

Roberta Garson Leis M.P.A., M.Ed.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Independent consultant, 2010 to present

New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals, president, 2010-2014; executive director, 2015-2022. Led an organization of multistate drug court judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation and police officers, treatment providers, and others dedicated to providing high-quality training, technical assistance and information-sharing to promote and enhance the development of sound treatment courts in New England. Produced an acclaimed two-day annual conference with more than 50 workshop presentations and 700 attendees.

Advocates of Human Potential, 2013-present

Consultancy for AHP projects included: Massachusetts Bureau of Substance addiction Services, in partnership with the Massachusetts Trial Court, designed and implemented the Bureau of Justice Assistance drug court enhancement grant awarded to BSAS 2013-2016 .

National Center of BJA Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program, based at AHP, providing TA and site visits, 2018-present.

American University's Drug Court TA Project, 2014-2019

Served as liaison and coordinator for TA monitoring and service delivery for Bureau of Justice Assistance grantees drug court grantees.

Join Together, Boston University School of Public Health, 1991-2011

Senior staff director for programs, policy, and TA

Join Together was a national program funded primarily by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and based at the Boston University School of Public Health that helped communities nationwide prevent and reduce alcohol and drug problems. While there, I developed the technical assistance system to manage the foundation's Fighting Back coalition grantees. I also developed training and technical assistance systems for those coping with substance use disorders, including criminal justice and treatment programs nationally, regionally, and locally. With other senior staff, I created a nationally recognized peer-to-peer TA program. I worked with HBO and its national partners and coordinated the national outreach for the HBO documentary "ADDICTION," which won an academy award. I played an integral role in establishing the first drug court in New

England, in Massachusetts. and have been involved in the national drug court movement since 1992.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, 1989-1991
Director of human resources

Massachusetts Governor's Alliance Against Drugs, 1984-1988
Was the first executive director of the Massachusetts Governor's Alliance Against Drugs in the administration of Gov. Michael S. Dukakis where I built a high-profile statewide multidisciplinary program with the governor and staff that became a national model.

Massachusetts Association of Community Health Agencies, 1980-1984
Director of Education

Selected project experience:

Developed and directed State Leadership Training Institutes, which focused on strengthening leadership in criminal justice and treatment programs in selected states. (SAMHSA contract)

Developed Join Together's TA system and training programs, such as the Community Exchange, and integrated them with other organizational components. While at Join Together, developed national alliances, linked them to local communities, and directed policy panels to improve prevention, treatment, and recovery in local communities and in states.

Managed the outreach and mobilization effort in the United States with two other partner organizations around HBO's "Addiction" series.

Senior staff to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Fighting Back- managed four sites (Vallejo and Santa Barbara, Calif.; New Haven, Conn.; and Little Rock, Ark.) and was selected as a mentor for the RWJF Health Leadership Program.

Co-founder and board member of Wayside Youth and Family Support Network. Established and expanded the agency from its infancy to a multimillion-dollar organization offering a continuum of services for more than 10,000 diverse, underserved, and victimized youth and families throughout the MetroWest and Greater Boston area. Helped establish the governing framework, develop policies, negotiate mergers, and siting a campus.

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

- Massachusetts Bar Association's Drug Policy Task Force

- Substance Abuse Mental Health Agency Center For Substance Abuse Treatment, Recovery Month Advisory Group
- Framingham League of Woman Voters, former president
- MetroWest Community Health Care Foundation, first grant Distribution Committee
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Developing Leadership in Substance Abuse, selected as mentor

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- An author of “National Policy Panel reports: Join Together, “Ending Discrimination Against People with Alcohol and Drug Problems” and “Join Together Blueprint for the States: Policies to Improve the Ways States Organize and Deliver Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment”
- “Preventing Underage Drinking: Getting to Outcomes with the SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework to Achieve Results.” Co-authors Wandersman, Imm, Chinman, Leis, Rosenbloom, Guckenburg, Shah shared 2008 Outstanding Publication Award from American Evaluation Association with five other organizations
- “The Road from Addiction Recovery to Productivity: Ending Discrimination Against People with Alcohol and Drug Problems.” Co-authors Leis, Rosenbloom, Family Court Review, published April 2009.
- HBO’s “Addiction” series led to 100 events held in 34 states, 500 house parties, and major city premieres. HBO received the Governor’s Emmy award at the Academy Awards. Co-wrote and published guide to the HBO documentaries. Worked with NIDA on this series and publications.

EDUCATION:

Vassar College, bachelor of arts degree

Tufts University, master of education

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, master of public administration