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My name is Shelley Randall. I have worked with those challenged by substance use disorder for approximately 32 years in a professional capacity. I was a counselor in a half way house for felons convicted of drug offenses, a counselor in a methadone clinic and as a lawyer representing children, parents and the State of NH in Child Protection cases. I also represented patients in NH and MA State Hospitals suffering from substance use disorder and severe mental illness.

Throughout my professional career I witnessed the profound level of frustration and burnout experienced by the professionals working with these populations and the systems that serve them: social workers; lawyers; doctors and judges. Children are placed in foster care because their parents have been jailed or died as a result of substance use disorder. Medically assisted treatment such as methadone and/or suboxone allow for the bare minimal functioning of the patient who frequently is taking the medication for 10 - 15.

The on-going clinical trials regarding the benefits of psychedelic medicines - psilocybin in particular show great promise in treating and healing the patient challenged by substance use disorder. The trials indicate that the treatment is not a lifelong endeavor but can be effective after several sessions.

By-passing this opportunity would be a travesty as we continue to grapple with the ramifications and impact on families in the State of Maine resulting from the opioid crisis.