

**Welcome
to the**



OTP TTA CENTER

Opioid Treatment Program
Training & Technical Assistance Center

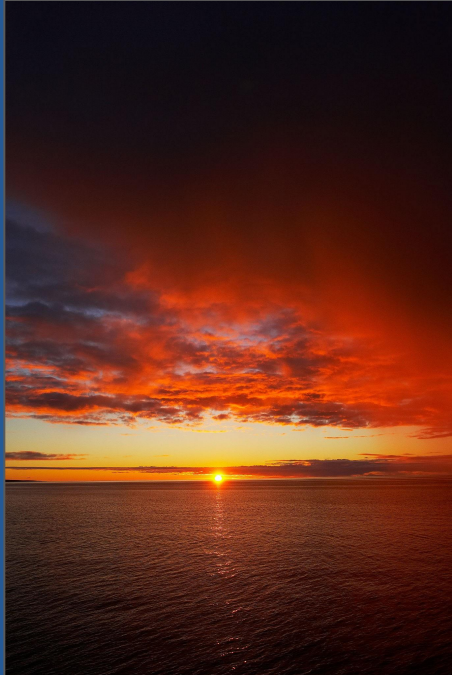
Second Annual Virtual Convening

March 31, 2026

Welcome Speaker

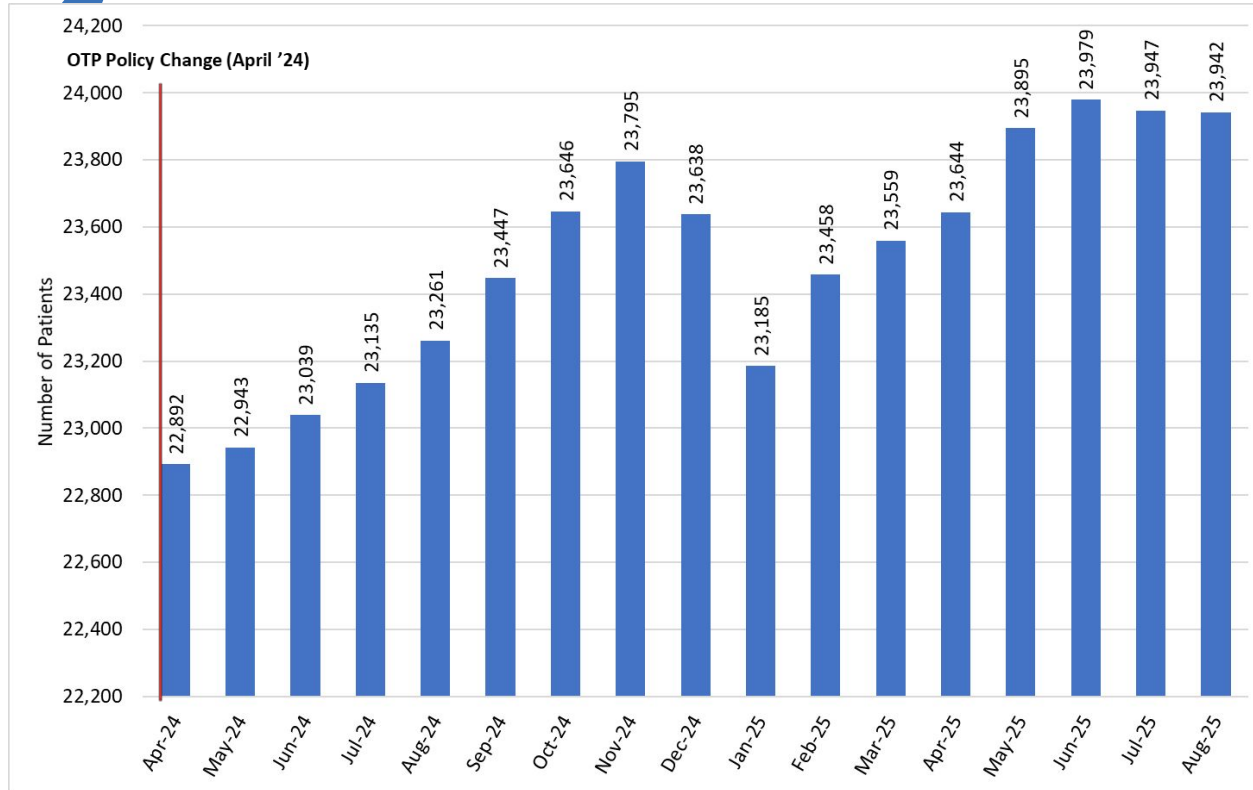


Deirdre Calvert
Director
Bureau of Substance Addiction Services



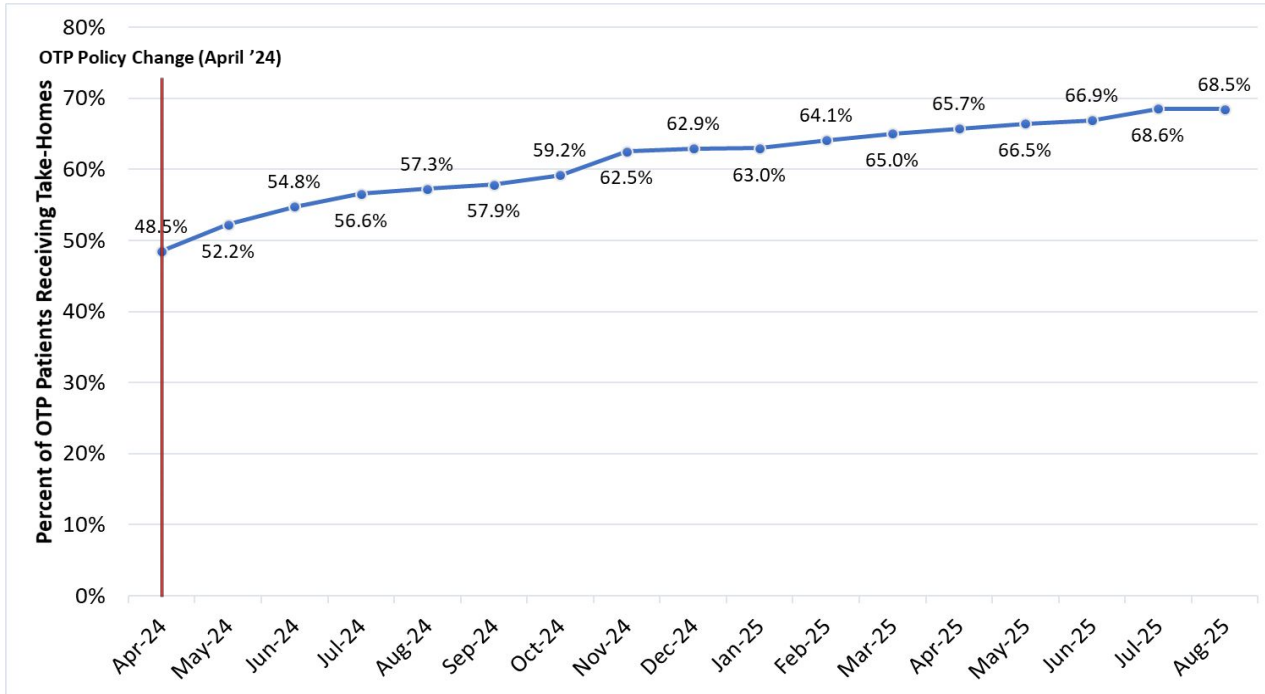
Expanding Access, Deepening Impact: Evolving OTP Care Together

MA Community-Based OTP



- From April 2024 – March 2025, there were 5,014 new OTP patients
- The monthly census rose by 667 patients (2.9% increase)

OTP Take-Home Trends



*Instances where no take-home data are available are excluded from the percentages shown.

- The percentage of OTP patients receiving any number of take-homes has increased drastically.
- This includes any number of take-homes received, from 1 to 28.

Expanded Access to Methadone Outside of OTPs

- More non-OTPs are starting patients on methadone
- More long-term care facilities are serving patients who use methadone
- Correctional facilities offer access to medication for opioid use disorder directly and through partners
- *Practice Guidance for Hospital and OTP Coordination of Care* is available now. More resources are coming soon!



Call to Action

MA has 55 community-based OTPs serving 24,000 people, yet there are an estimated

96,000

people in the Commonwealth with OUDs

Learning Opportunities

- Building stronger partnerships to support comprehensive care
- Supporting smoother direct admissions and care transitions
- Expanding access to treatment in long-term care and correctional facilities
- Tailoring treatment approaches for medically complex patients and people with co-occurring disorders
- Improving patient engagement strategies
- Adopting more flexible dosing and take-home policies



Words Matter

“Our words have impact. Language frames what the public thinks about substance use and recovery. It can also affect how individuals, groups, and families think about themselves and intentionally or unintentionally propagate stigma.”

-BSAS Words Matter Pledge

Words Matter Pledges

181 registrants from **63** organizations



Overview of the OTP TTA Center

MASSACHUSETTS



OTP TTA CENTER

Our Purpose

- Increase access to MOUD
- Improve patient care
- Provide tools, training, and resources
- Promote best practices
- Address challenges

We aim to support opioid treatment programs by providing responsive, educational opportunities to enhance the delivery of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

Our Mission

Improve service delivery and outcomes for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD), with a focus on aligning with updated federal and state-specific regulations for OTPs.

