



## Welcome!

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The Hep Free NNE Steering Committee - led by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Vermont Department of Health - welcomes you to join the effort to create the FIRST-EVER five-year Northern New England Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan!

## Summit Objectives

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- **Learn what the most recent local data says** about hepatitis B & C in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.
- Participate in interactive workshops to **confirm the Elimination Plan's priority areas.**
- **Lend your voice and experience** to a community-driven elimination planning process.

# HEP FREE NNE KICKOFF SUMMIT

*Ending Hepatitis B & C in Northern New England*

## *At-a-Glance Agenda*

<b>9:00a - 9:45a</b>	Opening Plenary
<b>9:45a - 10:00a</b>	Break
<b>10:00a - 10:45a</b>	Concurrent Panels and Presentations
<b>10:45a - 11:00a</b>	Break
<b>11:00a - 11:45a</b>	Interactive Priority-Setting for the Elimination Plan
<b>11:45a - 12:00p</b>	Next Steps and Closing Q&A

Funding for this summit is made possible by cooperative agreement #CDC-RFA-PS21-2103, "Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention Funding for Health Departments" award #NU51PS005173-03-01 (New Hampshire) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Viral Hepatitis. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement of the U.S. Government.



# Opening Plenary

9:00a - 9:45a

## ▶ OPENING REMARKS & SUMMIT GOALS

- **Bronwyn M. Barnett, MPH**, Hep Free NNE Project Manager, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
- **Chloe Manchester, MSc**, Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Alexander B. Potter, GCPH**, Principal, Caracal Consulting; Vermont Department of Health Community Planning Grantee

## ▶ THE NATIONAL VIEW ON ENDING HEPATITIS B & C

- **Boatema Ntiri-Reid, JD, MPH**, Senior Director, Syndemic Approaches, NASTAD

## ▶ ENDING HEPATITIS B & C IN NNE IS ATTAINABLE

- **Andrew Seaman, MD**, Vermont Medical Director, Better Life Partners; Associate Professor of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University; Medical Director of Hepatitis and HIV Services at Portland, Oregon's Central City Concern

## ▶ VIRAL HEPATITIS: VOICES FROM THE FIELD

- **Ryan Fowler**, NH Harm Reduction Coordinator, HIV/HCV Resource Center

## ▶ HEP FREE NNE PROJECT OVERVIEW & TIMELINE

- **Bronwyn M. Barnett, MPH**, NH DHHS

# Concurrent Sessions

10:00a - 10:45a

## ▶ NNE VIRAL HEPATITIS EPIDEMIOLOGIC PROFILE

Explore the epidemiology of viral hepatitis across the three states through the surveillance data: rates of viral hepatitis, reported risk factors, demographics, outcomes and how the region compares to the rest of the country. Data will be presented in a digestible format for clear take-aways.

- **Carrie Lones**, Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist, NH DHHS
- **Chloe Manchester, MSc**, Maine CDC
- **Alexander B. Potter, GCPH**, Caracal Consulting

## ▶ HARM REDUCTION PANEL

Harm Reduction is an essential part of the efforts to eliminate hepatitis C. Mike Selick from National Harm Reduction Coalition will moderate a panel with representatives from Syringe Service Programs in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire to talk about the barriers and opportunities for testing, linking, and curing people who use drugs through Harm Reduction services.

- **Mike Selick**, Associate Director of Capacity Building, Harm Reduction Coalition, *moderator*
- **Jess Kirby**, Director of Client Services, Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, *panelist*
- **Lauren McGinley**, Executive Director, NH Harm Reduction Coalition
- **Nikki Butler**, Southern Maine Director of Overdose Prevention, Maine Access Points, *panelist*

## ▶ DISCOVERY COMMITTEES

The Hep Free NNE Steering Committee formed three Discovery Committees to explore complex hepatitis topics - Corrections and HCV Care, Perinatal Hepatitis C, and Medicaid & MCO Partnerships. Across the three states, volunteer committees reached out to stakeholders to talk and learn, form relationships, investigate assumptions, and gather data. Hear what they learned!

