



THE KRAFT CENTER

for Community Health

Innovations in Addiction Treatment and Harm Reduction **Program Participants Biographies**

Julie Burns, President and CEO, RIZE Massachusetts (Program Host)



Julie Burns is the president and CEO of RIZE Massachusetts and leads the foundation's work researching, investing in, and expanding evidence-based treatment solutions as well as building coalitions across the nonprofit, public, and private sectors to end the opioid overdose epidemic in Massachusetts. Previously, Julie was a senior director at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation overseeing communication strategy, strategic planning, and administration. Prior to her work with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Julie worked for former Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino in a number of roles including deputy chief of staff; director of the Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events; president of the Fund for Boston Neighborhoods; and executive director of Boston 2004, Inc., created to host the 2004 Democratic National Convention. She received her Bachelor of Arts in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University, has a graduate certificate in public relations from Emerson College, and has completed senior executive programs at Babson University, Bentley University, and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Julie recently served as member of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Office of Recovery Services Substance Use Prevention Advisory Board and serves her community on several nonprofit boards and commissions.

Dr. Elsie Taveras, Executive Director, Kraft Center for Community Health; Chief Community Health Equity Officer, Mass General Brigham; Chief of Division of Academic Pediatrics, MassGeneral Hospital for Children (Program Host)



Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH is the executive director of the Kraft Center for Community Health. Dr. Taveras is Chief Community Health Equity Officer at the Mass General Brigham, and Chief of Division of Academic Pediatrics at the MassGeneral Hospital for Children.

Dr. Taveras is a pediatrician and epidemiologist by training and a national leader in community health who has focused her career on developing clinical-community programs that improve the health of children and families while reducing health disparities. She has extensive experience building clinical-community partnerships for chronic disease prevention and management and has directed the implementation of many community and population health programs to promote health and health equity for disadvantaged populations.

Josh Kraft, President, Kraft Family Philanthropies (Panel Moderator)



Josh Kraft is the president of Kraft Family Philanthropies and is responsible for the Kraft family's many philanthropic initiatives, including the Kraft Family Foundation, the Kraft Center for Community Health, the Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism, the Patriots Foundation, the Revolution Charitable Foundation and the family's participation in the REFORM Alliance. Through these programs, the Kraft family annually contributes tens of millions of dollars in support of education, health, social justice, diversity, youth development and family initiatives. Historically, the family has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to their communities.

Prior to his full-time commitment as the President of the Kraft Family Philanthropies, Kraft spent 30 years with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB), including 12 as the Nicholas President and CEO. He started his BGCB career in 1990 as a program coordinator at what is now the Edgerley Family South Boston Club. He then became the Founding Executive Director of the Gerald and Darlene Jordan Club in Chelsea, which originated in the basement of a public housing development in 1993, and led the development of a new facility in 2002.

Kraft also serves on the boards of Brandeis University, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Herren Project, and is a co-chair of the Hate Crimes Task Force for Massachusetts. He received his bachelor's degree from Williams College and his master's in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Marylou Sudders, Secretary of Health and Human Services (Opening Remarks)



Marylou Sudders serves as Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, overseeing 12 agencies and MassHealth, with a combined budget of \$24 billion and 22,000 public employees delivering essential services that touch the lives of 1 in 4 state residents.

Since joining Governor Baker's cabinet in January 2015, Sudders has advanced strategic policy priorities, including: restructuring MassHealth into a population-based health coverage system, reforming the child welfare system, addressing the opioid epidemic, integrating physical and behavioral health care and strengthening community-based services. Sudders co-chairs the Governor's Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness, the Governor's Interagency Council on Aging, and chairs the Autism Commission as well as the board of the Massachusetts Health Connector, the state's health insurance marketplace.

Sudders has held leadership roles across the public and private sectors, including serving as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health, a non-profit CEO, and associate professor and program chair at Boston College School of Social Work. Sudders holds a bachelor's degree with honors and a master's degree in social work from Boston University, and honorary doctorates from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and Bridgewater State University.

Monique Tula, Executive Director of the National Harm Reduction Coalition (Keynote Speaker)



Monique Tula is the Executive Director of the National Harm Reduction Coalition. Monique has devoted her career to lifting the voices of people pushed into society's margins. Central to her belief system is the deep awareness of our interconnectedness regardless of individual circumstances. Included in her many accomplishments, Monique has served as Commissioner with the Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Commission, Co-Chair of the Boston Ryan White Planning Council's public policy committee, Co-Chair of the MA Statewide Prevention Planning Group's Advocacy & Activism Committee and was the Director of Program Planning and Development with AIDS Action Committee in Boston.

