



**Karen Reese, MA, CAC-AD – Maryland  
Executive Director - Man Alive, Inc.**

For 50 years, Karen Reese has been a pioneering force in opioid treatment, spending her time at Man Alive, Inc, Maryland's first opioid treatment program and the nation's second. Ms. Reese has impacted not only patient care, but also the public perception of individuals in treatment. In the many decades of her career, Ms. Reese has always been innovative and progressive, spearheading a cultural shift to replace punitive approaches with acceptance, empowerment and non-judgment. She founded the Imagination Lab and the Ambassador Series, integrating the arts and inspirational figures into recovery. The patients, now artists, members of Imagination Lab have been invited to share their talents at public events, art galleries and even National Public Radio. Ms. Reese has worked to establish relationships with international advertising executives, radio and television personalities, Hollywood screenwriters, and best-selling authors. These individuals have repeatedly volunteered their time interacting with patients in meaningful ways, profoundly altering perceptions and fostering broader societal change.

In her tenure, Ms. Reese has been appointed to numerous committees by the City of Baltimore and community groups. Ms. Reese was also the first community-based director appointed to the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Clinical Trials Network (CTN) Steering Committee, where she influenced research on a national level. Her program was selected for the Baltimore Buprenorphine Initiative, which was an early start to the use of buprenorphine in Baltimore, and she was among the first round of providers in Maryland's Health Home Program. Ms. Reese is a visionary whose fearless advocacy and steadfast dedication have influenced the improvement of opioid treatment. She is passionate and inspirational in her unwavering devotion to opioid use disorder treatment, to promote the evolving science; recognize and address social determinants of health; give back to the community; and most importantly, empower the thousands of individuals she has served.