- **Melissa Caminiti, MPH, RN**, Partnership Director, Groups Recover Together
- **Laurie Williams, MSN, NP**, Liver Diseases – Principal Medical Science Liaison, Gilead Sciences
- **Anne-Marie Toderico, PharmD**, Pharmacy Director, Office of MaineCare Services
- **Bronwyn Barnett, MPH**, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, NH DHHS

## ▶ NNE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

This session will present a summary from a comprehensive chorus of voices describing Northern New England's current viral hepatitis situation. The analysis is based on research including 50+ in-depth interviews and listening sessions with people representing a range of perspectives on viral hepatitis-related services including health care, public health, harm reduction, substance use treatment and recovery, and advocacy organizations. The analysis is grounded by themes gleaned from conversations with people with lived experience, led by community partners across the region.

- **Jonathan Stewart**, Senior Consultant, JSI

# Interactive Priority-Setting for the Elimination Plan

11:00a - 11:45a



## ➤ ADDING YOUR VOICE

The first iteration of priorities and goals for the Northern New England Hepatitis Elimination Plan grew out of the themes found in the epidemiology report, Situational Analysis, and Discovery Committees. These are a starting point for growth, refinement, and adaptation. Dr. de Gijssel leads an overview of how the interactive workshop session will work.

- **David de Gijssel, MD, MPH, MSc**, Chief Health Officer, Better Life Partners; Assistant Professor, Geisel School of Medicine and The Dartmouth Institute; Staff Physician, Section of Infectious Diseases & International Health, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

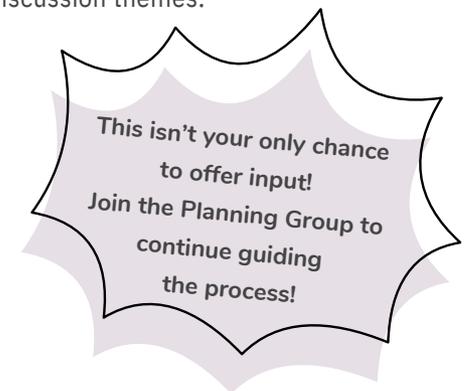
## ➤ SHARING WHAT YOU THINK | INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Attendees break into randomly-assigned small groups to examine this first iteration of goals, and share feedback, ask questions, reflect, and refine in a facilitated discussion, complemented by an interactive platform to help capture discussion themes.

- **Co-facilitated by Hep Free NNE Steering Committee members**

# Next Steps and Closing Q&A

11:45a - 12:00p | Bronwyn M. Barnett, MPH, NH DHHS



## ➤ WHAT COMES NEXT?

This is YOUR plan, take it to the finish line! The Planning Group's work kicks off TODAY! For a true tri-state collaboration, everyone needs to participate and keep sharing their voices moving forward, as well as the voices that may not be present at the table. If you have questions about next steps, this is the place to bring them.

## ➤ QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING YOU HEARD TODAY?

Thoughts or reflections from what you learned today? Ideas for how to engage moving forward? **Drop them in the chat!** Time permitting, some questions may be addressed during this Q&A period. The Hep Free NNE Steering Committee will distribute responses to the remaining questions as soon as possible

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



After the Summit, keep an eye out for our brief Summit evaluation form. The Steering Committee will use your feedback to inform future programming.



Join the Viral Hepatitis Elimination Planning Group!  
Email [HepFreeNNE@nh.dhhs.gov](mailto:HepFreeNNE@nh.dhhs.gov) to sign up!



Check out the [Summit landing page](#) to sign up for occasional email updates and learn about the progress of the Planning Group!

Hep Free NNE convened by



Summit logistics  
coordinated by JSI's  
NH Community Health Institute





# Hep Free NNE Leadership

## Steering Committee Membership

The Hep Free NNE Steering Committee provides central leadership, coordination, direct support, and oversight for viral hepatitis B and C elimination planning across New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. Steering Committee members serve on subcommittees for planning initiatives and are ex officio members of the broader Hep Free NNE Planning Group, where the Elimination Plan's content will be developed through an iterative, community-driven process.

