The Magical Land of Oz had nothing on the North Quabbin Region, proving even in a year like 2020, “There is no place like home!”

The North Quabbin Community Coalition is proud to be the hub for local collaborative practice. Only through collaboration are we all able to overcome any obstacle with intelligence, bravery, and heartfelt resilience. The Wizard of NQCC’s true power lies in its community!

North Quabbin Community Coalition
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Like us on Facebook — nqcc.org
North Quabbin Woods: northquabbinwoods.org
2020 Bridgebuilder Awards

Peter Whitmore
Athol High School

Salvation Army Corps of Athol

2019/2020 Spotlight Awards

Hannaford Supermarket

Eric Smith

Dr. Rebecca J. Bialecki
Youth Leadership Award

Brooke Mitchell
Zach Aldrich

Board of Directors

Sandi Walters, President - Clinical and Support Options
Sharon Tracy, Vice President - Quabbin Mediation
Steve Raymond, Treasurer - Community Representative
John Bruinsma - Community Representative
Lynne Feldman - LifePath
Nicole Guertin, Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
Rev. Megan Leary, Central Congregational Church of Orange
Chief Craig Lundgren, Athol Police Department
Pat Moore, Community Representative
Charlie Winters, Community Representative

Funding and Support

The North Quabbin Community Coalition is brought to you by the following Funders and YOUR support. Please become a member/donor today!

- Department of Children and Families Community Connections
- MA Department of Public Health
- Heywood Healthcare/Drug Free Communities
- Town of Athol
- Clinical and Support Options
- Family Nurturing Center of MA
- Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
- Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and North Quabbin
**Staff Activities & Memberships**

**Heather Bialecki-Canning**  
*Executive Director*

DCF Greenfield Area Office Board President; DTA Greenfield Area Office Advisory Board; Clinical and Support Options Leadership Team; NQ Enough Abuse Campaign Coordinator; NQ Patch Admin Team; Opioid Task Force Executive Council; Opioid Task Force Education and Awareness Working Group; Talking About Touching Training of Trainers; DCF Community Connections statewide Team; Children’s Advocacy Center of Franklin County & North Quabbin Board; Family Nurturing Center of MA Statewide Trainer; Nationally Recognized Trainer Consultant for Nurturing Programs; Quabbin Mediation Board Member; DPH MARCH Group; CTC Coordinating Council; CHIP; YAEC; ARFACT

**Amanda Mankowsky**  
*Youth & Families Engagement Coordinator*  
*DFC Program Director*

Communities That Care Parent Ed Workshop; Nurturing Facilitator; My Life, My Choice Facilitator; YAEC; PAC; NQRC; Opioid Task Force Education & Prevention Co-Chair; ARRSD SEL; Change Agent Fellow; Task Force Facilitator; School/Community Partnership Coordinator; Mediator, ARFACT

**Sarah Collins**  
*Drug Free Communities Coordinator*

Regional School Health Task Force; CTC; ACT; Opioid Task Force Education & Prevention; Youth Action Council; YAEC; NQRC Liaison

**Katrina Burton**  
*Project Assistant*

Web Developer, Graphic Designer, Database Coordinator, Newsletter Editor/Publisher, Social Media and Community Calendar Coordinator

**NQCC Memberships**

North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce Member, United Arc Business Member, Athol Bird and Nature Club Member, CADCA

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**23rd Annual Barbara Corey Award**

Each year, the North Quabbin Community Coalition presents the Barbara Corey Award to a North Quabbin resident. The award is named for the original coordinator in honor of her values and dedication to the region. The 2020 Barbara Corey Award recipient is Bette Jenks.

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**Salute to Service Award**

The North Quabbin Community Coalition proudly presents an annual Salute to Service Award to someone who has shown a track record of going above and beyond in dedicating their time and service to the community. This year’s Salute to Service Award recipient is David Ames.
Youth Action Council

The Youth Action Council (YAC) creates an opportunity for youth aged 12-18 from regional school districts to use their voices to impact positive change within the North Quabbin region, with focus on prevention. YAC is working to promote and educate healthy lifestyles within our community that reduce stress for themselves and peers. Prior to the pandemic, YAC was meeting bi-weekly, with activities such as a Sticker Shock Campaign, a Youth Mapping Project, and attending the CADCA Forum in Washington DC where two members were able to attend trainings to learn about prevention initiatives that they can apply to the community. Since the pandemic, YAC has been meeting virtually once a month and has participated in speaking live online with the Opioid Task Force and Department of Public Health about the impacts of COVID on youth, has been able to use social media to share resources, and has helped with the Coalition Connections Newsletter. YAC has also found ways to be creative and keep meetings enjoyable, like having a virtual pizza party and actively working behind the scenes to be a support to the community.

Monthly Forums

Every month, the NQCC hosts a forum, open to all, which focuses on topics of local interest or highlights a particular program servicing the region. This year’s forums included:

September .. DCF: Foster Care & Community Engagement
October .. Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol
November .. Legislative Roundtable
December .. Census 2020
January .. Richard Barree, NQ Grandparents Group
February .. NELCWIT (New England Learning Center for Women in Transition)

Social Media and Outreach

The NQCC’s web-based Resource Directory on our website (nqcc.org) continues to provide a comprehensive listing of resources in the North Quabbin, and is set up in a user friendly fashion by alphabetical listing and category.

