



## **Regional Substance Use Disorders Summit for Young Adults Help, Hope, and Recovery**

### **Presenter Biographies & Exhibitors**

## *Biographies*

### ***Dr. Robert Johnson, Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth***

Dr. Robert Johnson was appointed chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on March 7, 2017, and began his leadership of the 8,700-student research university on July 1, 2017. He had previously served as president of Becker College in Worcester. A frequent presenter and commentator on issues related to the future of work, Dr. Johnson strongly believes that college graduates must be professionally and intellectually agile to compete in a world where career mobility is the norm and individuals must continuously build their personal value. A native of Detroit, MI, Dr. Johnson holds a PhD in higher education administration from Touro University International, a master's degree in education administration from the University of Cincinnati and a bachelor's degree in economics from Morehouse College.

### ***The Z.Y.G., Performer, Soul Poet's Syndicate***

The Z.Y.G. (Morgan J. Peters, II) is an MC and master percussionist, and founding member of the spoken-word collective Soul Poet's Syndicate. The Z.Y.G. made his debut as a studio session drummer at the age of 7 on the EDM album, "DEEP Soul Chants & Hollers," regularly tours and performs with soul-funk-blues band The GroovaLottos, and has been a headlining performer at the Boston Jazz Fest for the last three years in a row.

Born in the Bronx, NY, and growing up in his tribal ancestral homeland of Mashpee, he is a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Youth Council as well as a student at Mashpee High School where he plays for the schools jazz band. Making his debut in 2016 on an underground mixtape by rap group TMK Squad; The Z.Y.G. literally took his skills to the street as a part of The Phunk Hits touring street concert series, performing throughout Southeastern New England. A founding member of the spoken-word collective, Soul Poet's Syndicate, he and the group are in the beginning stages of developing their album, having just released their Anti-Opioids Anthem, "FLIPPIN" as their debut.

To get a free copy of "FLIPPIN" by the Soul Poet's Syndicate, visit <http://facebook.com/soulpoetssyndicate> and click the "Contact Us" button.

### ***Jonathan Kolodziej, Boston College student***

Jonathan is a master's student at the Boston College School of Social Work. His concentration is in health and mental health, with a focus on social policy and community organizing. Currently, Jonathan is working as the house manager in the collegiate recovery program at Boston College.

### ***Dr. Donna McCarten White, RN, CS, CADAC, Chairperson, Massachusetts Nurses Association Addictions Council***

Dr. White is the former addiction specialist for the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, a public health hospital for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She is the former chief operating officer and nurse executive at Worcester State Hospital. In addition, she was the director of nurses and the director of chemical dependency services and the Dual Diagnosis Program at Pembroke Psychiatric Hospital.

She is a graduate of Boston City Hospital School of Nursing and earned a BSN from Curry College in 1985. In addition, she holds an MSN from the University of Massachusetts Boston, is a licensed drug and alcohol counselor with an additional certification in advanced drug and alcohol counseling, is certified in chemical dependency and addictions nursing, and is certified by the ANCC as a clinical nurse specialist in public health nursing.

Dr. White is the 2006 recipient of the Peer Assistance Award from IntNSA and was recently inducted as a board certified fellow at the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. In 2007, she was the first recipient of the Fong-Bressler Award for Outstanding Preceptorship in the Graduate Nursing Program for the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. MNA awarded her the Addictions Award in 2009. In October, 2010, she was recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with the award of Champion of Public Health. In May, 2011, she was awarded the Nancy Valentine Leadership Award from the New England Chapter of APNA and in 2013, she was voted Mentor of the Year by the International Nurses Society on Addiction Nurses. Most recently, she was given the Heart of Nursing Award from the UMass Boston Sigma Theta Tau Chapter. And in 2015, she was inducted as a fellow as an addictions expert in IntNSA. She is the recipient of many community awards and nominations.

Dr. White is the statewide chairperson of the Massachusetts Nurses Association Addictions Council, is certified by the Green Cross Foundation as an educator and therapist in compassion fatigue and is a specialist in addictive disorders, compassion fatigue, and vicarious traumatization in healthcare professionals. In addition, she is a member of the International Trauma Specialists. Dr. White is a clinical instructor for Boston-area colleges of nursing, graduate NP programs as well as baccalaureate level for community health clinical work, and is a visiting scholar for local colleges. In addition, she provided oversight for the clinical practicums of counseling students and consults to department chairs for all medical/professional clinical experience rotations at the Shattuck Hospital. She has lectured at many facilities and agencies and is a recognized leader in the field of addictions, impaired practice and peer assistance, as well as healthcare professional.

