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FOR-NY.ORG

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2012 POLICY STATEMENT

Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY), the statewide Recovery Addiction Advocacy not for profit remains committed to confront discrimination and to educate decision makers and the general public by advocating for access to addiction treatment, support for and expansion of regionally located recovery centers and the use of recovery coaches to provide peer driven, recovery support services. We therefore, urge the NYS Legislature and Administration to consider and act on the following:

Access to Treatment

- Individuals with substance abuse disorders have long been discriminated against by the failure to integrate addiction treatment into the New York State insurance system in a meaningful way. In the rare instance when an insurance policy does provide coverage, there is almost always a limit on the days covered or the number of times one can receive services. Managed care has made it even harder for addicted people to gain access to treatment placing roadblocks in the form of gatekeepers before one can get approved.
- FOR-NY encourages support for innovative legislation similar to the existing Pennsylvania Act 106 which would authorize addiction treatment professionals to make the ultimate determination on length and level of care for addiction treatment. The existing system with insurers making these dollar driven decisions has contributed to numerous preventable deaths and a cycle of short term abstinence and relapse draining our state of vital resources

Recovery Services

- FOR-NY strongly urges reinvestment of resources dedicated to Recovery Coaching. Like any chronic illness, relapse is an integral part of addictive behavior and the development of a positive support system is a necessary adjunct to effective long-term recovery. Recovery Coaches are trained individuals who have their own recovery experience (including the addiction of family, friends or loved-ones). Recovery Coaches, can help individuals gain access to needed resources, services, or supports, address the multiple areas in their life that have been impacted by addiction: e.g. assist with employment, locate stable housing and offer intervention at the first sign of relapse. Recovery Coaching can greatly increase the success rate of people in recovery while lowering the cost to the health care and criminal justice systems.

Reinvestment

- FOR-NY supports a small tax increase on alcohol sales and gaming outlets to be used to reinvest in community resources for prevention, treatment, and recovery services which must include transitional housing and employment opportunities. We strongly urge investment to stand up community recovery centers which provide access to recovery by utilizing a peer driven focus. Recovery Coaches, can help individuals gain access

to needed resources, services, or supports, address the multiple areas in their life impacted by addiction, and offer intervention at the first sign of relapse.

For too long, discrimination and stigma related to substance use disorders have determined access and outcomes for individuals and their families seeking help. The NYS legislature and Governor's office working with this constituency can make significant sustained change.

People in Recovery Vote, Show Up and Speak!

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