**Alexander Potter, GCHP**

*Principal*  
Caracal Consulting

**Anna McConnell, MS, FNP, RN**

*Director of Drug User Health*  
Maine Access Points

**Andrew Seaman, MD**

*Associate Professor of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University*  
*Medical Director of Hepatitis and HIV Services at Portland, Oregon's*  
*Central City Concern*  
*Vermont Medical Director, Better Life Partners*

**Anne-Marie Toderico, PharmD**

*Pharmacy Director*  
Office of MaineCare Services

**Brian Castonguay, RN**

*Statewide Nurse Educator/Infection Control Coordinator*  
Wellpath

**Bronwyn Barnett, MPH**

*Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator*  
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

**Carolina Rojas-Becerra, MPH**

*Viral Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program Manager*  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

**Carrie Lones**

*Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist*  
New Hampshire Division of Public Health

**Chloe Manchester, MSc**

*Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist*  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

**Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC**

*Medical Director*  
Office of MaineCare Services

**David de Gijzel, MD, MSc, MPH**

*Chief Health Officer, Better Life Partners*  
*Assistant Professor, Geisel School of Medicine and The Dartmouth*  
*Institute*  
*Staff Physician, Section of Infectious Diseases & International Health,*  
*Dartmouth Health*

**Frank McGrady, PharmD**

*Executive Clinical Director of Pharmacy*  
Penobscot Community Health Care

**Geoff McIntosh**

*Population Health Acct. Executive*  
AbbVie

**Hannah Bowen, MPH**

*HIV/STI/HCV Surveillance Program Manager*  
New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services

**Jay Gupta, RPh, MS, MTM Specialist, C-IAYT**

*Director of Pharmacy & Integrative Health*  
Harbor Care

**Kelly Bachiochi, MPH**

*HIV/STI/HCV Epidemiologist*  
Vermont Department of Health

**Kinna Thakkar, DO, MPH**

*Physician - Infectious Diseases and Addiction Medicine*  
MaineHealth

**Kristen Chopas**

*National Accounts Director*  
Gilead Sciences

**Leona Alvarado**

*Tribal Health Liaison*  
The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

**Laurie Williams, MSN, NP**

*Liver Diseases – Principal Medical Science Liaison*  
Gilead Sciences

**Liana Perez, BSN, RN**

*Public Health Nurse, Disease Intervention Specialist & Behavioral*  
*Health Specialist*  
City of Nashua Division of Public Health & Community Services

**Cheryle Pacapelli, BS, CRSW**

*Project Director, Peer Recovery Supports Services Facilitating*  
*Organization*  
Harbor Care

**Melissa Caminiti, MPH, BSN, RN**

*Partnership Director*  
Groups Recover Together

**Mike Selick, MSW**

*Associate Director of Capacity Building*  
National Harm Reduction Coalition

**Nikki Butler**

*Southern Maine Director of Overdose Prevention*  
Maine Access Points

**Roxann Stubbs, ANP**

*Senior Medical Science Liaison*  
AbbVie

**Tiffany Townsend, MS, FNP-C, AAHIVS**

*Family Nurse Practitioner / ME ECHO*  
Maine Medical Center/Maine Medical Partners

## Speaker Biographies



### **Andrew Seaman, MD**

*Associate Professor of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University*

*Medical Director of Hepatitis and HIV Services, Oregon's Central City Concern*

*Vermont Medical Director, Better Life Partners*

Andy is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, the Medical Director of Hepatitis and HIV Services at Portland, Oregon's Central City Concern, and the Vermont Medical Director at Better Life Partners, a harm reduction framework substance use disorder treatment program providing services across New England. He is boarded in internal medicine and addiction medicine. He is a harm reductionist, educator, researcher, and activist for substance decriminalization, overdose prevention sites, and the rights of people who use drugs. His research centers on the intersection of hepatitis C and injection drug use and the implementation of harm reduction into health systems.



### **Alexander B. Potter**

*Founder and Principal  
Caracal Consulting*



Alexander B. Potter is the founder and principal of Caracal Consulting, specializing in public health and communications. He is the HIV Community Planning grantee for the Vermont Department of Health and Acting VT Coordinator for Hep Free NNE. Alex holds a BA from Marlboro College and a Graduate Certificate in Public Health from the University of Vermont. He has worked in the field of HIV prevention professionally or as a volunteer since 1988, working primarily with the gay and bisexual men's community. He has extensive training in sexuality and gender identity, public speaking, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, conflict resolution, mental health promotion and suicide prevention. A native of Vermont, Alex was born and raised in Brattleboro, and resides there with his wife, Deborah.

