



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum
on Addiction and Recovery

Monday, September 28, 2015

6:00 pm - 8 pm

Hudson Valley Community College
Troy, New York

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On September 28, 2015, FOR-NY partnered with the Assembly Minority Task Force on Heroin Addiction and Community Response to co-host the second in the 2015 *FOR-NY Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forums*. Almost 100 people participated in the event, which was held at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY.

“Plain and simple: barriers exist because not enough money is invested in recovery. We need to make this a priority in New York State NOW.”

- Brian
Troy, NY

PURPOSE OF FORUM: CELEBRATE THE JOY OF RECOVERY AND IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO RECOVERY

- ❖ Put a face to people and families in Recovery; a voice to people impacted by addiction; and a space for families and friends who have lost someone to addiction
- ❖ Help individuals and families overcome the stigma that prevents so many from seeking help
- ❖ End discrimination around addiction that create barriers to Recovery
- ❖ Engage and empower Recovery advocates in communities across the state
- ❖ Create an organized advocacy effort to change state policies to expand access to Recovery

HIGHLIGHTS – COMMENTS, PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED:

- We need to find ways to reduce access to heroin and other drugs; educate people about the dangers of substances; and help them get into treatment
- Law enforcement must work effectively with the community to find better and more effective ways to approach addiction
- State, local and federal agencies need to work together to help communities treat addiction
- Narcan saves lives but it doesn't address the issue: we need more programs in place to treat the problem of addiction.
- People addicted require specific treatment – not a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Having lawmakers in the same room as treatment and recovery people is very helpful! Sobriety is extremely rewarding and those of us who have found it can best help those who haven't!
- Young people returning from jails and institutions need community recovery supports to help them build and sustain their recovery.
- We need to address the gaps in services from start of treatment through discharge, on to the road to recovery.

- We need more available beds now – in the communities in which people live – so that they don't have to travel out of state to get the help they need.
- We need more detox services that addresses the medical condition of addiction so that people can be successful during the ongoing phases of addiction treatment.
- We need to provide follow-up for people once they get out of treatment so that we don't set them up to fail.

FINDINGS: COMMON THEMES

- Addiction Recovery is contingent on community prevention, treatment and recovery programs.
- Stigma prevents millions of families from seeking help which leads to discrimination in housing, employment and community reintegration.
- NY State invests far too few tax dollars into the prevention, treatment and recovery services.
- Policy makers need to address gaps in services that include community recovery supports once a person leaves treatment
- Treatment and Recovery services need to be based on what is needed, not on what's available.
- Addiction must be recognized as the public health epidemic that it is, and that it is a family disease and must be treated as such.
- Like cancer and diabetes, recovery from the treatable disease of addiction is possible, if help is made available when the window of opportunity is presented.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Reduce Stigma** around addiction for individuals and family members
- **Increase Treatment Services and Recovery Supports** IMMEDIATELY.
- Recognize that each case must be treated individually, not generically.
- Insurance denials must be addressed and insurance companies must be held publically accountable.
- **Extend duration** of treatment and recovery supports for individuals and family members.
- Treatment and Recovery supports and services must be made available to those involved with criminal justice system.
- **Provide family treatment** and family support navigators in every county.
- **Stop the "Fail-First" in outpatient treatment requirement** before access to inpatient treatment is approved.
- **Increase peer support** and encourage people in sustained recovery to speak up as living proof that recovery is real and possible.



(Left to Right): Members of Listening Panel: Brian Prinz-Young People in Recovery (YPR); Brian Farr- Recovery Advocacy in Saratoga (RAIS), Bill DeJoy- Clinical Director Conifer Park; Tony Jordon- District Attorney Washington County; Pat Russo- Rensselaer County Under Sherriff; Assemblyman Al Graf (Holbrooke); Assemblyman Joseph Giglio (Gowanda); Assemblyman Jim Tedisco (Glennville); Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin (Schaghticoke); and Stephanie Campbell- Director of Policy FOR-NY.

EVENT AGENDA:

- 6:00 pm: Welcome remarks – Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin (Schaghticoke) – Task Force member
- 6:05 pm: Welcome remarks – Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio (Gowanda) – Task Force Chairman
- 6:10 pm: Welcome remarks – Assemblyman Jim Tedisco (Glenville) – Task Force member
- 6:15 pm: Welcome remarks – Assemblyman Al Graf (Holbrooke), Task Force member
- 6:20 pm: Moderator – Stephanie Campbell, FOR-NY Director of Policy
- 6:25 pm: Speakers – Lead Speaker: Robert. J. Lindsey: CEO – Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY)
- 6:30 pm: Open to Anyone Who Wants to Speak
- 8:30 pm: Listening Panel Members
- 8:45 pm: Wrap-Up – Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, Stephanie Campbell

PANELISTS:

- ❖ **Pat Russo** – 28 year veteran of the Troy Police force, and Rensselaer County Undersheriff for the past 12 years.
- ❖ **Bill DeJoy, LCSW-R** – Clinical Director of Conifer Park; worked with adolescents and their families for 15 years.
- ❖ **Sandra McCarthy** – Rensselaer County Conflict Defender; long-term advocate for individuals and family members involved with the Criminal Justice system.
- ❖ **Bryan Prinz** – Member of Young People in Recovery (YPR) Albany Chapter; HVCC Chemical Dependency Program; person in sustained recovery.
- ❖ **Brian Farr, MS, CASAC**- Chair- Recovery Advocacy in Saratoga (RAIS), Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) at St. Peter’s Hospital, Coordinator of Addiction Studies at Hudson Valley Community College, Board Member- The Prevention Council and a person in long-term recovery.

Sponsored By:



On January 25, 2016, Members of the Assembly Minority Task Force on Heroin Addiction & Community Response held a Press Conference to announce release of their report: **“The Heroin Epidemic- A Report on Heroin Use, Treatment, Prevention & Education Efforts in NYS”**. Stephanie Campbell- FOR-NY Director of Policy, along with Laurie Quinn- parent and Bryan Prinz, YPR were invited to speak.

A Community Conversation on Heroin Addiction and Prescription Drug Abuse: Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

Monday, September 28
6 to 8 p.m.

Hudson Valley Community College
Bulmer Telecommunications Center
80 Vandenberg Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

Sponsored by:

Assembly Republican Task Force on
Heroin Addiction & Community Response

Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin

Assemblyman Jim Tedisco

In cooperation with Friends of Recovery – New York (FOR-NY)

This conversation will engage the
community in discussion with local leaders.

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

FRIENDS OF
RECOVERY
New York

ONE COMMUNITY
ONE VOICE

Nothing about us without us.