***Kyle Costa, Detective, Dartmouth Police Department, Investigative Services Division***

Kyle is a twenty-eight year law enforcement veteran, who is currently a detective with the town of Dartmouth police department. Though his training is extensive and he is proficient in numerous investigative components, he specializes in crimes against persons. Some of his more prominent investigations include human trafficking and enticement of children on the Internet.

In addition to his role as a detective, Kyle is also very active in the community, where he works intimately with Dartmouth Community Television (DCTV) to produce Public Services Announcements regarding safety. Kyle also donates his time to various causes, including yearly toy, clothing and food drives. Most notably, Kyle is also co-chair of Community Offering Prevention through Education (C.O.P.E.), where he works side-by-side with other community stakeholders to educate the public not only about the dangers associated with opioid addiction, but also the numerous services available to those seeking assistance.

Kyle is very active with the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), where he instructs and also sits on a statewide committee responsible for the design and implementation of training associated with domestic violence and sexual assaults. Kyle received his B.A., *magna cum laude*, Curry College, 2000.

***Scott Hile, Officer, Bridgewater Police Department, Drug Recognition Expert***

Scott is a police officer with the Town of Bridgewater and has been a full-time police officer for about 10 years. He is a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and has extensive training and experience in society's drug problem, including drug investigations, addiction problems, and treatment options. He is actively involved in reducing the drug and addiction problem by enforcing the drug laws and being an E-Board member of the Bridgewater Substance Abuse Coalition. He has a master's degree from Bridgewater State University.

***Andrew Robinson, Prevention Program Manager, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services***

Andy has over 15 years of experience in the field of substance abuse prevention, public health, education, and youth development. For the past two and a half years he has served in the role of Prevention Program Manager for the Department of Public Health- Bureau of Substance Addiction Services managing substance abuse prevention programs across the state. For almost four years prior to that Andy had been providing technical assistance to substance use prevention coalitions across Massachusetts as part of MassTAPP (The Massachusetts Technical Assistance Partnership for Prevention). His expertise includes community health assessment, strategic planning, organizational development, community organizing, and policy development. He also brings to the table diverse professional experience in public education, violence prevention, health education, and youth residential treatment. Andy holds a B.A in Education from Carroll University and served four years as an elected member of the Brockton School Committee in Brockton, MA.

***Dr. Michael Rocha, Cardiologist, Hawthorn Medical Associates & Founder, Physicians to Prevent Opioid Abuse & New Bedford Wellness Initiative***

Michael Rocha, MD, is a cardiologist with Hawthorn Medical Associates in Dartmouth, MA, who grew up in nearby New Bedford, MA. He co-founded the Physicians to Prevent Opioid Abuse (PPOA) in 2016 in response to the opioid crisis facing our community. The mission of PPOA is to address the issue by focusing on advocacy, public health outreach, and providing education for the local healthcare community. The group has held public forums, hosted continuing education events, and participates in the New Bedford Opioid Task Force.

Dr. Rocha earned his medical degree at UMass Medical School and completed his postgraduate medical training in internal medicine and cardiology at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. He believes that no one should lose their life to substance use disorder or drug overdose, and that physicians need to respond to this extraordinary emergency with extraordinary efforts.

***Rev. David Lima, Executive Minister of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford***

David has been the executive minister of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford since December 2006. Rev. Lima had served in a variety of leadership positions for the council and was president from 2001-2005. He is a lifelong New Bedford resident. In 2000, the Rev. David Lima, along with his wife of 37 years, the Rev. Joanne Lima, were called to serve as senior pastors of the New

Seasons Worship Center in Freetown, MA. Rev. Lima divides his time serving the needs of the council, community, and his congregation.

His commitment to community ministry brought Rev. Lima to the work and mission of the ICC. During his time as executive minister of the council, Rev. Lima has worked close with community organizations and leaders to deepen the faith community's role. Working to help bring about positive change and to raise public awareness is a strong part of the present goals of the council. Part of the mission statement of the council reads "...to promote Christian unity through loving service, public witness and building community." To live out that mission, Rev. Lima has worked to deepen or establish programs in the schools, while also working beside the police, working on issues of homelessness and crime, and ministering to families dealing with violence. He leads the Greater New Bedford Suicide Prevention Coalition and last year was recipient of a Leadership in Suicide Prevention Award at the statehouse. The newest outreach of the ICC is a collaboration with the New Bedford Police Dept., PAACA, and Seven Hills Behavioral Health to visit the addresses where an opioid overdose with Narcan used has taken place.