## Speaker Biographies



### **Boatemaa Ntiri-Reid, JD, MPH**

*Senior Director*

Syndemic Approaches, NASTAD

Boatemaa Ntiri-Reid (Bwa-tee-mah In-tee-ree Reed) is the Senior Director of Syndemic Approaches at NASTAD. In this role, she leads integration of HIV, viral hepatitis, and drug user health into a united framework for improving outcomes across these intersecting issues. Prior to her current role, she served as NASTAD's Director, Hepatitis and oversaw programmatic and technical assistance initiatives related to viral hepatitis. Prior to NASTAD, Boatemaa served as Chief of the Center for Viral Hepatitis at the Maryland Department of Health coordinating departmental and statewide efforts to prevent, control, and treat viral hepatitis. Boatemaa has also worked as a health law attorney, focused on HIV legal services, and a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program project officer in Baltimore City. Boatemaa received her B.A. from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, M.P.H. from Columbia University, and J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

### **Bronwyn Barnett, MPH**

*HFNNE Project Manager, New Hampshire Viral Hepatitis  
Prevention Coordinator*

NH DPHS



Bronwyn Barnett is Hep Free NNE Project Manager and the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator at the NH Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS). Prior to joining DPHS, Bronwyn met the educational outreach and research translation requirements of funded research at the Center for Excellence in Neuroscience at the University of New England and served as the Executive Director at community-based and statewide nonprofits serving youth and families in Maine and New Hampshire. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont, her Master of Public Health from the University of New England, and is a 2023 NH HHS Medicaid Academy Graduate (Center for Health Care Strategies). Bronwyn believes that her primary role within the state is to create space and continuity for partners to organize around systems-level strategies for preventing new HBV/HCV diagnoses and curing those living with hepatitis C.

# Speaker Biographies



## **Carrie Lones, MSc**

*Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist*

New Hampshire Division of Public Health

Carrie Lones is the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist with the New Hampshire Division of Public Health, working on surveillance activities for Hepatitis A, B, and C. She has been working with vulnerable populations in public health roles since 2016, starting with substance use research and Drug Court surveillance in Portland, OR. Carrie was born and raised in New Hampshire, and after 6 years in Oregon and New York City, returned back to New Hampshire to assist with the COVID-19 response. Outside of work, Carrie has four rescue dogs that she enjoys playing and walking trails with.



## **Chloe Manchester, MSc**

*Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist*

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Chloe Manchester is an Epidemiologist with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC). Her work focuses on Viral Hepatitis surveillance as part of the Division of Infectious Disease Surveillance for the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Chloe also serves as the Viral Hepatitis Subject Matter Expert for Maine CDC. Chloe studied epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and has worked in multiple countries around the world. In addition to viral hepatitis Chloe's public health experience includes immunization, maternal, reproductive and child health. This work has brought Chloe to Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and Nepal, to name a few. Outside the office, Chloe can be found on a mountain or on the water.

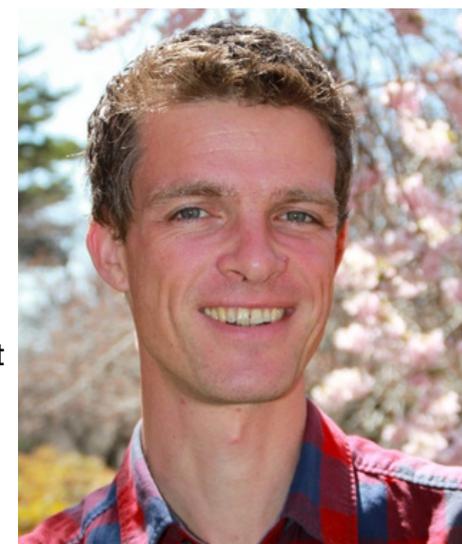
## **David de Gijzel, MD, MSc, MPH**

*Chief Health Officer, Better Life Partners*

*Assistant Professor, Geisel School of Medicine and The Dartmouth Institute*

*Staff Physician, Section of Infectious Diseases & International Health, Dartmouth Health*

