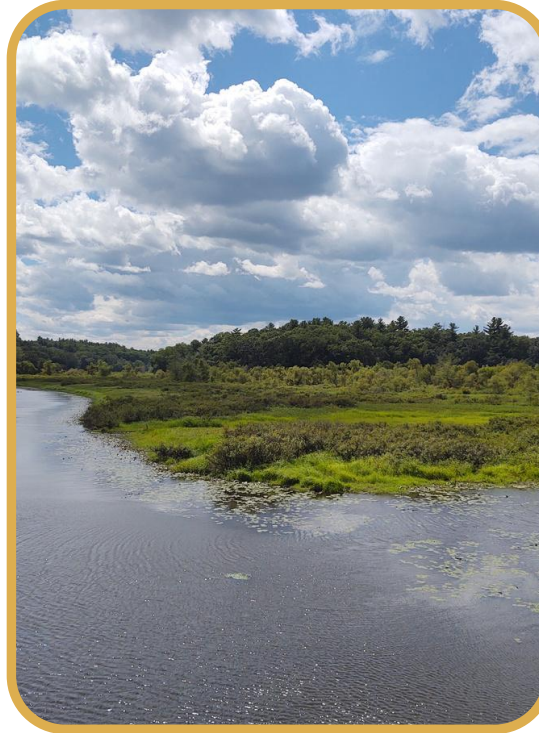


INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

- Drafted in January, 2024
- Municipal attorneys review IMA
- IMA signed in September, 2024

WHY AN IMA?

- Creates a governance structure
- Secured financial commitments, ensuring funds are used for the Coordinator
- Provides a framework for handling situations where a municipality cannot meet its financial obligations, ensuring the program's continuity and effectiveness



REGIONAL SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION COORDINATOR

Role:

- Develop and implement evidence-based substance/opioid use related programs in collaboration with each community
- Evaluate needs related to substance/opioid use
- Enlist the support and participation of public and private agencies in carrying out educational programs and addressing addiction and substance use problems specific to the needs of constituents.
- Develop, coordinate, and manage a regional substance use prevention coalition
- Provide education and resources to community members on substance use prevention and recovery
- Collect and analyze data on the effectiveness of coalition efforts
- Develop and maintain relationships with community partners, Town agencies including schools, healthcare providers, places of worship, and community organizations



INTRODUCING
**SAFE GREAT
MEADOWS**

A regional coalition for substance
use prevention, treatment, and
recovery.





VISION

We envision a connected and resilient community in the Great Meadows region that is free from stigma and recognizes all pathways of recovery.

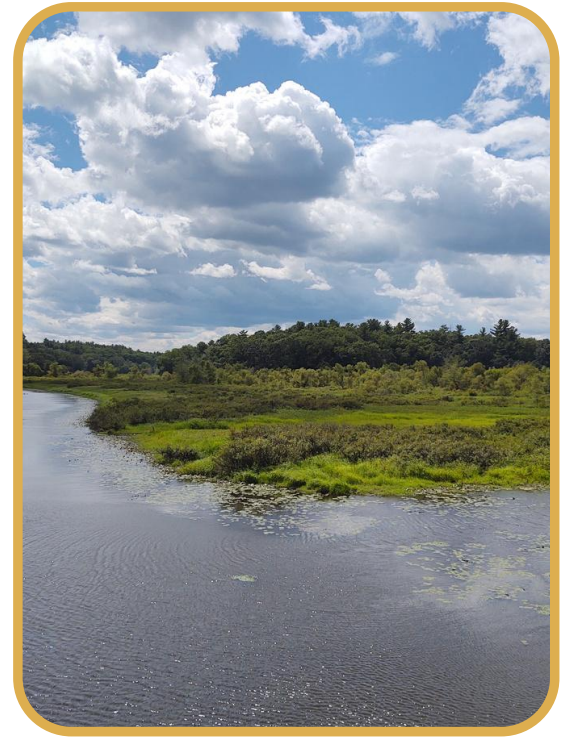
MISSION

To support safe, informed, and healthy communities by promoting education, prevention, and harm reduction strategies around substance use. We believe in meeting people where they are, reducing stigma, and building lasting connections to care.



WHY REGIONALIZE?

