

### APNA New England 2025 Officers

President: Donna McDonald  
Past President: Valerie Seney  
President Elect: TBD  
Secretary: Islane Louis  
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Regional Representative: Karen Chesley



### CHRIS HERREN: THE GAME HAS CHANGED

In this very personal presentation, Chris will share his recovery journey in a brutally honest format with just a microphone. The event will start with a 5-minute film introducing Herren, showing highlights of his basketball career and his dream of playing in the NBA which began to unravel after a few bad decisions. From growing up in Fall River, MA to playing for a Division 1 team and in the NBA, he will take the audience on his journey from addiction to sobriety. Additionally, he will relate his story to the audience, addressing themes of resiliency and offering real-life examples showing that it is never too late to reach for your dreams. Dreams require hard work, repetition, follow through, being ready to rebound if you falter and preparing your game plan for the win. To conclude the event Chris will field questions from the audience.

### Justin Alves MSN, FNP-BC ACRN CARN CNE

Clinical Nurse Educator with Boston Medical Center's Grayken Center for Addiction Training and Technical Assistance, where he contributes to peer-reviewed publications, evidence-based clinical guidelines, development and delivery of continuing education programs, and other resources for providers supporting patients with substance use disorders. Justin is also a nurse practitioner at Boston Medical Center. He has expertise in infectious diseases and their co-occurrence with substance use disorders, community outreach, and harm reduction.

### Vanessa Loukas MSN, FNP-C CARN-AP

Vanessa is a Clinical Nurse educator for Boston Medical Centers training and technical Assistance and professor at Boston University; s Chobian and Avedisian Medical Center Prior to joining Grayken center she practiced as a nurse practitioner and program director addiction treatment program at South end Community caring high risk with substance abuse and psychiatric diagnosis

### Nicole Gomes RN

Supervisor of Workplace Violence Prevention at the Bradley Learning Exchange, with over 25 years of experience in medical and behavioral health. Her expertise includes addiction medicine, inpatient behavioral health, pediatric treatment, emergency care, and educational settings.

### Sharon Morello, RN, BSN

Ms. Morello is a consultant, trainer, subject matter expert in the field of behavioral health. She is also a Technical Expert Lead for JBS International, Inc.

### Dr. Valerie Seney, PhD, MA, LMHC, PMHNP-BC

Dr. Seney is an Assistant Professor and the Clinical and Track Coordinator for the Psych DNP and Psych CAGS programs at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's College of Nursing. With 25 years of experience in mental health.



## APNA

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### APNA New England Chapter Spring Conference

***Pathways to Recovery: Resilience  
strategies for substance use and  
Mental Health Treatment***

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2025

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**at**

Hotel Viking  
1 Bellevue Ave  
Newport, RI 02840

Conference Chair  
Donna McDonald  
Donna.tpri@gmail.com



## CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION AND DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

### DISCLOSURE

The speakers and planning committee members have no relevant financial relationship conflicts of interest with ineligible companies to disclose.

Discussion of off-label uses (using products for a purpose other than that for which it was approved by the Food and Drug Administration) will occur during this presentation.

### NURSING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Criteria for successful completion of this activity includes attendance at the entire event and submission of a completed evaluation form. You will receive a CE Certificate for contact hours as you leave the conference. Partial credit is not able to be awarded.

ANCC Nursing Continuing  
Professional development (NCPD)  
Contact hours are pending for this activity.

Accreditation of the continuing education activity does not imply endorsement by APNA, ANCC or the APNA New England Chapter of any commercial products displayed in conjunction with this activity.

*The American Psychiatric Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation*

## AGENDA

8a - 8:45a	Registration, Vendors, & Coffee/Pastry
8:45 - 9:00	Conference Welcome
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote Speaker
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:45	Session 2
11:45 - 12p	Poster/Coffee/Vendors
12:00 - 1p	Sponsored Lunch/Janssen
1:00 - 1:45	Session 3
1:45 - 2:15	Posters/Coffee/Vendors
2:15 - 3:15	Session 4
3:15 - 4:15	Session 5
4:15 - 4:30	Summary and Evaluations.

### Session 1: Keynote - Chris Herren

*The Game has Changed*

### Session 2: Justin Alves MSN, FNP-BC ACRN CARN CNE & Vanessa Loukas MSN, FNP- C CARN-AP

*Stimulant use disorder and Treatment*

### Session 3: Nicole Gomes, RN

*Safe Spaces: Bridging Workplace Violence  
Prevention and Trauma Informed care in  
Psychiatric Nursing*

### Session 4: Sharon Morello, RN, BSN

*Substance use during pregnancy: What we  
know and what we still need to learn.*

### Session 5: Dr. Valerie Seney, PhD, MA, LMHC, PMHNP-BC

*Self-Care Recharge: Thriving While Caring for  
Mental Health and SUD Clients*

\*Our semi-annual membership meeting will follow at a dinner meeting

Hotel Registration Link:

[Hotel Viking APNA NE group reservation link](#)  
Book by April 10<sup>th</sup> if after, reach out to chapter support (Email below)

Select (x)	Category	Rate
	APNA Member	\$150.00
	<a href="#">Early Bird APNA Member</a>	<b>\$130.00</b>
	Non-Member	\$170.00
	<a href="#">Early Bird Non-Member</a>	<b>\$160.00</b>
	Student Member	\$75.00
	<a href="#">Early Bird Student Mem.</a>	<b>\$50.00</b>
	Group of 5 or more	\$120.00

*EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 15,  
2025*

Online registration Link:

<https://myaccount.apna.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3299>

Check Payment:

Please make checks payable to APNA New England Chapter and mail to:

Chapter Support

APNA

PO Box 70525

Philadelphia, PA 19176-9943

[Cancellation Policy](#)

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing to [chaptersupport@apna.org](mailto:chaptersupport@apna.org) by April 15, 2025 for a refund minus a \$15 processing fee.

**\*On-site Registration will be available**

*\*Program is reviewed by the APNA nurse planner in order to determine how many contact hours you will be awarded.*