

## **BTEA Northeast Member Spotlight**

John Christian, President and CEO, Modern Assistance Programs Inc.

### **RECOVERY: BEHIND MODERN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS INC.**

Born and raised in the Massachusetts area, John Christian earned his master's degree in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard's Graduate School of Education. For over a decade he worked with the Boston Public Health Commission and the Homeless Services Bureau running job training programs for the homeless population. During this time of his career, he obtained clinician's licenses for substance abuse in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and a clinician's license for mental health in Massachusetts. Christian also carries a national certification in substance abuse counseling with the Department of Transportation.

Since being founded by Paul McDevitt (1942 – 2016) over 35 years ago, Modern Assistance Programs, Inc. (MAP) has provided services in mental health and substance abuse counseling, among other hands-on services. Many of the clients MAP works with belong to labor unions. Since joining the firm in 2011, Christian has run MAP to carry out the vision of his old friend, Paul McDevitt.

"I'm a firm believer in unions and the protections they offer employees," Christian explained. "Certainly when I worked with people who are homeless and becoming formerly-homeless, I saw what they were facing in the workplace – labor unions negotiate on behalf of workers for fair wages and benefits."

### **MORE THAN A PARTNERSHIP, MAKING TREATMENT ACCESSIBLE**

Through its partnership with BTEA Northeast, MAP has continued to expand its services in the unionized construction industry. Unlike most programs, MAP is a one-stop resource for those seeking treatment for substance abuse and other mental health issues. The organization provides an on-staff clinicians who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as well as access to clinical services and counseling and the ability to facilitate vital in-patient treatment options.

MAP's hands-on method and constant follow up ensure those in treatment are receiving the care they require. This is why the majority of the union's robust health plans have been instrumental in MAP's substance abuse counseling and treatment efforts in the industry. "The fact that union members have access to good insurance changes the whole dynamic of how we can get people the treatment they need. We feel our partnership with BTEA Northeast is kind of twofold," Christian added. "One, we're available as licensed clinicians to do triage and determine what treatment people need. Two, the fact that the majority of those people have good insurance means we can provide them with top-notch services."

This is more than a partnership. Through MAP, BTEA Northeast members have access to resources which ensure the wellbeing of workers on jobsites and beyond, providing education that enables them to develop and maintain healthier lifestyle for themselves and their families. These services can be provided thanks to a generous network of providers, including psychiatrists, mental health counselors, social workers and many more.

Learn more about MAP by visiting their website: <https://modernassistance.com/>.

### **NATIONAL RECOVERY WEEK**

BTEA Northeast's Second Annual National Recovery Week begins April 25, 2022. This week-long national program will feature honest conversations with mental health professionals and industry leaders to

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break the stigma of substance abuse and provide resources for recovery. If you are interested in learning more about Recovery Week or want to get involved its planning, please contact the Association office at [jtempesta@btea.com](mailto:jtempesta@btea.com).