

Low Barrier Access to Buprenorphine in Maine ED's

March 16, 2022



Gordon Smith, JD

Director of Opioid Response

Gordon H. Smith, Esq. was appointed by Governor Janet Mills as Director of Opioid Response in January 2019. He is responsible for coordinating and directing Maine's response to the opioid crisis, including prescriber education and reduction of opioid prescribing, prevention and treatment of substance use disorder, and harm reduction strategies. He stepped down as the Executive Vice President (EVP) of the Maine Medical Association in January 2019, where he had served as its EVP since September 1993 and where he began as General Counsel in 1981. He graduated from the University of Maine with the highest distinction in 1973 and from the Boston College Law School, magna cum laude, in 1976. He is a past Chairman of the American Society of State Medical Association Counsel, a nation-wide group of 140 attorneys representing medical associations. Mr. Smith has also served as Chairman of the American Medical Association/State Medical Society Litigation Center, the Maine Health Data Organization and the Advocacy Resource Center of the American Medical Association. He is a former board member and chair of Quality Counts, a former board member of the Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership, and the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Mr. Smith is a frequent lecturer to medical groups on various medical legal subjects.



Lisa Letourneau, MD, MPH

Senior Advisor Delivery System Change · Maine DHHS

Dr. Letourneau is an experienced physician and public health advocate who brings extensive experience leading large-scale improvement initiatives and will serve as a contracted consultant for the project assisting with clinical direction, clinician engagement, and advancement of PFE and Choosing Wisely tools clinical practices. In her former role leading Maine Quality Counts, a regional health improvement collaborative, Dr. Letourneau led several multi-stakeholder improvement efforts, including the multi-payer Maine Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot, the Maine Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q) initiative, and the Northern New England Practice Transformation Network.



Eric Haram, LADC is the owner of Haram Consulting LLC, a health and behavioral healthcare consulting firm that offers technical assistance for all aspects of strategic planning, workforce development, and clinical and business systems design for states, institutions, and organizations. Eric is Senior Field Consultant to the Addiction Technology Transfer Center with Brown University, and National Implementation Consultant with the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Engineering.



Alane O'Connor, DNP

Dr. Alane O'Connor specializes in addiction medicine. For the past 15 years, she led MaineGeneral Medical Center's efforts to expand access to substance use treatment including rapid access buprenorphine in the ED, implementing the high-acuity step down program, Outpatient Plus, expanding access in primary care and developing an inpatient substance use disorder consult service. During that time, Dr. O'Connor was faculty at Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency, educating more than 100 resident physicians, and led several grant-funded projects in substance use disorder prevention and harm reduction. She has a particular interest in caring for pregnant women with substance use disorders and has published numerous peer-reviewed articles both here and abroad on infant outcomes following buprenorphine exposure during pregnancy. In May, Dr. O'Connor became the medical advisor of the Maine Maternal Opioid Misuse (MaineMOM) Initiative, a 5-year, \$5 million federal grant that will expand access to substance use treatment services for pregnant women in all of Maine's 16 counties. As the first director of perinatal addiction treatment at Maine Medical Center, she will continue training resident physicians while implementing a program that serves pregnant women in the Portland area. Dr. O'Connor is also delighted to continue her rural addiction medicine roots by joining Kennebec Behavioral Health's Opioid Health Home in Skowhegan part-time. Finally, Dr. O'Connor co-chairs Maine's Opioid Response Clinical Advisory Committee, which advises the Governor's opioid response director on clinical and public policy issues.