David de Gijzel, MD, MSc, MPH works on the intersection of social justice and health. As the Chief Health Officer at Better Life Partners, he designs community-embedded, whole-person care for people with substance use disorders. As an infectious disease physician at Dartmouth Health, he focuses on the infectious complications of injection drug use, specifically the treatment of hepatitis C in people who inject drugs. David hails from the Netherlands, where he completed medical school at the University of Amsterdam. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Primary Care at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY. He stayed at Montefiore as an internist for before spending two years in Kigali, Rwanda, teaching Rwandan medical students and residents through the Human Resources for Health Program. Upon his return to the US, he came to Dartmouth for a fellowship in Infectious Disease and a residency in Leadership Preventive Medicine. David holds an appointment as Assistant Professor at the Geisel School of Medicine and at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases and in Addiction Medicine.



## Speaker Biographies



### **Jess Kirby, BSW**

*Director of Client Services*

Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform and person with lived experience

Jess Kirby is a dedicated harm reductionist, drug policy reform activist and an experienced direct service provider on the front lines of the substance use crisis in Burlington, Vermont. Jess started her career at Howard Center's Safe Recovery program where she provided harm reduction services including syringe exchange, clinical case management, Hepatitis C and HIV testing, and referral and linkage to treatment. In 2022, Jess took on an exciting new position as the Director of Client Services at Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform's (VCJR) Reentry and Recovery Center for justice involved people with substance use disorders located in downtown Burlington. Jess oversees the low barrier drop-in program, clinical case management services and the innovative and first of its kind low barrier contingency management program for people with opioid and stimulant use disorders. She has provided hundreds of educational harm reduction and overdose prevention and Naloxone trainings to community providers, family members and those at risk for overdose throughout the state of Vermont.

Jess has been a leader in establishing safer smoking initiatives in Vermont as harm reduction strategy for stimulant use, overdose and HIV/Hepatitis C transmission. Jess is also a person in long term recovery from substance use disorder and lived with Hepatitis C for over 12 years before she was able to get treatment. She understands and has a deep compassion for people living with the immense shame, fear, stigma and physical harms associated with having Hepatitis C. These experiences have impacted her life greatly and have ignited a passion to do her part to help prevent others from experiencing these harms and from losing their lives to Hepatitis C. Reducing stigma and bringing voices of lived experience to the forefront of all substance use and mental health work are causes very close to her heart.

### **Jonathan Stewart, MA, MHA**

*Senior Consultant*

JSI Research & Training Institute



Jonathan Stewart is a Senior Advisor with JSI Research & Training Institute where he served for many years as JSI's Regional Director for Northern New England and the New Hampshire Community Health Institute. Jonathan's work focuses on development of sustainable public health and rural health care delivery systems. His experience includes assisting health care organizations, community-based health coalitions, and state and local public health agencies, nationally and internationally, on such issues as community health assessment and improvement, community health program development, public health performance improvement, public health emergency preparedness and health care practice management. In recent years, Jonathan served as Co-Branch Director for Epidemiology and Surveillance in New Hampshire's Public Health COVID-19 Operations Center. Formerly, Jonathan was the founding Director of the North Country Health Consortium and Operations Director for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, a new start network of rural, federally-qualified Community Health Centers. He has served as Board Chair of the National Network of Public Health Institutes, Treasurer for the New Hampshire Public Health Association and Co-Chair of Healthy New Hampshire 2010. Mr. Stewart holds Masters Degrees in Health Administration and Biochemistry from Duke University.

# Speaker Biographies



## **Kristen Chopas**

*National Accounts Director*  
Gilead Sciences



For over 20 years, I've worked in the virology landscape. My experiential lens includes advocacy, patient education, sales, and managed care. In my spare time, I'm an avid animal lover, advocate and cycle enthusiast. Lastly, I enjoy the art of empowerment and change.

## **Laurie Williams, MSN, NP**

*Principal Medical Science Liaison*  
Gilead Sciences



Laurie is an experienced hepatitis clinician and educator who is passionate about hepatitis eradication especially among women and people of color.

