

# PROMOTING PEER SUPPORT TO HELP PEOPLE FIND AND KEEP HOUSING



## CENTRAL MASS AND WESTERN MASS PANELS

Tuesday, Jan. 17th, 9am - 2:30pm

Join us for a series of intersectional, cross-system panel discussions on strategies and challenges as peer workers, housing advocates, multi-service agencies, and housing placement agencies gather together for a conversation on supporting people to find and maintain housing

### Our Discussion

- What are the most significant barriers for people with mental health struggles to finding and maintaining housing?
- How does your team coordinate across those barriers when supporting someone to keep their housing?
- What other types of organizations do you commonly work with to fulfill those needs?

### Featuring



### Our Agenda

#### 9-9:45am | The Role of Peer Support in Helping People Find and Keep Housing

Join keynote presenters as they share their journey from being unhoused, through receiving services, to returning as powerful advocates for system transformation through their work in peer support. The lived experiences of our keynote speakers illuminate the existing service support system from the unique perspectives of recipients, providers, and advocates. **Keynote Speakers:**  
Rafael Rodriguez, Wildflower Alliance and Holyoke HEALing Communities  
Ashley Sproul, KIVA Centers

#### 9:45 - 10am | Break

**10-11:30am | Central Mass Panel.** Join our discussion and Q&A with Central Mass panelists Vesper Moore, Chief Operating Officer at **KIVA Centers**, Adrienne Cassidy, Director of Housing at **Advocates, Inc.**, and Erik Sundsted, Director of Federal Operations at **SMOC**. This panels is moderated by the **Genesis Club**.

#### 11:30 - 12pm | Lunch Break

**12-1:30pm | Western Mass Panel.** Join our discussion and Q&A with Western Mass panelists Rafael Rodriguez, trainer at **Wildflower Alliance** and **Holyoke HEALing Communities** Coalition Coordinator, Jay Levy, Regional Manager of PATH and CSPECH programs, and Jeffrey McLeod, Housing Stabilization and Engagement Counselor, at **Eliot Community Human Services**, Shaundell Diaz, Coordinated Entry Specialist at **3County Continuum of Care**, and Gerry McCafferty, Director of the **Springfield Office of Housing**. Moderated by Pamela Schwartz from the **Western Mass Coalition to End Homelessness**.

#### 1:30-1:45pm | Break

**1:45-2:30pm | Connecting with Each Other.** Enjoy 45 minutes or more to connect with participants, panelists, and workgroup members engaged in meaningful, innovative, or challenging work around housing.

**REGISTER HERE | <http://tinyurl.com/CMandWM>**



# PROMOTING PEER SUPPORT TO HELP PEOPLE FIND AND KEEP HOUSING



**WESTERN MASS PANEL | Tuesday, Jan. 17th, 12pm - 1:30pm**

Join us for a series of intersectional, cross-system panel discussions on strategies and challenges as peer workers, housing advocates, multi-service agencies, and housing placement agencies gather together for a conversation on supporting people to find and maintain housing



**RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ**

## TRAINER AND FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER- WILDFLOWER ALLIANCE

Rafael Rodriguez is a trainer at the Wildflower Alliance, a grassroots Peer Support, Advocacy, and Training organization with a focus on harm reduction and human rights. He has also served as the Holyoke HEALing Communities Study (H.C.S.) Coalition Coordinator, a NIH Study Investigating Strategies for Addressing the Opioid Epidemic.



**Wildflower Alliance**

## REGIONAL PATH PROGRAM HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Jay S. Levy has spent more than 30 years working with individuals who experience homelessness, developing Housing First programs, as well as providing outreach staff with clinical supervision. He is currently the Regional Manager of the PATH Outreach and CSPECH Housing Stabilization Programs. Jeffrey McLeod is Eliot's CSPECH Housing Stabilization and Engagement Counselor, bringing a deep knowledge of practice and the wisdom of connection across complex experiences.