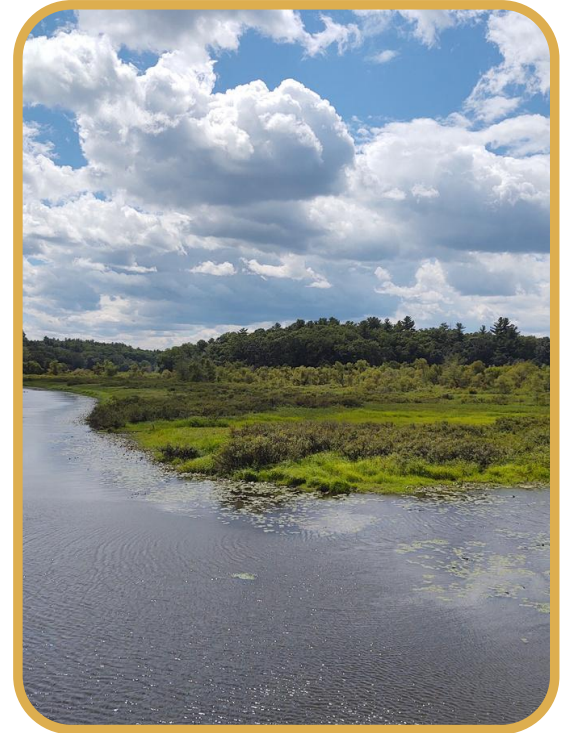
- **Increase capacity:**
 - The health departments in our region have an average staff size of 3.7 persons (excluding regional staff)
- **Reduce duplication of effort:**
 - The communities in our region generally have similar needs and resources, by regionalizing we can have programming that addresses these needs without having to operate it 7 different times
- **Maintain flexibility:**
 - By only pooling a portion of funds, our communities can still use the money to fund initiatives that are important to their specific community, while tapping into the regional efforts



WHY REGIONALIZE?

- **Reporting:**

- The regional reporting structure means only one community has to report on the activities of the group
- Through my position, we have increased support for both the regional report and individual reports, and are better able to ensure that reports are consistent and reflect the work being done in our communities.



COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS:

Building relationships with existing organizations that are already doing the work to create a network of providers and community-based organizations that can work together towards our common goal: preventing and treating harmful substance use.

- Town Health Departments
- Public Libraries
- Schools
- Emerson Hospital
- MOAR
- Engage Wellness
- Forrest Recovery
- Kiwi Recovery
- Pyramid Healthcare
- RISE at JRI
- Heartwell Institute
- Learn2Cope
- & more!



COMMUNITY LEVEL FEEDBACK

THREE PRONG APPROACH:



Goal: Gather community input on the spending of opioid settlement funds in individual municipalities, and guide the priorities of programming from the region.

