



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum
on Addiction and Recovery

Thursday, December 3, 2015

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

New York University School of Social Work Parlor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The fifth *FOR-NY Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum* made its way to Manhattan on December 3, 2015, with 40 attendees converging from several boroughs to New York University's Silver School of Social Work. Co-sponsors included the Brooklyn Community Recovery Center, the New York Recovery Community Coalition (NYRCC), NYU Silver School of Social Work, with participation from members of the Alumni Association of New York.

"The 21st century is the century of Recovery...we have to break the silence about addiction so that people can reach for Recovery."

- Mother Shelly
Brooklyn, 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 support young people talking as much and as often as they can so we can help them.
- Legalizing marijuana will bring challenges for the treatment and Recovery community.
- We need to centralize treatment in one place so that people in need of services with limited resources are able to receive support.
- People need treatment instead of incarceration, which will reduce stigma and discrimination.
- The current system is broken and fosters dependency instead of independence.
- Penitentiary programs do not have adequate treatment services and supports, nor are there follow up supports after individuals are released, which leads to relapse and re-incarceration.
- We need peer mentors and recovery coaches for adults and adolescents.
- We need to stop chastising and imprisoning people who have a disease that saps them of their will.

FINDINGS: COMMON THEMES

- Insurance companies must provide better coverage for treatment so that people are not set up to fail.
- Treatment providers must be properly trained to help people sustain recovery.
- Stigma is the biggest barrier to people asking for help and getting it; we must help people break the silence around addiction and reach for recovery.
- People must have adequate recovery supports in the community made available for when they leave treatment or jail.
- Medication Assisted Treatment is still stigmatized and is not recognized as a valid treatment for addiction, even among professionals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Significant increases in funding** must be made available for treatment and recovery supports immediately.
- **Decision makers must take guidance** from community recovery organizations for solutions to the addiction crisis.
- **Immediate removal of roadblocks** to treatment and recovery supports for those involved with criminal justice system.
- **Funding for Recovery Community Centers** in every community to provide centralized services and supports to sustain recovery and prevent relapse.
- **Increase services and supports** to families and young people who are impacted by addiction.
- **Regulate annual physician education** that provides up-to-date, appropriate addiction training.
- **Support education and services** for those receiving Medication Assisted Treatment.



Charlene Payne from the MARS Project addressed the community and panellists who attended the fifth *FOR-NY Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum* co-sponsored by NYU Silver School of Social Work, the Brooklyn Community Recovery Center (BCRC), New York Recovery Community Coalition (NYRCC), and the Alumni Association of New York. Panellists included Joseph Turner, FOR-NY Board member and Exponents Vice President; Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, Chair of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee; Bridget Brennan, Office Special Prosecutor; and Dr. Jennifer Manuel, Professor of Advanced Substance Abuse Policy at NYU Silver School of Social Work.

EVENT AGENDA:

6:00 pm	Welcome:	Bob Lindsey, FOR-NY CEO
6:10 pm	Moderator:	Stephanie Campbell, FOR-NY Director of Policy
	Panellists:	Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal (D-67 th District) Bridget G. Brennan, NYC Special Narcotics Prosecutor Joseph R. Turner, Vice President of Exponents; FOR-NY Board of Director Jennifer Manuel, Assistant Professor of Social Work, BS, MS, PhD.

6:20 pm **Open Mic:** Open to Anyone Who Wants to Speak
7:20 pm **Comments:** Listening Panel Members
7:50 pm **Wrap-Up:** Bob Lindsey, FOR-NY CEO

PANELISTS:

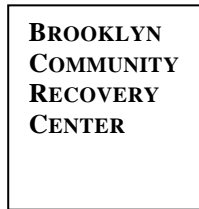
- ❖ **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal** represents the 67th Assembly district, which includes the Upper West Side and parts of Clinton/Hell’s Kitchen in Manhattan and is Chair of the NYS Assembly Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee. Elected in 2006 Assemblymember Rosenthal has passed nearly 60 laws that have helped to improve the lives of all New York State residents, including one which allows opioid-addicted defendants across NYS to participate in judicial diversion programs while receiving medication-assisted treatment for their addiction.

- ❖ **Bridget G. Brennan, NYC Special Narcotics Prosecutor** has been New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor since 1998. Ms. Brennan joined the Office in 1992 and served as the second in command from 1995 to 1997. Prior to that, she was the Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau overseeing some of the most significant narcotics investigations in the country. Ms. Brennan has been a prosecutor since 1983 when she joined the New York County District Attorney's Office.

- ❖ **Joseph R. Turner, J.D** is currently the Vice-President of the Exponents Center for Personal & Professional Development, Inc., an innovative and holistic training institute for individuals working in the human services and non-profit fields. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Exponents, Inc., Friends of Recovery – NY (FOR-NY); Exodus Transitional Communities. In addition, he is Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the New York Certification Association and is a member of the Executive Committee of the NYS OASAS Recovery Implementation Team.

- ❖ **Dr. Jennifer I. Manuel** is an Assistant Professor at NYU Silver School of Social Work. Her research focuses on the delivery and quality of treatment services among persons with co-occurring substance use and mental health needs. She was recently awarded a NIDA Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) to adapt and pilot test an assertive outreach and linkage program, *Critical Time Intervention* for individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental health needs following residential substance abuse treatment.

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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.

**Thursday, December 3rd
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

NYU School of Social Work
Silver Parlor
1 Washington Square, New York City

Register at <https://goo.gl/hf6Rvx>

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: NYU Silver School of Social Work, The Brooklyn Recovery Community Center and the New York Recovery Community Center (NYRCC)



The Brooklyn
Recovery
Community
Center



For more information, contact:
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