The NQCC’s North Quabbin Area Calendar of Events at www.nqcc.org/events.html is updated daily on our website, and is highlighted every Thursday on Facebook with our “Weekend Happenings,” shared to thousands throughout the area and beyond. The calendar encompasses all events in the nine-town region of the North Quabbin.

The North Quabbin Woods website (northquabbinwoods.org) continues to provide visitors information on places to hike, get on the water, cross-country ski, etc. or on local artisans, farms and produce, etc. Visitors can quickly access specific towns, recreational places, and activities. The NQCC office is contacted frequently by people from around the country seeking additional information after visiting the site.

The NQCC continues to produce its informative newsletter, “The Common Thread,” distributed monthly through email, social media, and USPS mail. It is also available for download online. The publication features regional announcements, articles, and events and everyone is encouraged to contribute.
North Quabbin Recovery Center

The North Quabbin Recovery Center (NQRC) celebrated being open for two years with a staff of volunteers, peer leaders, and allies. Two years of providing a compassionate, safe space to offer peer support to allow multiple paths of recovery for all. NQRC holds true to its mission at the Center, having experiences filled with connection, support, inclusion, love, honest communication, and fun. Throughout the pandemic, All Recovery meetings were held virtually. As of recent, the Center reopened with limited hours twice a week and All Recovery meetings can be accessed in person or virtually. The Center is also used for the ACT Group run by the Franklin County Sheriff's office, by AA groups, and for Narcan training for the community by Tapestry.

Parent Advisory Council

The NQCC Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is comprised of 15 diverse parents that represent the North Quabbin region who meet bi-weekly since November of 2018. Due to the pandemic, the PAC was unable to participate in the usual activities for the NQCC this year including, but not limited to, National Night Out, Munch N Move, Family Fun Day, monthly NQCC forums, and our Annual Luncheon Celebration. They have been, however, meeting online and have continued to work with local schools to bring the Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain presentation, with an emphasis on vaping, to the districts. They are dedicated to supporting parents and changing local norms.

Thanksgiving Day Meals Delivery

The NQCC was very grateful for a diverse and determined team of folks who helped prepare and deliver over 220 meals to the elderly and homebound in our region on Thanksgiving 2019. Thank you to the Pioneer Jr. Women’s Club, Athol Credit Union, Athol Orange Rotary Club, NQCC Board of Directors, Orange Elementary Schools, the many volunteers, and especially Steve Raymond, John Bruinsma, Jerry Whaland, and Bill Burton!
Children’s Health and Wellness System of Care

The North Quabbin Children’s Health and Wellness System of Care (CHWSOC) is a partnership with Clinical and Support Options that supports pathways for all to access Children’s Behavioral Health services across the region. This group focuses on overall health and wellness, nutrition, food access, movement, and family connectedness. This group usually is responsible for family activities such as Munch & Move, which allows for families to access a healthy meal and participate in movement with opportunities for family dancing and CHWSOC’s Family Fun Day that lets us highlight North Quabbin’s beautiful venues for families to come together and have fun. However, during the time of COVID and guidance from the state, we have not been able to host large in-person events at this time. This dynamic group was not going to let that get us down. The CHWSOC continued to meet virtually with a focus on hosting a virtual event for professionals and families in the region. The Event Healthy Me, Healthy North Quabbin will be hosted at upcoming Forums with an emphasis on Trauma Informed Approaches during the time of COVID. This will also focus on building skills, resiliency, and the importance of self-care. This will be the first of a series that this group will be focusing on in the future.

INQ & North Quabbin Loan Fund

Invest North Quabbin (INQ) is a new partnership consisting of the NQCC, the Town of Athol, the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce, and the Athol Credit Union, with support from Tiny Town Marketing. It aims to provide emergency financial support to individuals, families, and small businesses in the North Quabbin impacted by COVID-19. Also in response to the challenges imposed by the coronavirus and the resulting economic loss, the Athol Board of Selectmen allocated $25,000 from the North Quabbin Revolving Loan Fund for a Rapid Response Fund to provide financial support to small businesses in the North Quabbin region that have been impacted by the pandemic. Financial support is in the form of micro-loans in the amount of $500 to $2,500 with a very competitive interest rate of 2.99% and re-payment terms of twelve to 24 months.

PART Task Force

PART (prevention, addiction, recovery and treatment) is a collaboration of over 50 members from diverse sectors of the North Quabbin Community. Over the past year, many things were accomplished and helped to shape a blueprint of things to come in the next several years. In August 2019, PART hosted National Night Out, which for the first time, featured sites in Orange, Athol, Petersham, and Royalston. Altogether over 500 folks attended and made the public safety/community partnership event its largest and most successful ever. PART also played an important role in the Drug Free Communities Project, allowing the voices of professionals from both public safety and healthcare weigh in with NQCC’s YAC and PAC to really steer the work of the project in a well rounded approach. The biggest accomplishment this year was made possible by a grant from HRSA. This grant was received in partnership with The Opioid Task Force and supported by STAR Consulting and Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The HRSA Planning Grant allowed PART to create a strategic plan for the work, as well as the opportunity to evaluate the successes and challenges of the work to date. The plan was the product of all the voices of the Task Force, and will be a living document meant to implement needed changes in years to come region-wide.

Scholarship Fund

The passing of our beloved board member, Shirley Hebert, in 2012 led to the creation of The Shirley Hebert Strength through Adversity Scholarship Fund. The fund rewards high school seniors in the North Quabbin region who have experienced academic success, personal growth and completed community service in the face of adversity.