COMMUNITY LEVEL FEEDBACK

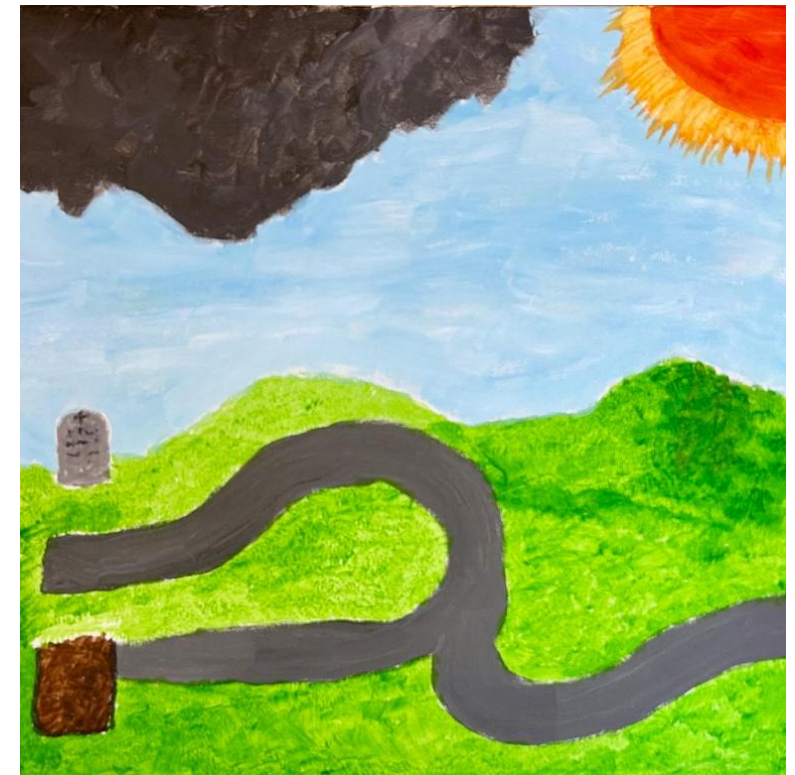
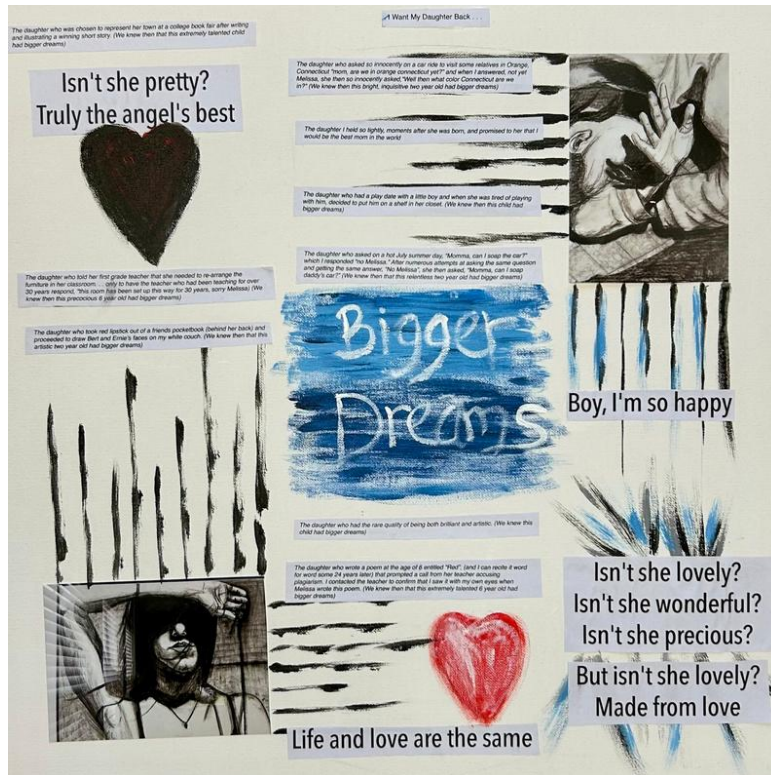
DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY:

- WE ARE USING THE “LIVE, WORK, PRAY, AND PLAY” DEFINITION OF A COMMUNITY MEMBER FOR THIS ASSESSMENT.
 - Town borders are not hard and fast! People can spend just as much time, if not more, in communities they do not live in due to work, volunteering, faith based practices, etc.
 - People who use drugs and people in recovery may intentionally seek resources outside of the communities where they live to avoid stigma



THE OPIOID PROJECT

Through grant funding from Emerson Hospital we were able to put on the Opioid Project, an arts based initiative which aims to start conversations around opioid use and reduce stigma.



SUCCESSES

- Getting the IMA approved by all 7 municipalities
- Streamlined Narcan availability
- Running the Opioid Project
- Engaging with community stakeholders
- Gathering community feedback through surveys and focus groups



CHALLENGES

- Getting the IMA approved by all 7 municipalities
- Building community buy-in
- Communicating with the public about the work



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

- We're almost a year into this endeavor!
 - Analyze the data from our survey results
 - Bring programming into the region based on priorities identified in the survey results
 - Create a community advisory board for continued community involvement in programming and initiatives
 - Evaluate effectiveness of programming



THANK YOU

Olivia Dufour, Regional Substance Use Prevention Coordinator
dufouro@sudbury.ma.us



Great Meadows
PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

Hampshire County Opioid Settlement Fund Collaborations

Taylor McAndrew, Director of Substance Use Prevention
Lauren Kelly, Hampshire HOPE Coordinator
Northampton Department of Health & Human Services



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Northampton Department of
Health & Human Services



Harnessing Coalition Power

Hampshire HOPE: multi-sector, county-wide coalition focused on the impacts of opioid use and misuse began to brainstorm a regional role they could play

Ideas: regional technical assistance; education to towns; collect data & disseminate

