



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum
on Addiction and Recovery

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Crowne Plaza Resort
Lake Placid, New York

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On November 4, 2015, the Northern Tier Providers Coalition co-sponsored the fourth *FOR-NY Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum*. Over fifty participants attended the event, which featured thirteen speakers from the North Country who are personally and professionally involved with the prevention, treatment and recovery communities.

“It’s not the treatment providers or even the doctors who determine if a person gets help...it’s the insurance companies. I think that’s unacceptable.

- Kristen
Lake Placid, 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:

- Providers need to be able to get people help **immediately**
- Use recovery coaches for continued care once a person leaves treatment
- It’s the insurance companies who are dictating whether or not people get treatment.
- Patients are being released long before they should be. I’ve seen people go through multiple hospitalizations and then attempt suicide because they are denied treatment.
- Family members get into trouble with addiction because it often runs in families yet they aren’t given the treatment they need.
- I’ve seen people drive out of state to get their family member treatment. We don’t have enough providers because we’re a rural community.
- Insurance companies don’t pay and family members are mortgaging their homes to take care of their adolescent children.
- Parents feel powerless trying to get help from lawmakers to hold insurance companies accountable.

- There are lots of people volunteering their time to build and maintain a recovery community. But we need funding. When is the government going to take action on what we're asking for?

FINDINGS: COMMON THEMES

- More research is needed to identify risk factors for children that may lead to addiction.
- Doctors need more education about addiction, recovery and the use of prescription drugs – especially with people with a history of addiction.
- There must be an end to the criminalization of addiction: treatment is needed instead of incarceration.
- Individuals and family members must have greater access to treatment across the board.
- There must be community recovery supports in place to help people in early recovery rebuild socialization skills and be reintroduced into society.
- Medication Assisted Treatment can work but there must be addiction counselling supports along with it.
- Families must have access to information that will help them navigate the treatment system.
- The legal system is often the only way that people who need treatment are able to get the help they need.
- People who get out of treatment find they don't have adequate recovery supports in the community and as a result are prone to relapse.
- Individuals who have been able to sustain some recovery and then relapse are at greatest risk to overdose and death.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Greater Enforcement of Insurance Companies** and accountability to ensure that necessary care is being provided for individuals and family members.
- **Increase funding** for addiction and recovery research.
- **Provide Transportation** for individuals needing treatment in rural communities.
- **Better treatment regulations** for people who use medication assisted treatment.
- **Provide family education, treatment,** and family support navigators in every county.
- **Treatment on demand** for people who need treatment, similar to other medical conditions.
- **Increase funding for addiction treatment** and recovery services so that they are accessible, accountable, efficient and equitable.



(Left to Right): Participants at the *FOR-NY Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum* co-sponsored by the Northern Tier Provider included Senator Betty Little, Bob Lindsey, Shari Tacchino, Bud Ziolkowski, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Tina Buckley and Stephanie Campbell.

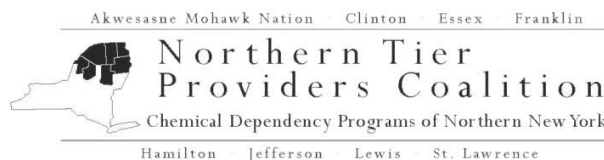
EVENT AGENDA:

- 4:00 pm: Welcome – Robert. J. Lindsey: CEO – Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY)
- 4:10 pm: Moderator – Stephanie Campbell: Director of Policy, Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY)
- 5:25pm: Open Mic – Open to Anyone Who Wants to Speak
- 5:30 pm: Comments – Listening Panel Members
- 5:45 pm: Wrap-Up – Robert. J. Lindsey: CEO – Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY)

PANELISTS:

- ❖ **Senator Betty Little** (Glens Falls) is a member of the New York State Senate, representing the 45th Senate District, which comprises Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and parts of St. Lawrence and Washington Counties. Prior to first winning election to the State Senate in November 2002, Senator Little served in the New York State Assembly for seven years. Senator Little serves as chair of the Senate Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation Committee. In addition, she is a member of the following Senate committees: Consumer Protection; Crime Victims, Crime and Correction; Education; Environmental Conservation; Finance; and Judiciary.
- ❖ **Assemblywoman Janet L. Duprey** (Peru) is a member of the New York State Assembly, representing Assembly District 114, which includes all of Clinton and Franklin Counties, as well as the town of St. Armand in Essex County. A lifelong public servant, Assemblywoman Duprey was the first woman elected to the Clinton County Legislature at the age of 29. After 10 years as a legislator, including two years as chairperson, she was elected Clinton County Treasurer and served for 21 years until her resignation in December 2006, following her election to the Assembly. Assemblywoman Duprey has served as Ranking Minority Member on the Governmental Operations Committee, and has worked on the Correction, Ethics and Guidance, Higher Education, Rules, and Ways and Means committees.
- ❖ **Tina Buckley, CASAC-G - Rose Hill Program Director** - Ms. Buckley joined Rose Hill, a residential inpatient program for adolescents ages 12 to 21, in as a primary counsellor. Since that time, she has held several positions within the Agency and for the last seven years has lead the Agency in her capacity as Executive Director. She is currently the Chairperson of Massena Memorial Hospital, a Board Member of the St Lawrence County Community Services Board and an active member of the Massena Drug Free Coalition. Ms. Buckley received her education at Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg, N.Y. and SUNY Canton.

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RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum on Addiction and Recovery

This 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 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.

Wednesday, November 4th
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Crowne Plaza Resort & Golf Club
Sky Room
Lake Placid

Register at <https://goo.gl/ArwpmI>

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: Northern Tier Providers Coalition



For more information, contact:
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