

Change Attitudes, Change Actions, and Champion Recovery

Biographical Sketches



Andrew achieved his Chemistry baccalaureate in 2017 with concentrations in Mathematics and Leadership and Organizational Studies, and is now a 2018 Masters of Policy, Planning and Management candidate at the University of Southern Maine, where he is also a co-founder of the Recovery Oriented Campus Center (the ROCC), a nationally recognized Collegiate Recovery Program. Andrew sits as the North East Regional Chapter Coordinator for YPR-National (Young People in Recovery) and is also the founder of YPR-Portland, ME. In his free time, Andrew also volunteers as a Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Governance Board Member (CPPC-Maine), a NAMI-Maine Board of Directors member; an active member of the Portland Recovery Community Center (PRCC), and an associate at Nautilus Public Health. Andrew is very active with policy and advocacy in the State of Maine, has testified and presented numerous times the last 4 legislative sessions, and is passionate about influencing public opinion to re-shape public policy.



Matthew Braun is 27 years old and has been in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder since 2009. He has become one of Maine's most outspoken young people in recovery, and the national group, Young People in Recovery (YPR), awarded him the 1st Annual Charles M. Mayr Award for Outstanding Advocate of the Year in 2016. He has spoken publicly since his early recovery and has worked diligently to help many groups learn essential aspects of substance use disorders including the underlying struggles, the biopsychosocial model of treatment, the barriers and needs of people in recovery, and the importance of listening to the patient's voice.

He is currently a board member for both the Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery and the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine, and he also serves on the Maine Substance Abuse Services Commission, appointed by Governor Paul R. LePage in 2015.

He has spent the past 3 years in the prevention field. He received his B.S in Human Biology from the University of Southern Maine in 2014 and, while a student, worked full time at the Wise Laboratory of Environmental and Genetic Toxicology for 6 years, studying metal-induced carcinogenesis in human cells.

He believes that people in recovery make the world a better place and talks as often as possible about the value of recovery. He is now pursuing a degree in medicine, a field in which he is excited to incorporate all of his interests and experiences with research, public health, behavioral health, patient care, and advocacy.



Alison Webb, MPH, PS-C, is an independent public health consultant with over 20 years experience in community outreach and organizing, substance use and overdose prevention, community based substance use recovery supports, and linking community members with healthcare services.

Her work in substance use includes creating protocols for primary care physicians to refer patients to substance use treatment, promoting the Prescription Monitoring Program, conducting formative research on hard-to-reach populations such as intravenous drug users, analyzing data to detect emerging substance abuse trends, developing street outreach and overdose prevention programs, increasing access to medication assisted treatment,

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working with schools to develop substance use policies, and developing strategies for grassroots advocacy.

She has experience implementing and evaluating evidence based programs and practices in substance use prevention and treatment, recovery coaching in a correctional setting, developing communication strategies based on social marketing principals, conducting formative research, and developing messages in plain language. She has worked with and trained community groups and individuals to develop advocacy strategies for legislation to increase access to medication-assisted treatment and to prevent drug overdose deaths.

Alison has worked actively in her own community and served as President of Greater Waterville Planned Approach to Community Health, a comprehensive community health coalition. She is currently a member of the Portland Overdose Task Force, the Maine chapter of Young People in Recovery and the Maine Public Health Association. She serves on the Board of the Portland Recovery Community Center.

PANEL



Ron Springel, MD

Recovery Advocate

Maine Association of Recovery Residences

Dr. Springel, an emergency medicine-trained physician, is a person in long-term recovery who began working in Addiction Medicine in 1987. Now retired to Maine, he works with the Maine Association of Recovery Residences and is the publisher of the Maine Region Recovery Residence Directory. He spends much of his free time working with young men in early recovery from opiate use disorder.



Chief Janine Roberts is a native of Portland. After attending Portland High School and Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute, she joined the Portland Police Department in the fall of 1985 and served the citizens of Portland for 29 years.

Throughout her career with Portland PD, Janine held many positions. A few highlights include being the first female in the history of the department to obtain the positions of motorcycle officer, field training officer, evidence technician, patrol sergeant, commander of the crisis negotiations team, homeland security coordinator, and administrative lieutenant; she wrapped up her career as the lieutenant overseeing the community services division.

In September of 2014, after enjoying a short three months of retirement over the summer, Janine was asked to step into an interim police chief position for the City of Westbrook. Among other skills, her leadership style, communication abilities, community policing practices, and her ability to build and enhance relationships across all demographics landed her the full-time chief's position less than a year later. Janine proudly credits her co-workers and employees as the backbone to her success, recognizing the great team she is surrounded by and their passion to serve the Westbrook community.

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Shelby Briggs is the Coordinator for the C.A.S.H. Initiative (Community Approach to Stopping Heroin). A highly skilled, Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Substance Use Prevention Specialist and Overdose Prevention Specialist, she is dedicated to preventing Substance Use Disorder and helping to reduce the harms caused by SUD. Shelby is a leader in the addiction field and has been the recipient of multiple awards from the State Legislature, Day One, and The Women's Addiction Services Council of Maine, most notably for her work in

Youth Prevention, Overdose Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Recovery Leadership. She has a demonstrated record of success working in Substance Use Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment & Recovery, and Law Enforcement Diversion programs. She works within a Recovery Oriented System of Care model and believes that this framework, when put to practice, will solve Maine's Addiction epidemic. Although Shelby is very proud of her professional accomplishments, she is even more proud of her own personal recovery and her family. She will celebrate 24 years of recovery on May 25th 2018. Shelby is married to her best friend, Chris, and they are parents to four children. Shelby loves camping at remote lakes and hiking in Maine's vast wilderness, spending time with her family, knitting, baking, and making all sorts of interesting things out of antiques.



Leslie Clark is the Executive Director of Portland Recovery Community Center, a safe haven for people in and seeking recovery that honors all pathways. PRCC has over 2800 active members and hosts a myriad of support groups, programs, wellness activities, as well as education and advocacy aimed at eliminating stigma and discrimination. Leslie began her personal journey in recovery in 1986. Prior to PRCC, Leslie served as CEO of Greater Portland Health, and in leadership positions in nonprofit community health, mental health, advocacy, and residential treatment.