

SUMMARY REPORT

EVENT: Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum

FRIENDS OF
RECOVERY
New York

ONE COMMUNITY
ONE VOICE

DATE: 4.30.15

LOCATION: Saratoga Springs Public Library

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

COORDINATOR: Robert Lindsey

CONTACT: 518-487-4395 x15 **LOCAL CONTACT:** Brian Farr

About Our Event Activity...

Executive Summary

The Saratoga Recovery Talks Community Listening Forum was the first in 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, the loss of a family member or friend, as well as recovery from addiction.

Category Public Policy

Number of participants 75

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 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/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

- Individuals in sustained recovery talked about the solution of recovery to addiction and called for an increase in financial resources and supports for people to get the help they need to recovery; the impact of stigma and discrimination around addiction that affected their ability to get into treatment and achieve sustained recovery; their difficulty accessing treatment; and the overwhelming need for community supports and services once people leave treatment. They also spoke about difficulty with family members who did not understand addiction and the need for more education and resources for prevention and treatment.

“Individuals called for additional resources for Recovery Coaches; and family counselling.”

- Family members spoke out about the need for increased treatment for individuals in active addiction; the impact that addiction has on family members; lack of available resources for family members who are struggling to get help for their loved ones; and the need for treatment on demand; and additional family support programs and resources for family members.
- Individuals called for additional resources for Recovery Coaches; and family counselling

What We Discovered...

Findings

- Individuals need access to Detox and treatment facilities
- Family members need support, education, counselling and continuing of care
- Individuals need more prevention and interventions beginning with adolescent care
- Policy makers need to address gaps in services that include community supports once a person leaves treatment
- Insurance companies need to be held more accountable
- Limited Resources are contributing to an increase in overdoses and relapse
- Individuals and family members feel abandoned and confused with where to go for help and what to do
- Preliminary suggestions include:
 - o Immediate increase in dollars and resources
 - o More Information on addiction and recovery service for individuals and families
 - o Impact on individuals and families
 - o More NYS treatment options
 - o Greater access to resources which help individuals and families navigate and access treatment
 - o Follow-up services and supports for individuals and families once critical care has occurred.

“Policy makers need to address gaps in services that include community supports once a person leaves treatment.”

Recommendations

- Increase funding and resources for prevention and treatment
- Physician Education around prescription drugs and treatment of addiction
- Greater Continuum of Care to close gaps in services
- More resources made available to help people who want to get involved in local Recovery Community Organizations
- Work to break down barriers created by stigma that block and interfere with recovery
- Create an organized advocacy effort to change policies to expand access to prevention, treatment and recovery

Agenda and Participants

7 pm	Welcome:	Robert J. Lindsey, FOR-NY, CEO
7:10 pm	Moderator:	Janine Stuchin: Executive Director – The Prevention Council
7:15 pm	Speakers:	Lead Speaker: Brian Farr - RAIS Chair
8:15 pm	Open to Anyone Who Wants to Speak	
8:30 pm	Listening Panel Members	
8:45 pm	Wrap-Up	Robert J. Lindsey, FOR-NY, CEO

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RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum on Addiction and Recovery

This is the first in 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, April 30th
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saratoga Springs Public Library
1st floor Community Room
49 Henry St., Saratoga Springs

Register at www.PreventionCouncil.org/ListeningForum
To Speak Speaker's remarks will be limited to 3 minutes in order to allow as many people as possible to speak.

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