



# Introducing the Older Adult Behavioral Health and MA Hoarding Resource Networks (OABHN and MHRN)

Cassie Cramer, LICSW, CPS [cassie@mamh.org](mailto:cassie@mamh.org)

Lee Shuer, CPS [lee@mutual-support.com](mailto:lee@mutual-support.com)

# Who we are: MAMH, OABHN & MHRN



The Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH) is a nonprofit organization that works to advance mental health and well being by promoting prevention, early intervention, effective treatment and research to address social, emotional, and mental health challenges.

Older Adult Behavioral Health Network was formed with a generous grant from Point32Health Foundation. OABHN includes members from DPH, EOEA, DMH as well as stakeholders and advocates such as: Mass Aging Access, BU CADER, MCOA, Simmons SSW, NE Independent Living Center and more

The MA Hoarding Resource Network was relaunched in 2024 and is funded by a grant from MA Community Health and Health Aging Funds. Members include people with lived experience, family members, BU School of Social Work, City Inspectional Services, Aging and Behavioral Health providers and more

# MHRN Building a Network



- Broad dissemination of information and resources to educate professionals, people with hoarding conditions, and the public; destigmatize hoarding conditions; and provide pathways to accessing supports.
- Strengthen and support regional coalitions
- Establish mailing lists, meeting schedules, web presence and communication channels.

# MHRN Landscape Analysis



- Conduct focus groups of diverse key stakeholders (COAPS, COAs, International OCD Foundation Hoarding Network, PSWs, EMHOT clinicians, TPP, inspectional services and first responders)
- Host public listening sessions
- Conduct interviews with key stakeholders (researchers, people with lived experience and family members, experts in effective interventions)
- **Identify key values, existing practices and interventions, and system strengths and gaps to provide a foundation for the MA Hoarding Resource Network's advocacy, workforce development, and public education activities**

# MHRN Education



Host community trainings on housing rights and reasonable accommodations for people with hoarding conditions to destigmatize hoarding conditions among older adults and build capacity for self-advocacy across systems.

- Train professional staff on topics such as CBT for hoarding and reasonable accommodations as a strategy to prevent homelessness and effective interventions for hoarding conditions.

# Culturally/Linguistically Responsive Peer Support



- Train bilingual facilitators to lead peer support groups.
- Provide peer-led hoarding support groups in Lowell and Holyoke
- Translate materials to increase linguistic capacity for peer-led support groups

# OABHN Advocacy



- Partnership with advocates from [Dignity Alliance Massachusetts](#), who share the common goal of transforming long-term care and expanding community-based living options for older adults and member of the Marsters Implementation BH Advisory Workgroup
- Led 2022 campaign to more than double the budget for Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (now Behavioral Health Outreach Team for Aging Populations) from 1.2 to 2.5 million in order to expand access to underserved populations. BHOAP is now overseen by EOEA
- OABHN DEIA workgroup successfully advocated for language in past EMHOT RFPs requiring agencies to demonstrate ability to provide culturally/linguistically responsive services
- Partnership with NILP and other community organizations to expand access to Certified Older Adult Peer Specialists

# OABHN Workforce Development



- Past webinars: <https://www.mamh.org/education/trainings-and-webinars>
- [Caregiving Conversations: Reflecting on Race, Older Adults, and Implications for Behavioral Health](#)
- [Preventing Evictions for At Risk Older Adults](#)
- [Breaking Down Silos: Overview of Aging Resources for Behavioral Health Providers](#)
- Reframing Aging: <https://www.reframingaging.org/>
- Mindful Aging
- [How Much is Too Much? Navigating Life's Balance \(aarp.org\)](#)

**Your ideas!**

**Save the Date- In-Person Conference May 13<sup>th</sup> 2025**



# Older Adult Behavioral Health Collaborative and Network meetings



The Older Adult Behavioral Health Collaborative meets the second Friday of the month from 930-1030

Next meeting tomorrow October 11<sup>th</sup>:

Lyn Legere from Boston University CPR SILVER  
(Supporting Individuals to Live as Vibrant Elders in Recovery)

The Older Adult Behavioral Health Network (formerly the MA Aging and Mental Health Coalition) meets directly after the Collaborative from 1030-11