***Dr. Craig Longo, Emergency Medicine, Saint Luke's Hospital***

Dr. Longo was born and raised in New Bedford. He graduated from New Bedford High School as class valedictorian in 1998 and attended UMass Amherst, where he graduated summa cum laude in 2002, with a BS in biology and minor in psychology. He attended UMass Medical School (Worcester), graduating in 2006. He remained at UMass Medical, where he completed his residency in emergency medicine in 2009. He has been employed by St. Luke's since 2009, working the overnight shift exclusively for the past six years. Dr. Longo resides in Dartmouth with his wife, Jenn, and their kids Jack (9) and Madison (6).

***Melissa-Ann Pognon, Student and Peer Health Educator, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth***

Melissa-Ann Pognon, originally from Brockton, MA, is a junior nursing major at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. An active student leader outside the classroom, Melissa also serves as a peer health educator, resident assistant, and orientation leader. She holds leadership positions in several student organizations, including: Breakthrough to Nursing chair for the Student Nurses Association, vice president of Curly in College, and co-chair of the Unity Fest.

***Thomas M. Quinn III, District Attorney, Bristol County***

Thomas M. Quinn III is the district attorney of Bristol County, serving as chief prosecutor of all crimes that occur in the county's 20 cities and towns. He was appointed to the position by Governor Charlie Baker on January 15, 2015. His appointment received widespread support from the community who cited his 25+ years of experience in the justice system, including eight years as first assistant to Sam Sutter, and his commitment to the community as a lifelong resident of Bristol County.

District Attorney Quinn has already outlined and advanced several top priorities of his administration which include the prevention of elder abuse and domestic violence, and supporting positive programming for at-risk youth. Additionally, he increased the use of dangerousness hearings to keep dangerous criminals off the county's streets, and has continued the office's approach to aggressively and appropriately prosecute gun violence, gang, and drug-related cases. When he is not overseeing criminal matters, he focuses on crime prevention by educating people on various issues, and by encouraging youth to stay involved in positive activities.

***Dennis B. Roderick, Full-Time Lecturer in Crime and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth***

Dennis B. Roderick is a full-time lecturer in crime and justice studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and former adjunct assistant professor of psychology at MCPHS University, Boston, MA. He also serves as consulting director of forensic and clinical services, Strategies for Progress, in Cranston, RI.

Prior to coming to the UMassD in 2000, Professor Roderick held various faculty positions at the University of Rhode Island, Curry College, Endicott College, and Rhode Island College. He has held various clinical positions as a substance misuse counselor/mental health therapist throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In addition, Dennis has had experience as the director of clinical services for various regional substance use disorder treatment programs. His service at UMassD includes: being a member of the University's Alcohol Committee, member of the University's Administrative Review Board for Student Conduct Violation Cases, member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee and forensic consultant to the UMassD Police Department.

Dennis holds a BA with honors in psychology from the University of Massachusetts Boston, an MA in developmental psychology from Rhode Island College, and a PhD in counseling psychology from Columbia Pacific University in San Rafael, CA. He has extensive experience in crisis management, faculty advising to student groups, and engaging individuals with substance use disorders to seek treatment and recovery.

***Captain Timothy Sheehan, Assistant Director of Public Safety/Police Captain, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth***

Timothy is the assistant director of public safety and captain of the police department at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. In this capacity, he supervises the management of the day to day operations of the university's police department and serves as part of the senior leadership team. Captain Sheehan oversees, develops, implements and manages special activity units and assists in the development and management of departmental rules, regulations, policies and procedures. He is responsible for the institutional crime prevention program, represents public safety on university committees, and assumes responsibility for public safety in the absence of the director/chief.

Prior to coming to UMassD in 2001, Captain Sheehan held various law enforcement/public safety positions at colleges and universities in New England including: Northeastern University, Emerson College, Emmanuel College, River College and the University of Massachusetts Lowell. His experience spans 39 years in higher education.

Timothy holds a BS in criminal justice from Northeastern University and has completed coursework toward an MS in security administration at Northeastern University and an MS in criminal justice from Boston University Metropolitan College. He has extensive experience in developing programming dealing with sexual assault awareness and prevention, campus safety for students, and actively engages students in reduction programming.

