



# Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine

## *The unified voice for Maine's community behavioral health providers*

Malory Otteson Shaughnessy, Executive Director

~ Officers ~

**Eric Meyer, President**  
Spurwink

**Dave McCluskey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**  
Community Care

**Greg Bowers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Day One

**Vickie Fisher, Secretary**  
Maine Behavioral Health Org.

**Suzanne Farley, Treasurer**  
Wellspring, Inc.

**Catherine Ryder, Past President**  
Tri-County Mental Health

~ Board Members ~

Adcare Educational Institute

ARC at Mid Coast Hospital

Alternative Services, NE, Inc.

Aroostook Mental Health Ctr.

Assistance Plus

Catholic Charities Maine

CCSME

Christopher Aaron Center

Common Ties

Community Caring Collaborative

Community Concepts, Inc.

Community Health & Counseling

COR Health

Crossroads Maine

Genoa Telepsychiatry

Kennebec Behavioral Health

Maine Behavioral Healthcare

MaineGeneral Behavioral Health

Milestone Recovery

NFI North, Inc.

Portland Recovery Community Ctr.

Penquis C.A.P., Inc.

Pathways of Maine

Rumford Group Homes

SequelCare of Maine

Sunrise Opportunities

Wings for Children & Families

Woodfords Family Services

### Testimony in support of LD 1333

## An Act Concerning the Dispensation of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Emergency Medical Services Providers

Sponsored by Representative Zager on April 23, 2021

Good morning Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am Kaitlyn Morse, a resident of Westbrook, and Policy Associate of the Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services. **On behalf of the Alliance, I am here to speak in support of LD 1333.**

The Alliance represents Maine's safety net community-based mental health and substance use treatment agencies. We advocate for sound policies and evidence-based practices that enhance the quality and effectiveness of Maine's behavioral health care system.

Behavioral health recognizes that connection between behaviors and the health and well-being of the body and mind is essential. We work to make life easier for the providers we serve while believing that people who are suffering should be able to easily access the resources they need.

I have a history of colon cancer in my family. I'm 34 years old. The doctor tells me I need to get a colonoscopy when I turn 40. Eating bacon is especially not good for me. I know the facts and I still eat bacon. Someday if it should come to it and hopefully it never will, I will not be denied the treatment I need because I ate bacon on April 23rd.

Just as I can easily get bacon at the store even though it is not a good choice for me or anyone in my family, licit and illicit drug use is part of our world. There are many reasons why someone would use illicit drugs. It's a complex, multi-faceted problem and as I suspect there could be from my eating bacon, there are real consequences of illicit drug use.

Using illegal drugs is counter to productive society but people should not be denied the health care they need because they make "bad decisions." Finding a way to minimize the harmful effects rather than simply ignoring them makes a difference in healthy society.

Naloxone hydrochloride otherwise known as Narcan saves lives regularly. Currently, emergency services personnel can intravenously administer the drug. Expanding access and allowing the same EMT to administer the drug intranasally makes it easy for these essential workers to get on with their day. At the same time, it may make a difference for a patient who needs to get back on the path to recovery.

Drug use runs counter to a healthy mind just like the bacon I ate this morning is counter to my healthy body but unless you're a vegan, there is not as strong of a moral stigma to the bacon. The Alliance would ask you to check your perspective and consider the difference that supporting LD 1333 would make for our community.

