



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum
on Addiction and Recovery

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Northport Library, Long Island

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, the Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA) and the Drug Alcohol Task Force (DATF) co-hosted the sixth *FOR-NY Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum* at the Northport Public Library in Suffolk County, Long Island. Over 40 community members identified and addressed issues surrounding addiction and recovery that have impacted their community.

“My daughter desperately needed inpatient treatment and was hospitalized twice after she failed outpatient. I didn’t know what to do or who to call...”

- Debbie
Northport, 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:

- Families identified ongoing treatment needs for adolescents, lack of support services and continuum of care when they are done with treatment.
- A social shift is needed from the attitude that a “magic pill” will fix everything to a more holistic approach that includes engaging the whole family in the recovery process.
- Clinicians expressed their concern that instant gratification and fast-paced results have made it hard for them to do their jobs.
- Law Enforcement identified the need for connection of service, or treatment options that will be offered after NARCAN admission.
- Concern that the focus on opiate epidemic has left students and parents misinformed that marijuana and alcohol are “safe alternatives” for young people.
- Families identified the need for support in navigating the various systems of treatment and recovery.

FINDINGS: COMMON THEMES

- Sober high schools and recovery centers for youth are needed to support sustained recovery.
- Education is needed to develop a social understanding that recovery is an on-going process.
- New laws are needed that will help the person with addiction, not the dealer.
- Youth are more sophisticated visually and need progressive approaches to prevention.
- Families are desperate for resources to help them navigate through the system of treatment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Significant increases in funding** must be made immediately available for critically needed treatment services and recovery supports.
- **Increase funding and resources** for recovery community centers and sober high schools on Long Island.
- **Immediate resources made available** to families for addiction education, counselling and continuation of care.
- **Whole-system treatment** regulations and program developments needed so that family unit receives care.
- **Community education** around mutual aid and faith-based programs for recovery supports
- **Increased resources** for supports and services for individuals and family members involved in the legal system.



(Left to right): On December 8, 2015, Northport Village Police Lt. Bill Ricca, Assemblyman Andrew Raia; FOR-NY Consultant Nicole Carey; Anthony Ferrandino, LMSW, CASAC; LIRA President and FOR-NY Board member Richard Buchman, along with Mary Silberstein, LCSW-R, CASAC-G, joined community members at the Northport Public Library for the sixth *FOR-NY Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum*.

EVENT AGENDA:

7:00 pm	Welcome:	Robert J. Lindsey: CEO - Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY)
7:10 pm	Moderator:	Nicole Carey, Consultant- Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY)
7:15 pm	Speakers:	Lead Speaker: Barry Zaks, LMSW, CASAC Director of Huntington Drug Alcohol Counselling Center
8:15 pm	Open Mic:	Open to Anyone Who Wants to Speak
8:30 pm	Comments:	Listening Panel Members
8:45 pm	Wrap-Up:	Robert J. Lindsey - FOR-NY

PANELISTS:

- ❖ **Assemblyman Andrew Raia (R,I,C-East Northport)** is a lifelong resident of Huntington and has served as the New York State Assemblyman for the 12th Assembly District. First elected in November 2002, Assemblyman Raia currently serves as the Deputy Minority Whip, and is the ranking member of the Assembly Committee on Health. Prior to his election, he was a member of legislative offices in both houses of the New York State Legislature, as well as the Suffolk County Legislature. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the State University of New York at New Paltz, from which he graduated in 1991.
- ❖ **Richard Buckman - LCSW-R, CEAP, SAP, CASAC - President of Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA) and FOR- NY Past President.** As a person in long-term recovery since 1988, Mr. Buckman has been at the forefront of the grassroots recovery movement in New York State. A founding member of the Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA), he is a former two-term President and current board member. Mr. Buckman was a founding member of Friends of Recovery-New York (FOR-NY) and served as the organization's first president. He serves on numerous committees, community boards and task forces on Long Island and at the state level. Mr. Buckman is a widely regarded expert in the field and has been utilized by media, as well as local, state and national organizations to share his insight and experience.
- ❖ **Anthony Ferrandino LMSW, CASAC** is the Drug and Alcohol Counselor for the Northport-East Northport School District. Mr. Ferrandino has over 17 years working in the adolescent addiction field. He is also the Chair of the Northport-East Northport Community Drug and Alcohol Task Force (DAFT), a local community coalition. DATF was created several years ago to educate and protect children from drug and alcohol use and is comprised of residents, students, parents, local government, law enforcement, business owners, behavioral health care agencies, youth bureaus, local libraries and school personnel.
- ❖ **Robert J. Lindsey, M.Ed., CEO of Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY)** is the former President/CEO- National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence (NCADD). Mr. Lindsey has served as Vice President of Longview EAP. He has also served as the Community Relations Director of the Betty Ford Center and Executive Director of the New York State Council on Alcoholism & Drug Addiction (NYSCADA); Therapist/Unit Manager at Spofford Hall and Ex. Dir./Clinical Dir- Allegany County Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse (ACCASA).
- ❖ **Mary Silverstein – LCSW-R, CASAC(G), CADC** has been in the Mental Health and Addiction Recovery field since 1990. She has served as the Supervisor/Coordinator of the Alcoholism Outpatient Program at Queens Hospital Center for seven years; was the Division Director of Addiction Recovery Services at The Pederson Krag Center for 15 years; and since 2013, has served as Division Director of Integrated Care & Behavioral Health Treatment Services at CN Guidance & Counseling Center. Ms. Silverstein was a 2011 recipient of the Long Island Recovery Association's Appreciation Award.

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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.

Tuesday, December 8th
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Northport Public Library
151 Laurel Avenue
Northport, NY

Register at <https://goo.gl/3ilux1>

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: Long Island Recovery Association and Northport East-Northport Community Drug and Alcohol Task Force



For more information, contact:

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