



Friends of Recovery – New York 2016 Addiction Recovery Policy Statement

Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY) is a state-wide Recovery Community Organization (RCO) working on behalf of millions of individuals and families in New York to educate decision makers and the public about addiction recovery. We are dedicated to ending discrimination and removing barriers to treatment, housing, and employment; and we support the expansion of recovery support services for individuals and families.

We call on the Governor and the NYS Legislature to take the following immediate actions to address the urgent addiction crisis in New York State:

INSURANCE PARITY ENFORCED WITH EXPANDED ACCESS TO ADDICTION TREATMENT

Although the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) was signed into law in 2008 and the Affordable Health Care Act signed in 2010, individuals and families across New York State are still being denied life-saving addiction treatment because the laws are still not fully implemented. We ask that the Governor and the NYS Legislature do more to enforce insurance and parity laws in New York, and increase funding for addiction treatment and recovery so that they are accessible, accountable, efficient, equitable, and of the highest quality.

Treatment on Demand - Recovery from addiction is possible. It is unconscionable that individuals must "hit bottom" or be forced to wait weeks on average before they can access sorely needed treatment. Insurers, providers, state and county government units must all work together with recovery community organizations to ensure that immediate access to treatment becomes the norm rather than the exception. Anyone who needs treatment must have access to treatment on demand as with other medical conditions.

ADDICTION & RECOVERY SAFEGUARDS

Physician Education - We support regulations which would reduce the addictive use of prescription drugs and ensure that the medical community receives continuing education that is up-to-date with respect to addiction and recovery. Healthcare practitioners prescribing controlled medications must be currently informed on the subject matter of addiction treatment and recovery.

Treatment Regulations for People on Suboxone - We support enactment of regulations requiring concurrent counseling treatment with the use of suboxone. Evidence-based research supports the critical need for people receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to have corresponding therapeutic support.

Regulation of Sober Recovery Homes - We support increased improvements in standardized regulatory and quality assurance approaches to recovery homes. Individuals in early recovery must be protected and afforded a safe and supportive living environment. Regulations and supervision must be adopted in a manner that works within the parameters of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Evaluation, Assessment and Referral after Overdose Reversal - We support the creation of proactive interventions to assist those in crisis after receiving emergency Narcan to reverse an opiate overdose. In most instances, no treatment intervention occurs (or any referral at all) and there are numerous reports of additional overdose and in some cases even death. Mechanisms for evaluation, other assessment, treatment referrals and *warm handoffs* to recovery coaches and peer supports must be offered, implemented and made immediately available upon request to help save lives.

Improve Outcomes for Those in Treatment and Recovery with Current or Former Criminal Justice Involvement - We support the removal of barriers that make it difficult for individuals with criminal records to access treatment, sustain recovery and have the same access to housing, employment, healthcare, and education as other New Yorkers.



Friends of Recovery – New York 2016 Addiction Recovery Policy Statement

FOR-NY RECOVERY ADVOCACY DAY 2016 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

\$50 MILLION INVESTMENT IN RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE

A glaring omission remains in the addiction treatment into recovery continuum; a lack of recovery support services following primary treatment. Friends of Recovery - New York (FOR-NY) asks for the immediate investment of \$50 million to build a strong statewide network of local recovery support services for individuals and families focused on minimizing relapse and maximizing the changes needed for sustained recovery. Use of peer recovery coaches and family peers must be integrated at the local community level.

A Recovery Community Center in Every County = \$20 Million

Recovery Community Centers (RCC's) are committed to supporting a person's efforts to prevent relapse and should relapse occur, to quickly return to recovery. As testament to the need, OASAS received more than 70 Letters of Intent for local RCC's across the state in response to an RFP issued last year.

A Recovery Community Organization in Every County = \$10 Million

Recovery Community Organizations (RCO's) are independent non-profits, led and governed by people in recovery, as well as their family members, friends and allies who mobilize resources within and outside of the recovery community to make it possible for people with the chronic disease of addiction to find long-term recovery. Each organization has a mission that reflects the particular issues and concerns of its community.

Recovery Coaches in Every County = \$10 Million

Peer Recovery Coaches are highly effective peers with lived experience in addiction and recovery who are trained to serve as mentors and guides. Coaches typically work with individuals and families seeking recovery to help remove barriers, assist in navigating systems and connecting to needed resources, all of which resulted in reduced relapse and improved recovery outcomes. We propose two full-time Recovery Coaches for each RCC in every county.

Family Support Navigators in Every County = \$10 Million

Family Support Navigators will be located in existing, neutral, non-treatment provider, community based resource centers, RCC's and RCO's (\$150,000 per county) to provide information, referrals, insurance navigation, treatment options, recovery support services, family education, and family recovery support – for the family as primary clients.

Recovery Community Centers (RCCs)	\$20 million
Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs)	\$10 million
Recovery Coaches	\$10 million
Family Support Recovery Navigators	\$10 million
Total ---	\$50 million



Friends of Recovery – New York 2016 Addiction Recovery Policy Statement

Friends of Recovery New York Mission and Vision

WHO?

“Friends of Recovery - NY is comprised of NYS residents who are in long-term recovery from addiction, their families, friends and allies. We represent all sectors of the community, all regions of the state, and the numerous and diverse paths to recovery. We actively organize and mobilize the recovery community so as to speak effectively with one voice.”

WHAT?

“Our mission is to demonstrate the power and proof of recovery from addictions and its value to individuals, families and communities throughout NYS and the nation. We actively seek to advance public policies and practices that promote and support recovery.”

WHY?

“We envision a world in which recovery from addiction is both a commonplace and a celebrated reality, a world in which the entire spectrum of effective prevention, treatment and recovery support services are available and accessible to all who might benefit from them.”

FOR-NY Believes:

- Recovery is possible for everyone
- Everyone achieves recovery in his or her own way
- Adequate resources and support are necessary for sustained recovery
- Recovery is about reclaiming a meaningful life and role in society

FOR-NY Stands For:

- Addressing addiction as a public health issue
- Responding to illicit drug use as a health issue rather than a crime
- Eliminating barriers to getting help
- Developing non-punitive, non-judgmental recovery service models
- Creating a system that engages and supports people to reclaim a meaningful life
- Including recovering individuals and our families at all levels of budget and policy development in the system