

Bios for MSNO Fall Conference September 27, 2025

Karen Robitaille MBA, MSN, RN, NCSN

Prior to becoming the Director of School Health Services for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in 2019, Karen spent thirteen years as the Director of Health, Safety and Equity Programs for the Northampton Public Schools, and had additionally functioned as the Program Director for the Northampton Prevention Coalition, which was federally funded to reduce youth substance use in the City of Northampton. Karen has worked in school health since 1997, after several years working in adult and pediatric inpatient and homecare settings and has also served her hometown as Vice-Chair of the East Longmeadow Board of Health from 2016-2021. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Fitchburg State University, her Master's in Nursing Management from Elms College, and her MBA, with a concentration in Healthcare Leadership, also from Elms College. Karen is a Nationally Certified School Nurse, a member of National Association of School Nurses/Massachusetts School Nurse Organization, current President of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants, and an inactive member of Sigma Theta Tau, Epsilon Beta chapter.

Rebecca Boutwell, MSN, RN, NCSN

Rebecca Boutwell is a nationally certified school nurse with over 25 years of experience supporting students across all grade levels. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Fitchburg State College (prior to its transition to university status) and earned her Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in School Nursing from Elms College.

Her career spans more than two decades in community health, where she has championed the wellness, education, leadership, and personal growth of middle and high school students. Rebecca currently serves on the board of the Massachusetts Nurses Association as Data Coordinator and maintains professional status with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Her work has been published in *A Long Way from Henry Street, Volume 1*, reflecting her commitment to advancing the field of school nursing and public health.

Endometriosis

Dr. Luke Chatburn – Director of Gynecology at Mount Auburn Hospital

Educated at the University of Wales and Boston University, with a residency at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Luke Chatburn eventually found a home working at Mount Auburn Hospital and is now Director of Gynecology. As a Board Certified OBGYN who specializes in MIGS (Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery), he has advanced to join a shortlist of surgeons who are “endometriosis specialists”. Dr. Chatburn has earned the Henry J. Bakst Award "for personal commitment to individuals in need of care and excellence in clinical medicine" and was honored the Leon Crockett Scholarship from Boston University School of Medicine.

Nicole Tanionos – Lexington High School Student and Endometriosis Patient

Nicole is currently a high school student and a passionate advocate for Endometriosis awareness. She herself has suffered from Endometriosis for the past five years and serves as an advocate from a patient perspective. She understands the implications and debilitating reality of Endo, which has influenced her to pursue a medical career in women's health.

Rosa Freitas Sousa – School Nurse at Lexington High School

Rosa Freitas Sousa is a seasoned Registered Nurse with nearly 20 years of experience, holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a post-graduate degree in Health Management. Her career journey has taken her from the compassionate care of hospice to the high-stakes environment of labor and delivery. For the past six years, her focus has been on school and community health. In this role, she acts as a liaison between schools, parents, and healthcare providers, ensuring comprehensive and collaborative care.

Melanie Tanionos – Co-founder and Director of The Endometriosis Alliance of Massachusetts

Melanie enthusiastically served in four decades in Caribbean hospitality, but during the Covid epidemic pivoted to focus on small businesses and settled into one of her passions – advocacy and education. She lends her expertise in planning events, creating partnerships, teaching and training, and organizing resources with little (sometimes no) funds to the cause of endometriosis, having witnessed and experienced the devastating effects of this chronic, confusing, and painful condition firsthand.

ELIZABETH CABRAL-TOWNSON (Beth) is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts School of Law, magna cum laude, and she currently represents school districts throughout Massachusetts in a variety of student related matters, with particular emphasis on special education issues. Beth holds a Master of Education Degree in Elementary Administration from Providence College, and she was employed as both a school administrator and a district administrator prior to becoming an attorney. Before joining Lyons Law Group, LLC, Beth was an elementary school principal for four years and a special education director for nine years. Beth holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary/Special Education from Providence College, and she started her career as an elementary special education teacher for seven years.