- Fall/Winter 2024: Ad-Hoc Group created to develop survey
 - BOH members, epidemiologist/data specialists, coalition partners, public health workers
- Feb. 2024 survey launches; Begin to assess in April 2024 (270 responses)
 - Targeted service providers, peer centers, housing authority, shelters, libraries & partner meetings
 - Considerations: Spanish translation, call-in option, paper prints, and mail-home/postage provided
- Continued through Summer 2024, **ending with 446 responses total**
 - Primarily people who work in the field & indiv. with loved ones impacted

Municipal Collaboration & Public Health Excellence

**Working towards
public health
excellence
together**



- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Amherst | 8. Hatfield |
| 2. Chester | 9. Huntingdon |
| 3. Chesterfield | 10. Middlefield |
| 4. Cummington | 11. Northampton |
| 5. Easthampton | 12. Plainfield |
| 6. Granby | 13. Southampton |
| 7. Hadley | 14. Worthington |

Hampshire Public Health Shared Services Collaborative (hosted by Northampton DHHS)

- Est. in 2022 in Hampshire County (and beyond) via Blueprint for Public Health Excellence & OLRH
- Aims to pool resources between municipalities to help expand reach and capacity
 - MOAs/IMAs that codify partnership and funding
- Work Plan includes: food and housing inspectional services; regional public health nursing
 - **Also specifically names OEND via Hampshire HOPE**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Northampton Department of
Health & Human Services



Regional Success Story: Municipal Matching Grant

Leveraged municipal partnerships, along with data from the surveying & local providers to inform application

Goal: Bolster harm reduction support and peer connection via mobile outreach, with special attention to geographically isolated communities

- Survey identified harm reduction support & connecting individuals to care as top priorities
 - Additional needs: severe lack of housing, full shelters, and increasing number of individuals who are houseless
- Strengthened partnership between two key regional CBOs
- Consideration of financial resources, abatement funds & readiness
 - Amherst, Easthampton, and Northampton earmarking \$50,000 each with plan to serve all 14 communities
- Continue to engage PWLLE along with compensation



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Northampton Department of
Health & Human Services



(Re)Establishing Regional Work Group

- Engaged long-standing and emerging municipal partners
 - Belchertown
 - Easthampton
 - Foothills Health District - Goshen, Westhampton, Williamsburg
 - Hampshire Public Health Shared Services Collaborative
 - Northampton
 - South Hadley
 - Ware
- Monthly virtual meetings
 - Resource sharing
 - Lessons learned and best practices
 - Opportunities for formal and informal collaboration
- Individual support and capacity building
 - Attend municipal advisory committee meetings
 - Present existing data and resources for select boards and boards of health

Hampshire County Opioid Settlement Fund Resources

HEROIN/OPIOD PREVENTION & EDUCATION
HAMPSHIRE HOPE

Hampshire HOPE is a multi-sector coalition addressing substance use and addiction through policy, practice, and systems change across Hampshire County. **Here are some ways Hampshire HOPE can support local municipalities with settlement funds.**

- 1 Present data and findings from the 2024 Hampshire County Settlement Fund Survey.
- 2 Provide overview of Massachusetts guidance and resources on settlement funds.
- 3 Offer recommendations, frameworks, and best practices for settlement funds utilization.
- 4 Facilitate collaboration opportunities with other Hampshire County municipalities
- 5 Attend Board of Health, Select Board, or Advisory Committee Meeting.

Hampshire HOPE hosts a monthly regional opioid settlement funds working group with municipal and community partners.

