



## **PUBLIC SECTOR - Gregory Binus, MD**



Dr. Gregory Binus graduated from Brandeis University with a major in Philosophy and had no premedical background nor interest in medicine. Yet, he was about to begin on a journey that presaged his ultimately devoting his professional life to Public Sector Psychiatry. His first introduction to public service came after graduation when he joined the United States Peace Corp and served for 2 years in Kandahar, Afghanistan as a teacher in a surveying school. It was there he developed a passion for medicine and psychiatry. Upon return, he spent a year taking all required premed courses and later graduated from Boston University School of Medicine and then trained in psychiatry at the Boston University School of Medicine Psychiatry Residency Training Program.

Following Psychiatry residency training, Dr. Binus worked in clinical and leadership positions at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital (ENRMVH) in Bedford, MA including being Chief of Psychiatry, Mental Health Service Line Manager and later Chief of Staff for 14 years. He was always regarded by staff as an exceptional leader. His stay was during a prolonged tumultuous time at the ENRMVH with staff conflict and progressive budget cuts. At one point, the administration of the New England VA network mandated closing several large units treating chronically ill psychiatric patients and treating them on an outpatient basis. Recognizing that these patients essentially would become homeless, Dr. Binus convened and led a group that developed outpatient programs for these patients and turned one of the closed units into a lodging facility for patients who would otherwise not have housing.

During his tenure at the VA he was vitally involved in academics, regularly teaching medical students and residents. He retired from the Bedford VA in July 2012 as Chief of Staff and Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. “Dr. Binus and the Bedford VA Psychiatry” became almost synonymous during his years there.

In 2014 he was recruited to teach again in the Psychiatry Residency Training Program at Boston University Medical Center, focusing on supervision and didactics related to psychodynamic psychotherapy. He is currently Director of Psychotherapy Education and Emeritus Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry.

Dr. Binus is the recipient of a number of awards including Life Fellow of APA, two awards while in medical school, a national award as Physician of Excellence from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, two Outstanding Teaching Awards from Boston University Medical Center Division of Psychiatry, and a national award from the Disabled American Veterans. His primary interests are in psychodynamic psychotherapy, administration, and organizational ethics.

Dr. Binus has been stalwart in his dedication to Public Sector Psychiatry, and he has felt equally comfortable in addressing its problems in the safety of his office to the dangers of the streets. Perhaps his experience as a Peace Corp volunteer in Afghanistan, later informed by outstanding training as a psychiatrist, paved his way. And perhaps his being trained as a martial artist with a brown belt in Ninjutsu, and training in Judo and Krav Maga made him fearless in taking on those challenges.

The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is honored to present Dr. Gregory Binus with the 2024 Outstanding Psychiatrist Award for Public Sector Psychiatry.