## ***Exhibitors***

### ❖ **Cory's Cause**

Following a heroin overdose in 2013 which left him permanently disabled, Cory's Cause was established in 2016 to educate students and parents about drug addiction, raise awareness and education, and to help other families who are affected by addiction.

<http://coryscause.com/>

### ❖ **Gosnold**

Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Recovery

Founded in 1972, their rich history of innovative programming and commitment to excellence has made Gosnold a program of choice for addiction treatment. Throughout their history they have been committed to developing innovative programs that meet the needs of patients and families.

<http://gosnold.org>

### ❖ **Learn to Cope (LTC)**

Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MADPH), LTC has grown to have a full-staff who collaborate with communities across the state to spread messages of prevention, education, awareness, and advocacy. Learn to Cope has over 9,000 members on a private online forum, 25 chapters throughout Massachusetts, and most recently, two chapters in Florida and one in Boise, ID. LTC families receive unique support and education from professionals and their peers. Through advocacy and awareness, Mrs. Peterson collaborated with MADPH to become the first parent network in the country to provide the overdose reversal antidote nasal Naloxone. Today, 80 of the 200 LTC facilitators are trained and certified to provide overdose education and nasal naloxone kits at each chapter. Since December of 2011, there have been over 100 documented successful reversals by LTC members.

<http://www.learn2cope.org>

### ❖ **Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA)**

PAACA is dedicated to providing quality substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Since 1983, they have provided quality services to people seeking help regardless of their income or insurance status. They are committed to helping any individual or family looking to overcome addiction. As a leading provider of community based recovery services, they take pride in offering the best client centered services. They are dedicated to serving the needs of their customers each and every day.

<http://www.paaca.org>

❖ **Seven Hills**

Seven Hills Foundation has a 64-year history of caring for people who have the ability to thrive when given the support, respect, and dignity that all human beings deserve. The basic principle of serving others is the cornerstone of the foundation upon which Seven Hills is built. Since a group of parents in Central Massachusetts came together to advocate for their children in 1951, the momentum of advocacy and social justice has grown exponentially. Seven Hills Foundation now stands as one of the most dynamic and comprehensive health and human services agencies in the country. With over 160 locations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and seven countries abroad, Seven Hills is the premier provider of comprehensive supports for people with significant life challenges.

<http://www.sevenhills.org>

❖ **UMassD Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center provides a range of services to help students develop improved coping skills to address emotional, interpersonal, and academic concerns. The Counseling Center provides individual, couples and group counseling, and psychiatric services. The Counseling Center offers primarily short-term counseling, and will help students initiate referrals to community-based services when students need specialized or longer-term services.

<http://www.umassd.edu/counseling/>

❖ **UMassD Peer Educators**

Peer Health Educators are student leaders who support the health and wellness of the campus community by: conducting and sponsoring educational programming; disseminating accurate health information; providing referrals to on- and off-campus services; advocating for changes in campus policies and procedures which support student health. Peer Health Educators are expected to serve as leaders and role models in their efforts, and to serve as an extension of the professional staff of LiveWell: The Office of Health Education, Promotion, & Wellness and the Department of Health Services.

<http://www.umassd.edu/livewell/whatwedo/peerhealtheducation/>

❖ **Young people in Recovery (YPR)**

Young people in Recovery (YPR) is a national grassroots advocacy organization focused on creating recovery-ready communities throughout the nation for young people in, or seeking, recovery. YPR aims to improve access to treatment, educational resources, employment opportunities, and secure, quality housing on the local, state, and national levels. By creating a national network of young people in recovery, they empower young people to get involved in their communities by providing them with the tools and support to take charge of their futures.

<http://youngpeopleinrecovery.org>

## *Thank you!*

On behalf of the CONNECT Partnership and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, we would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the panelists, performers, presenters, moderators, and exhibitors for volunteering their time and for sharing their passion and expertise on this important topic.

Without the generous financial support of the Carney Foundation, the UMassD College of Nursing, the UMassD Police Department, The Leduc Center for Civic Engagement, Panera Dartmouth, and the CONNECT Partnership, this regional event would not have been possible.

We would also like to express our most sincere gratitude to Chartwells, for providing the morning refreshments and tremendous hospitality during our event, as well as UMassD Campus Services, UMassD Photographies, and the Bridgewater State University Copy Center.

Most especially, we would like to express our appreciation to all of the students who participated in this event, as well as the faculty and staff who supported them.





Please take a moment to share your feedback with us. Your comments will remain confidential and will be used to help us plan for future events.

Thank you very much!



If you would prefer to complete this survey via website, please navigate to:

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