**JAY LEVY & JEFFREY MCLEOD**



**SHAUNDELL DIAZ**

## 3COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE - COORDINATED ENTRY SPECIALIST

Shaundell Diaz, is a Latina, Person with Lived Experience, who works as the Coordinated Entry Coordinator for the Three County Continuum of Care/Community Action Pioneer Valley. She serves as a co-chair for the Communities that Cares Coalition's Racial Justice Workgroup, co-founder of the Hampden County Resource Network, a consultant for the National Coalition for the Homeless. She serves as a Board Member for FCRHRA Rural Development Inc., and serves as a Board Member for Craigs Doors shelter.

## SPRINGFIELD OFFICE OF HOUSING - DIRECTOR

Gerry McCafferty represents the City of Springfield regarding housing policy with residents, community groups, legislators, funders, and state and federal agencies. She has been a leader in engaging legislators, community leaders, and business as active participants in addressing our housing crisis, and in formulating innovative approaches to increase access and sustainability through programs such as emergency heating and energy assistance, incentivized neighborhood revitalization partnerships, and making city-owned property affordable for purchase to residents.



**GERRY MCCAFFERTY**

ASL interpretation available



This panel is moderated by Pamela Schwartz from the Western Mass Coalition to End Homelessness. The Western Mass Network creates collaborative solutions across Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties to prevent and end homelessness through a Housing First approach that centers racial equity.



**REGISTER HERE | <http://tinyurl.com/CMandWM>**



# PROMOTING PEER SUPPORT TO HELP PEOPLE FIND AND KEEP HOUSING

CENTRAL MASS PANEL | Tuesday, Jan. 17th, 10am - 11:30am

Join us for a series of intersectional, cross-system panel discussions on strategies and challenges as peer workers, housing advocates, multi-service agencies, and housing placement agencies gather together for a conversation on supporting people to find and maintain housing



VESPER MOORE

## KIVA CENTERS - CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



Vesper concentrates on building social movements and public knowledge to facilitate and sustain systems change. They are a skilled certified trainer of Intentional Peer Support and the MA Certified Peer Specialist Training. They have supported the development of peer-run organizations in different parts of the world.

## DIRECTOR OF HOUSING - ADVOCATES



Adrianne Cassidy has worked at Advocates since 2010, and is currently the Director of Housing. Adrianne assists with overseeing the management of the DMH Rental Subsidy Program, ATARP, and McKinney

grants. Adrianne assists people with mental health challenges to find safe and affordable housing. In addition to her work with Advocates, Adrianne has been a licensed Realtor since 2005. Adrianne has been a Co-Chair for the DMH State Mental Health Planning Council Housing Subcommittee since June 2015. In October 2016, she won a Special Recognition Award from the Association of Behavioral Healthcare Salute to Excellence. In October 2021, Adrianne won the Human Rights Award, given by Advocates BH Residential Division.



ADRIANNE CASSIDY

## DIRECTOR, FEDERAL PROGRAM OPERATIONS



Erik Sundsted is currently the Director of Federal Program Operations at South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc (SMOC) and has been with the agency since 2015. He has 25 years of experience in affordable housing with the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program as well as the private sector as a real estate investor and in rental property management. Erik worked as a Senior Market Analyst at Metro Housing/Boston for 15 years and was the recipient of Metro Housing's Embracing the Mission Award in 2010 and received recognition for National Best Practices Achievement from HUD and Quadel Consulting in 2000. Since 2009, he has also found success as a college soccer coach at Babson College in the Boston area.



ERIK SUNDSTED

ASL interpretation available

This panel is moderated by **Genesis Clubhouse**. Their mission is to ensure Genesis Club members have access to meaningful employment, safe housing, and education and find genuine belonging, friendships, and purpose. Genesis Club is an Evidence-Based Practice model, as recognized by SAMHSA.



Genesis Club



[REGISTER HERE | tiny.url/CMandWM](https://tiny.url/CMandWM)