

MVPASAP Board Member Jessica Finocchiaro was re-elected for her second term to Methuen City Councilor At-Large

MVPASAP Board Member D.J. Beauregard was newly elected as a Methuen City Councilor At-Large

### January

MVPASAP hosted our first community meeting in Methuen to meet with residents and introduce ourselves and our resources to those in need.

**January 22nd** was the first ride to treatment. Transportation will be available for people in the Merrimack Valley who are ready to go to detox or treatment for substance use disorder. Consumers will call the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline: #800-327-5050 to arrange for transportation. For more information go to: [www.HelplineMA.org](http://www.HelplineMA.org)

MVPASAP welcomed 2 new board of Director's Members Dean Brouder & Tom Donovan.

**The Empty Chair-January 9, 2020:** *Jasmine Grace, this modern-day abolitionist reflects on the values and experiences that influenced her.*

### February

In **February** MVPASAP participated in Operation Valentine

<https://whdh.com/news/104-year-old-marine-corps-veteran-asking-people-to-send-him-valentines-day-cards/>

As of February 18, 2020, 18 rides were given through Wheels of Hope. Which means 18 individuals successfully made it to treatment.

**The Empty Chair- February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020: Grandparent raising grandchildren, spiking amid opioid epidemic & The Miracle of Recovery: Joanne's determination and love for her grandbabies was her motivate force in getting her grandchildren back at home where they belonged. Later in the show, she will be joined by her daughter, Harmony, who will share her experience, strength and HOPE of living life as a single mom in recovery.**

**The Empty Chair- February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020: This episode featured Allie Hunter, Executive Director of PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative) and local recovery coaches Caroline Buckley and Anita Lynn. PAARI is a national network of over 400 police departments in 32 states that provides support and resources to help law enforcement agencies nationwide create non-arrest pathways to treatment and recovery.**

### March

MVPASAP welcomed Evelyn Rodriguez as a Board Member!

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, MVPASAP prepared the meal for the homeless at TMF – The Movement Family weekly gathering. TMF meets weekly, Wednesday evenings 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – 2 South Broadway, Lawrence MA.

March 11 th , MVPASAP hosted our first “Lunch and Learn” at Haverhill Pavilion Behavioral Health Hospital where we met with the staff and shared our resources, along with CARES Initiative, Wheels of Hope, Haven of Hope and Addiction Recovery Services.

**The Empty Chair-- March 5th :** Greg Davenport & Friends along with Recovery Centers of America staff shared their experience, strength and HOPE and discussed treatment available at RCA.

**March 19th :** Dream Center co-founders and The Movement Family shared their stories

## May

We acknowledged Mental Health Awareness Month by bringing awareness to the community and will continue to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and advocated for policies that support people with mental illness and the families.

“Sneaker and Men’s Clothing Drive” for the homeless. These items were distributed to those in need throughout the Merrimack Valley.

Bandana Collection – due to the pandemic, the City of Lawrence has a mandatory mask order in place or risk receiving a financial fine. We collected Bandanas for the homeless and distributed to TMF – The Family Movement.

Distributed Rapid Drug Test Kits – Methuen Police Department is part of a pilot program with PAARI Initiative, which is offering “Rapid Drug Test Kits”. These kits test for “fentanyl” in drugs. The goal of this pilot program is to engage individual in conversation about possible overdose and harm reduction.

MVPASAP welcomed Michael Gorman (founder of The Movement Family) to its Board of Directors

Kevin Hatch came on as volunteer for MVPASAP. Kevin is a talented Multi-Media technician and will assist MVPASAP with special projects

## June

### NATIONAL MEDICATION SAFETY MONTH

MVPASAP Board members distributed DETERRA Drug Deactivation Disposable bags to the community

Former MVPASAP Board Member Casey Scarelli graduated from Regis North & University of Arizona Zuckerman College of Public Health earning her RN, BS, BSN, MPH

MVPASAP showed love & support to its community’s first responders by delivering lunch to its local Police & Fire Departments (Methuen, Lawrence, Haverhill, Andover & North Andover)

MVPASAP shared our ideas and plans to local police & fire departments on how we continue to educate and battle the public health and opioid crisis while collaborating ideas with the Emergency Staff for future events

## July

The Massachusetts Attorney General has won approval to allow Massachusetts residents who have been affected by opioid addiction to join the federal bankruptcy case against Perdue Pharma.

**MVPASAP** was proud to be a resource at “Methuen Movie Night” and hand out information regarding prevention, education, and local resources for public health services.

MVPASAP Board Member and Community Advocate **Eve Rodriguez** for her outstanding work organizing the **Lawrence** Youth Summit.

## August

MVPASAP streamed and created an Overdose Awareness Day Vigil that was live-streamed via facebook

## September

Recovery Coach Academy Scholarships: \$175 – Zakeery Viewig & Lisa Kennedy Emery.

September 16<sup>th</sup>—MVPASAP donated the dinner to The Movement Family’s Wednesday night event

## November

MVPASAP donated \$100 to The Movement Family towards their Thanksgiving dinner.

## December

MVPASAP has been selected to apply for Cummings Grant.

Senator DiZoglio secured \$20K for 2021.

MVPASAP will be delivering Christmas cookie trays to our local fire & police departments

MVPASAP welcomes Beth Blazonis to the Board of Directors

Monthly Resource Night – MVPASAP/Cole to host monthly resource night the 1 st Monday of the month before Circle of Hope, Methuen.