



## **COPE CENTER**

**Peter Evers, President & CEO, BAMSI**

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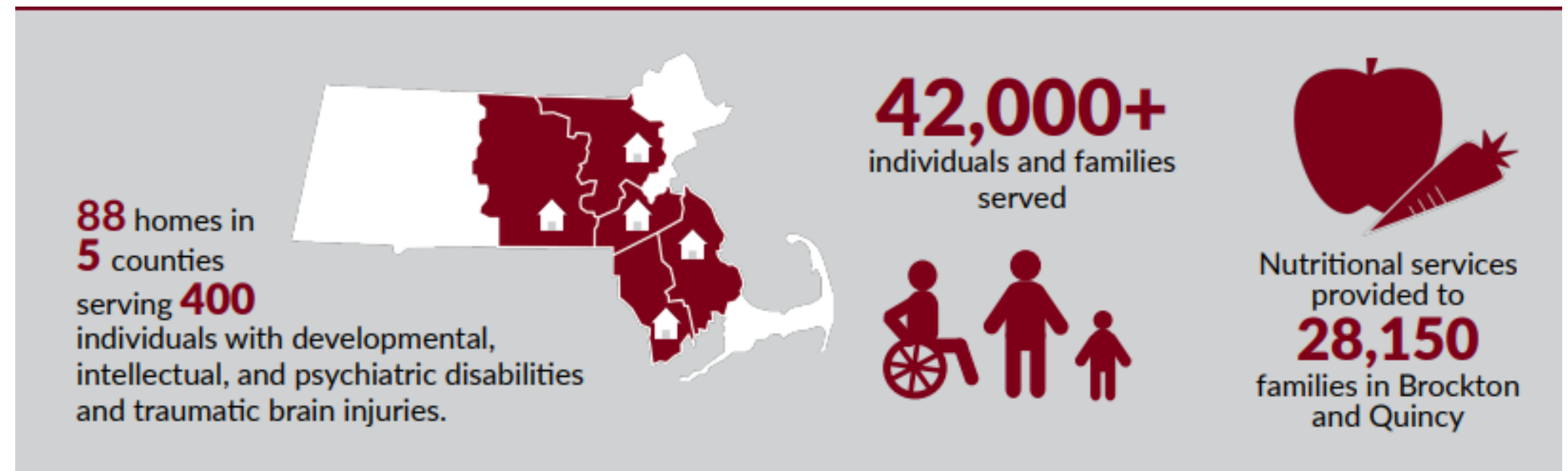
**Jesse Pack, Program Director HIV Services**

**Mary Corlin, Program Manager, COPE Center**



## OUR MISSION

BAMSI meets each person where they are, to help them learn, grow, succeed, and thrive.





We are LGBTQ Welcoming

## WHAT IS COPE?

Community Outreach, Prevention, and Education (COPE) is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to provide services for individuals at high risk for HIV. COPE is committed to improving the quality of life of the individuals we serve. Through COPE we aim to create a compassionate community, reducing the stigma and shame associated with substance abuse.



1989

- BAMSI began anonymous HIV Testing Services began with funding from the Massachusetts Department of Health

1992

- HIV Case Management Services were implemented for individuals living with HIV/AIDS

1996

- COPE opened as the first drop in center for individuals using drugs in Massachusetts

2009

- In response to growing opioid crisis BAMSI began providing Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution

2016

- BAMSI began harm reduction syringe services program



# SERVICES OFFERED

- Street Outreach and Syringe Collection
- Confidential HIV, Hepatitis C, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) counseling and testing
- STI treatment
- Harm and risk reduction materials, training and education
- Overdose education and distribution of Nasal Narcan (OEND)
- Referrals to medical care including HIV & Hepatitis C (HCV) Treatment
- Syringe services including disposal
- Referrals for substance abuse treatment
- Fentanyl testing strips
- Provide basic needs such as socks, coats, hygiene products



# STATISTICS FROM THE CDC

- The opioid crisis is fueling a dramatic increase in infection disease associated with injection drug use
- The majority of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infections are due to injection drug use



*Over 2,500 new HIV infections occur each year in people who inject drugs*

## WHAT IS SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMMING (SSPs)?

*SSPs serve as a bridge to other health services, including HIV/HCV/STI testing and treatment and medication assisted treatment for Opioid use disorder.*

- SSPs provide access to sterile syringes, facilitate safe disposal of used syringes, and provide and link individuals to services and programs.
- Including: Referrals to substance use disorder treatment; HIV/HCV/STI screening and referrals to treatment, Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution, Education about safer injection practices, abscess and wound care, referrals to social, mental health and other medical services.
- SSPs help prevent transmission of blood borne infections: For those who inject drugs the best way to reduce the risk of acquiring and transmitting disease through injection drug use is to stop injecting drugs. For people who do not stop injecting drugs, using sterile injection equipment for EACH injection reduces the risk of acquiring and transmitting infections and preventing outbreaks.

# STATISTICS FROM THE CDC

- SSPs are associated with an estimated 50% reduction in HIV and HCV incidence.
- People who inject drugs and who use SSPs regularly are nearly 3x as likely to report a reduction in injection frequency as those who never used an SSP.



*New users of SSPs are 5x more likely to enter drug treatment as those who don't use SSPs.*



# HARM REDUCTION

Harm reduction refers to policies, programs and practices that aim to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws.

Harm reduction is grounded in justice and human rights. It focuses on positive change and working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that they stop using drugs as a precondition of support.

## GOALS OF HARM REDUCTION

- Keep people alive and encourage positive change in their lives
- Offer alternatives to approaches that seek to prevent or end drug use
- Meet people where they are



# IMPACT

- Provided 3,762 COVID tests to community members August to October 2020

*"The last thing I would ever want is for anyone to ever get pricked or hurt by one of my syringes. That's why the center is so important. I have a hard time getting around these days but the Cope Center is close enough for me to get to. I can sleep better knowing that my syringes will be disposed of properly." –Current Cope Center Client*

	# of Syringes Distributed	# of Syringes Collected	# of individuals referred for Substance Use Treatment	# of HIV/HCV/STI and Syphilis tests administered
FY19	43,295	54,374	41	787
FY20*	47,881	47,881	0	452
FY21*	57,944	57,944	34	40
*FY 20 and FY21 services were impacted by the COVID pandemic				



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- Health Imperatives
- Highpoint Treatment Center
- Edwina Martin House
- Teen Challenge
- Homeless Improvement Project
- Cape Verdean Association
- Brockton Public Schools

*According to the CDC the number of prescriptions for naloxone doubled from 2017 to 2018*

*"When the Cope center first moved into 74 Pleasant St. I have to be honest, I was afraid that the amount of syringes in our neighborhood would increase. As time went on I was shocked to see that there was rarely ever a syringe found in the area. Once in a blue moon I find a single syringe and all I have to do is inform the Cope staff and they come over and handle it, and dispose of it properly. I'm actually grateful to have them as neighbors." –Former Groundskeeper*





# WHERE IS COPE LOCATED?

74 Pleasant Street

Brockton, MA

Hours: Monday-Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm





# Questions?