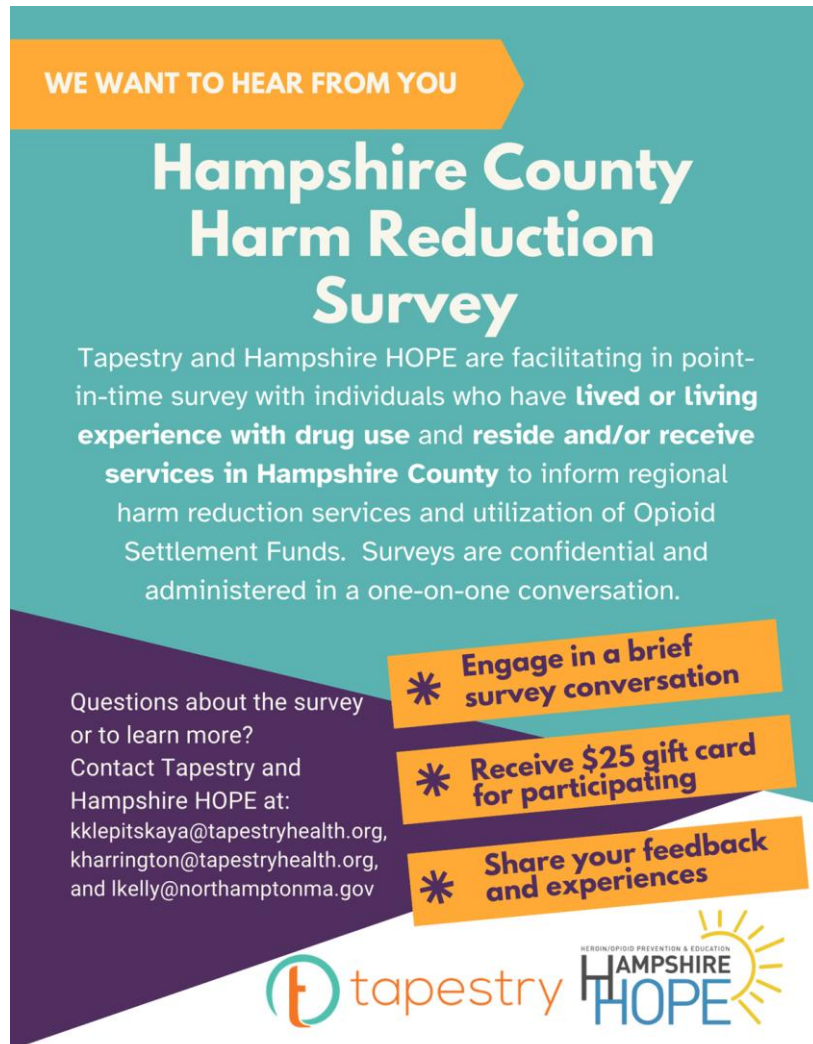
Contact Lauren Kelly, Hampshire HOPE Coordinator to request a presentation or informational meeting at lkelly@northamptonma.gov.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Northampton Department of
Health & Human Services



Centering Voices of PWLE in Settlement Fund Dollars



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Hampshire County Harm Reduction Survey

Tapestry and Hampshire HOPE are facilitating a point-in-time survey with individuals who have **lived or living experience with drug use** and **reside and/or receive services in Hampshire County** to inform regional harm reduction services and utilization of Opioid Settlement Funds. Surveys are confidential and administered in a one-on-one conversation.

Questions about the survey or to learn more?
Contact Tapestry and Hampshire HOPE at:
kklepitskaya@tapestryhealth.org,
kharrington@tapestryhealth.org,
and lkelly@northamptonma.gov

- * Engage in a brief survey conversation
- * Receive \$25 gift card for participating
- * Share your feedback and experiences

Opportunity/outcome from regional survey: Engage more community members with lived & living experiences to inform use of opioid settlement fund dollars

Point in Time Surveys

- Understand needs and experiences of people who use drugs
- Identify barriers, strengths, and opportunities of existing regional harm reduction services
- Inform opportunities for opioid settlement fund dollars

PiT Survey Implementation

Format: Surveys administered through brief interviews (10-15 minutes) with trained facilitators. Compensation for participation is \$25. Administered at public-facing sites hosted in collaboration with community and municipal partners

Spring 2025: Developed survey plan and implementation timeline

Summer 2025: Piloted draft survey with 11 community members

Fall 2025: Administering surveys across Hampshire County through community partners serving as host sites, many other community and municipal partners have helped to advertise and promote the survey

- 47 survey participants (so far)
- 15 survey sites
- 6 municipalities represented in survey sites (Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Hadley, Huntington, Northampton, Pelham)

Thank you!

Taylor McAndrew: Director of Substance Use Prevention
tmcandrew@northamptonma.gov

Lauren Kelly: Hampshire HOPE Coordinator
lkelly@northamptonma.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Northampton Department of
Health & Human Services



Q & A



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Important Dates

Date	Activities
October 20	• Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Office Hours
November 1	• BSAS expenditure report due
November 7	• Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Round 2: Application Closes

Get in Touch

Requests for Training & Technical Assistance?

Submit a TTA request at mosaic.rizema.org

OR

Reach out via email to munitta@rizema.org

Please fill out our survey!



mosaic
opioid recovery partnership

Thank You!

mosaic.rizema.org