## **Lauren McGinley**

*Executive Director*  
New Hampshire Harm Reduction Coalition

Lauren McGinley began her professional career supporting pregnant or parenting individuals at a homeless shelter on the Seacoast of New Hampshire. In her time serving clients there, she helped to develop multiple family programs for homeless individuals and their children. After ten years working in homeless services, Lauren accepted a position with 211NH, moving into resource and referral management and working to make social services available in New Hampshire easily found and accessed. After 3 years with 211, Lauren moved into the role of Senior Director of Public Health with Granite United Way. It was within this role that Lauren became passionate about harm reduction and the critical part it plays in keeping people alive and healthy. Accepting the Executive Director position with New Hampshire Harm Reduction Coalition was an easy choice, and Lauren has loved joining the community of passionate harm reductionists within the state of NH and across the US.



## Speaker Biographies



### **Mike Selick, MSW**

*Associate Director of Capacity Building*  
National Harm Reduction Coalition



### **Melissa J. Caminiti, MPH, RN**

*Partnership Director*  
Groups Recover Together

Melissa Caminiti is a Partnership Director with Groups Recover Together, where she develops strategic relationships to increase access to comprehensive, value-based community treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD). Formerly she served as Director of Recovery and Reentry Services with Wellpath for the Maine Department of Corrections. In that role she had oversight for the operationalization of OUD treatment services for Maine's six adult state prison facilities. Treatment services included medications for substance use disorders, education and implementation of harm reduction strategies, and the development of peer recovery networks. Her other previous work experience includes the application of quality improvement science in rural hospital and nursing home settings, as well as health policy work focused on women, children, and family systems impacted by substance use disorders. She received both her Bachelor of Science in nursing and her Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Mike Selick is the Associate Director of Capacity Building at National Harm Reduction Coalition. He has been a community organizer and advocate for human rights focusing on police accountability, inequality, drug use, sex work, homelessness, HIV, and Hepatitis C for more than 15 years. Prior to joining the organization 7 years ago, he worked at New York City Harm Reduction programs, first with a focus on public policy and peer training, and then as the Director of Services at a South Bronx Syringe Service Program. Mike earned his Masters of Social Work with a concentration in Public Policy from Columbia University. Mike is currently based out of Burlington, Vermont.

# Speaker Biographies



## **Nikki Butler**

*Southern Maine Director of Overdose Prevention*  
Maine Access Points



Nikki is a person in long-term recovery and the Southern Maine Director of Overdose Prevention for Maine Access Points, a peer-led, state-wide naloxone distribution and harm reduction organization. She has been involved in the recovery and harm reduction community for many years, facilitating meetings, supporting recovery residence operators and supporting other organization. With a personal history of incarceration, substance use, and lived experience navigating her Hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment, Nikki has used her experiences to provide non-judgmental, compassionate support to others. She is dually certified as an Intentional Peer Support Professional and Recovery Coach and provides overdose prevention education, harm reduction supply access and technical assistance to recovery residence operators, treatment providers and other peers.

## **Ryan Fowler**

*Harm Reduction Coordinator*  
HIV/HCV Resource Center



Ryan Fowler considers New Hampshire to be his home. He was born and raised in the Seacoast where most of his family still resides. Currently he lives, works, and plays in the Upper Valley Region. In January of 2020, he moved across the state to be the Harm Reduction Coordinator for the HIV/HCV Resource Center. Over the last 3.5 years, Ryan has been spending more and more time on the Vermont side, both professionally and for personal enjoyment. It has been a beautiful task helping to operate and expand H2RC's mobile syringe services program to meet the needs of very vulnerable people. Ryan is a person in recovery, a survivor of multiple drug overdoses, and a former injection drug user. He credits being alive and his clean bill of health to harm reduction, access to several SUD treatment programs, and his social privileges. Using both his negative lived experience and positive professional experience, he finds joy in helping other people who use drugs to stay alive and reach their full potential. Ryan participates in several projects which aim to improve care for drug users. His work aims to empower and liberate people who use criminalized drugs. When he isn't working or providing consultation services, you can find him hiking, swimming, foraging, or rockhounding in a nice forest. He may also be found in his garden or at a local farmers' market.