Funded by the MA Bureau of Substance Addiction Services
Staffed and operated by JSI



MA OTP TTA Team



Sasha Bianchi
Project Director



Julie Attys
Project Manager



**Gretchen
Shoemaker**
TTA



Shaivi Herur
Advisory Committees &
Evaluation



Lili Njeim
Advisory Committees
& TTA



Erin Singer
Evaluation



Melissa Schoemmell
TTA



Robert Weiss
Event Specialist



Heather Brack
Web & Communications

The BSAS Team



Jen Miller
Director of Grants and
Innovation



Mike Gurney
Opioid Services
Coordinator



Nicole Schmitt
Director
Office of Strategy and
Innovations



Jen Babich
State Opioid Treatment
Authority



Advisory Committees

Staff

- 13 members
- Representing 9 OTP organizations in 6 BSAS regions
- Inform the identification, design and development of TTA topics and opportunities

Patient

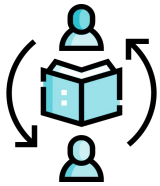
- 14 Members
- All 6 BSAS regions
- Representing diverse demographics and backgrounds
- Share experiences, successes, and challenges in MOUD and related services at an OTP

Our Services



Tailored Technical Assistance

Support on a wide array of topics, including patient-centered care, telehealth, and regulatory changes.



Expert Support and Peer Learning

Access to leading experts in the field, peer-to-peer forums, and collaborative learning opportunities to share best practices and strategies.



Resource Development

Creation and dissemination of tools, guides, and resources to support OTPs in delivering high-quality, effective care.

Recent Offerings

13 Staff drop-in sessions



7 Webinars



3 Case-based learning sessions



1 Virtual roundtable session



1



Virtual toolkit

1



Virtual convening

1



OTP 101 session

Visit Our Website!



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Opioid Treatment Program Training and Technical Assistance (OTP TTA) Center

Welcome to the **Massachusetts OTP TTA Center**. We are funded by the **Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)**. We are also guided by the insights and expertise of both our **Patient and Staff Advisory Committees**, ensuring our work is informed by diverse perspectives and real-world experiences.



massotptraining.org



Overview of the Virtual Convening

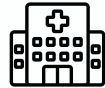
Who Is Here?

23

 registrants



15



OTP
organizations

59



partner
organizations

Words Matter Examples

Instead of...

- ✘ Substance abuser
- ✘ Addict
- ✘ High-risk population
- ✘ Medication assisted treatment
- ✘ Relapse
- ✘ Clean or dirty urine
- ✘ Clean or dirty needles

Consider...


- ✔ Person with a substance use disorder (if so diagnosed)
- ✔ Person who uses drugs
- ✔ Person at high risk for overdose
- ✔ Medication for opioid use disorder
- ✔ Return to use
- ✔ Positive or negative toxicology screening
- ✔ New or used syringes and works/injection equipment

Today's Agenda

12:00-12:30 pm	Welcome
12:30-2:00 pm	Opening Plenary Building Strong OTP Partnerships to Improve Patient Care
2:00-2:15 pm	Stretch Break
2:15-3:15 pm	Plenary Strategies to Support Direct Admissions from Hospitals to OTPs
3:15-3:30 pm	Transition Break
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Breakout Block 1: Choose one <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Myth or Fact: What is Allowed in a Methadone Clinic?2. Enhancing Access for Medically Complex Patients: An Interdisciplinary Complex Care Model
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Breakout Block 2: Regional Breakout Discussions

Learning Objectives

By the end of Day 1, participants will be able to:

- 1 Give examples** of cross-system partnerships between OTPs and healthcare or community settings that improve patient access to treatment and continuity of care.
 - 2 Describe strategies** and operational models that support coordinated transitions into OTP care, including direct admissions from hospitals and collaboration with external partners.
 - 3 Reflect** on how strategies shared during the sessions can be adapted within their own regional or organizational contexts to strengthen patient-centered care.
- 

Continuing Education Overview

National Association of Addiction Professionals

6.5 credits max for
all sessions



Note:

Can earn credits for
each session attended

Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association Continuing Education Authorization Program

7.25 credits max for
all sessions



Note:

Can earn credits for
each session attended

National Association of Social Workers

6.5 credits max for
all sessions

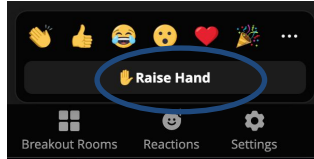


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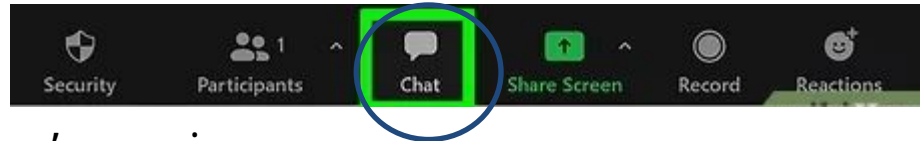
Must attend from 12-5
pm to attend credit
for the day

Housekeeping

- Lines will be muted. Use the raise hand feature if you would like to come off mute.



- Use the chat to submit questions for speakers, panelists, and our TTA team



- We are recording today's session
- Slides and recordings will be shared
- Recordings from question and answer period will not be posted

Reminders



Mute yourself when you are not speaking



Follow instructions to join your selected breakout sessions



Use your Zoom link if you get logged out. Staff in the main Zoom room can help you.



Check out our the conference page of our website



Email us at: otptta-ma@jsi.org



Complete the evaluation at the end of the convening