

SUMMARY REPORT

EVENT: Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum

DATE: 9.29.16

LOCATION: North Central Church

7463 Buckley Road, N. Syracuse, NY

ACTIVITY: Forum for individuals and family members on alcoholism/drug addiction

COORDINATOR: Stephanie Campbell - FOR-NY Director of Policy

CONTACT: 518-487-4395 x16 **LOCAL CONTACT:** Beth Hurny 315-471-1359

FRIENDS OF
RECOVERY
New York

ONE COMMUNITY
ONE VOICE

About Our Event Activity...

Executive Summary

The Prevention Network, the Center for Family Life and Recovery (CFLR); and the Central Region Prevention Resource Center co-sponsored the FOR-NY Recovery Talks Community Listening Forum. It was the 11th in a series of local forums being held across New York State to provide community members the opportunity to share their personal experiences with legislators, law enforcement and other leaders in dealing with alcohol and drug addiction, the loss of a family member or friend, as well as recovery from addiction.

Category Public Policy

Number of participants Adults: 52

Purpose

- Provide a safe space for individuals and families in recovery to voice their experiences around addiction, loss and recovery
- Help individuals and families overcome the stigma and discrimination that prevents many people from seeking help
- Engage the community in a productive discussion with local leaders that allows for more effective policies on addiction and recovery

Satisfaction Summary (Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent...)

Overall ease of event: 5

Overall satisfaction with outcome: 5

Value to Recovery Community: 5

Recommend Repeat of Event (Y/N): Y

Highlights – Comments, Problems Encountered, Opportunities Identified

- What made the difference for me was a community that loved and supported me.
- How wonderful would it be if we could have a seamless transition from treatment into recovery!
- My daughter was in five different treatment centers over two years and none was more than 14 days. When an addict wants help, they need it right when they want it – and it has to be long enough!
- People in treatment are being sold short- there is not a lot of accountability for facilities.
- My vision is that we have recovery centers in the community so that people have a place where they can come to get their lives back on track!
- We need to get community businesses involved with providing some kind of incentives to hire people once they get out of treatment.
- Insurance companies need to be held more accountable – if we can't get people into treatment then they can't get the help they need
- We need a way to connect the dots from the moment someone asks for help to when they get out of treatment and through the recovery process.
- In my recovery I went from welfare to work – we need more programs to help addicted people re-join society.

What made the difference for me was a community that loved and supported me.

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- Women have different issues than men – trauma; childcare, etc.
- My 28-year old son had no aftercare; no community-based recovery supports and no sober friends
- People with Mental Health and Addiction issues are thrown together in treatment
- There is not sufficient accountability in treatment
- Sober housing is non-existent and desperately needed!
- Young people need recovery support embedded in their schools and colleges

Young people need recovery support embedded in their schools and colleges

What We Discovered...

Findings

- There is not just one pathway to recovery – it's an individualized process.
- Long term recovery supports are needed to help people re-enter society.
- Recovery is 24 hrs a day; 7 days a week – so there need to be places open 24/7
- We need treatment for individuals and families
- There must be more community-based recovery supports made available
- Differentiation must be made between co-occurring treatment – not a one-size fits all
- People in early recovery can't live in environments and communities not conducive to their recovery.
- Sober environments are needed for young people in schools and colleges

*There must be more
community-based recovery supports
made available*

Recommendations

- Expand seamless transition from treatment to recovery support in the community
- Provide immediate access to treatment and expand length of treatment stay

*Base funding for treatment programs on
measurable
recovery metrics and outcomes*

- Aftercare (Recovery Support Services) must be part of the continuum of care
- Start Prevention early in the school curriculum
- Provide treatment and recovery support for single parents with children

- Base funding for treatment programs on measurable recovery metrics and outcomes
- Sober housing certification is needed to ensure safety and wellbeing
- Sober schools and collegiate programs are needed

Agenda and Participants

- 6:00 pm** **Welcome:** Robert J. Lindsey, FOR-NY CEO
Beth E. Hurny, Executive Director, Prevention Network
- 6:10 pm** **Moderator:** Stephanie Campbell, FOR-NY Director of Policy
Panelists: Craig Wilson, Community Liaison, Senator David Valesky
Deb Cody, Director of Constituent Services, Senator John DeFrancisco
Bridget Lenkiewicz, Research Technician, Onondaga County Health
Sandra Rivers, BS, CASAC, Crouse Chemical Dependency
Hon. Michele Pirro Bailey, Onondaga County Family Court
Nancy Farrell, Staff Attorney, Hiscock Legal Aid Society
- 6:20 pm** **Lead Speaker:** Jordan Eubanks
- 6:25 pm** **Speakers:** Community Members
- 7:20 pm** **Comments:** Listening Panel Members
- 7:50 pm** **Wrap-Up:** Robert J. Lindsey, FOR-NY, CEO

Co-Sponsors



Hosted By:



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum on Addiction and Recovery

This is a series of local forums being held across New York State to provide community members the opportunity to share personal experiences in dealing with alcohol and other drug addiction, loss of a family member or friend, as well as recovery from addiction.

The Listening Forums will engage the community in discussion with local leaders and result in a report titled, The State of Addiction Recovery in New York to better inform the public and policy makers.

For more information please contact:
Elizabeth Toomey at 315-471-1359

Thursday, September 29th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

North Central Church
7463 Buckley Rd. North Syracuse, 13212

Register at
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ed6a2fos1fcf39ab&llr=ghbx4ohab>

To Speak Speaker's remarks will be limited to 3 minutes in order to allow as many people as possible to speak

CO- SPONSORED BY: Prevention Network, Center for Family Life and Recovery & Central Region Prevention Resource Center