Dr. Kavita Babu, Professor of Emergency Medicine, Director of the Division of Toxicology, UMass Memorial Hospital (Panelist)



Kavita M. Babu, MD, is Director of the Division of Medical Toxicology and a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Her research interests include educational and research strategies for overdose and injury prevention, compassionate care for patients with addiction, and advanced surveillance of emerging drugs. She is currently conducting a NIDA-funded investigation of patients with near-fatal overdoses who present to the Emergency Department. She was the first author of a New England Journal of Medicine article titled, "Prevention of Opioid Overdose."

After completing her medical training, Dr. Babu served as Assistant Program Director of the Emergency Medicine Residency at UMass, worked in the community at University Community Hospital in Tampa, FL, and then served as an emergency physician and medical toxicologist at Rhode Island Hospital. In 2012, she returned to UMass as Fellowship Director in Medical Toxicology., assuming the role of Division Chief in 2017. In 2017, she founded the Overdose Prevention Fund, a philanthropic effort aimed at preventing overdose deaths.

In the summer of 2018, she was appointed the Chief Opioid Officer for the UMass Health System, helming the Opioid Crisis Task Force which focuses on improving opioid prescribing, increasing access to medications for opioid use disorders, providing education, and combating stigma. In 2020, she became the project director for a state/ Kraft Foundation-funded mobile addiction service in Worcester.

Dr. Alexander Walley, Associate Professor of Medicine, Boston University (Panelist)



Alexander Y. Walley, M.D., M.Sc., is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine and a general internist and addiction medicine specialist at Boston Medical Center. He has been the director of the Grayken Addiction Medicine Fellowship program since 2011. His research focuses on the medical complications of substance use, specifically HIV and overdose. He provides primary care and office-based addiction treatment for patients with HIV at Boston Medical Center. He founded BMC's inpatient Addiction Consult Service in 2015 and the Faster Paths low-barrier access clinic in 2016. He is the medical director for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Opioid Overdose

Prevention Program. Since 2007, the MDPH program has trained over 90,000 people in Massachusetts's communities, including people at-risk for overdose and their social networks.

Liz Whynott, Director of Harm Reduction Programs, Tapestry (Panelist)



Liz Whynott, Director of Harm Reduction Programs directs Tapestry's Harm Reduction Programs in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties in western MA. She has extensive experience in HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and working with people who use drugs. She has advocated for, developed and implemented five syringe exchange programs in western MA (Holyoke: 2012, Greenfield: 2016, North Adams, 2016, Springfield 2018, Chicopee 2019). She serves as board/steering committee member of ENDHepCMA, a statewide coalition to end Hepatitis C; the Franklin County Opioid Task Force; the Hampshire HOPE Opioid Task Force; and the Greater Springfield Opioid Crisis Collaborative (GSOCC).

Rigoberto Quinones, Harm Reductionist (Panelist)



I'm Rigoberto Quinones 54 yrs old born in the State of New Jersey and this is where my story of life of "Harm Reduction Out of the Woods", began. The streets of Newark NJ where I began to circle around to drugs in my town. Drugs (Cocaine, Heroin) was my way of escape into the wild lifestyle of meeting same like people for several years. Harming myself and other people was high trip of also dealing and coping with my friends and my addictions. There, one day of my drug addiction I found myself in New York City on the next harm to myself and the persons who would join in my venture around "Big Apple City".

It was Seventeen (17) years of my life that was drained, wasted because my mind was hooked to the thrill of injecting this drug called heroin into my veins! How that lifestyle drew me closer to parties and hanging out with men and women that didn't seem or mind to be around Rigoberto Quinones. Alcohol was my next journey it took me around town like a ticking time clock with no regrets to life. When life was near to my last breathe! I couldn't take it anymore living the wild lifestyle in NYC anymore. I reached out for help and that's when I made a choice in wanting to seek medical help from my best friend "Anonymous" who reached out on time drove miles to NYC from where I reside today State of Massachusetts.

Several Hospitals have been very helpful in directing my life of the Wild lifestyle of drugs!

Today I Rigoberto Quinones is thankful for Brockton Neighborhood Health Center and the Medical Providers that continue to provide the medical care I seek to the life of "Harm Reduction Out of the Woods" the City where I reside Brockton, MA. I have use this level of control to become a Skilled, Gifted Soul to bring Gifts of Blessings because of my cause to Ash Street Park Neighborhood Association to Our Community People and Families and kids of Special Needs Populations. This is my life story of "Harm Reduction Out of the Woods"!