

SUMMARY REPORT

FRIENDS OF
RECOVERY
New York

ONE COMMUNITY
ONE VOICE

EVENT: Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum

DATE: 12.03.2017

LOCATION: New Dorp Moravian Church, Staten Island

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

COORDINATOR: Allison Weingarten, LMSW, FOR-NY Policy Director

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About Our Event Activity...

Executive Summary

Tackling Youth Substance Abuse (TYSA), Carl's House, The Community Health Action of Staten Island and Friends of Recovery - New York co-sponsored the FOR-NY Recovery Talks Community Listening Forum. It was the 19th in a series of local forums being held across New York State to provide community members the opportunity to share their personal experiences with legislators, law enforcement and other leaders 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** 32

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: 3

Overall satisfaction with outcome: 5

Value to Recovery Community: 5

Recommend Repeat of Event (Y/N): Y

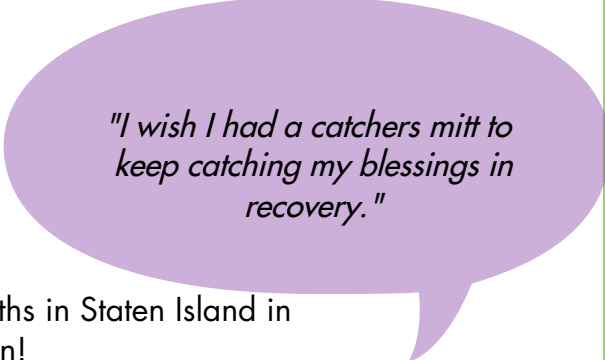
Highlights

- Young people in recovery and family members of those in recovery or suffering from the disease of addiction were well represented at the event. These speakers made connections in real time with decision makers on the listening panel.
- Many speakers highlighted the need for safe, clean and accessible recovery housing on Staten Island.
- Family members spoke to the need for training and support specifically tailored to family members.

What we Discovered

Findings

- People in recovery and family members are volunteering and giving back to the recovery community and the community as a whole.
- Recovery needs compassion, empathy and patience, the disease cannot be treated with anger.
- Narcan saves lives. Yes, there were 130 overdose deaths in Staten Island in one year, but there were also 400 lives saved with Narcan!
 - In recovery, the blessings keep coming--Recovery has enabled a mother to be with her children again; has allowed one young man to get engaged to be married; has enabled one woman to receive her driver's license and purchase a car.
 - Providing hobbies and group activities to people in recovery brings joy, connection and purpose.
 - Addiction can start early. According to one speaker, his addiction started at age 9.
 - Recovery would not be possible without family and friends.
 - A 12 Step Narcan group can greatly help family members cope with their loved one's addiction.
 - Family members are most supportive and helpful to their loved ones when they serve as cheer leaders.
 - Family members advised other family members to not hide at home, but to connect with others.
 - Insurance must be more inclusive so that people can get the help they need when they need it.
 - Recovery housing is greatly needed on Staten Island.
 - Staten Island should consider starting a parent coach helpline.



"I wish I had a catcher's mitt to keep catching my blessings in recovery."

Recommendations

"Because of Naranon, I got to learn to love my daughter again."

- Affordable and safe recovery housing is needed in Staten Island.
- An effort must be made to ensure that people in recovery are more consistently involved in the Tackling Youth Substance Abuse taskforce on Staten Island.
- Emergency rooms must continue to engage peers and hospitals need the voice of peers to facilitate that process.
- Parents must be empowered to become "Cheer Leaders" for their children and coaches for other family members in need of support.
- The recovery community must engage with people who are not "in the room" including the media and those in the community who are not well versed in the disease of addiction and the promise of recovery.
- People in recovery need more employment options.
- Physicians need to be better trained in the dangers of addiction.

Agenda and Participants

- 2:00 pm **Welcome:** Marco Di Donna, Executive Director, Carl's House
- 2:10 pm **Moderator:** Stephanie M. Campbell, FOR-NY Executive Director
- Panelists:** Cheif Edward Delatorre, Staten Island Police Chief; Ashleigh Owens, Special Assistant District Attorney for External Affairs, Richmond County District Attorney's Office; Ginny Mantello, M.D. Director of Health and Wellness, Office of the Staten Island Borough President; Adrienne Abbate, Executive Director, Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness; Michael Matthews, Director of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services, Richmond University Medical Center; Elizabeth Keeney, Manager of Inpatient Chemical Dependency Rehab Unit at Staten Island University Hospital/Private Practice Clinician and Adjunct Professor at College of Staten Island; Jaqueline Filis, Executive Director, YMCA Counseling Services; William Matarazzo, Chief of Operations, Senator Andrew Lanza; Kendall Spiller, Staten Island Borough Director, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
- 2:20 pm **Speakers:** Community Members
- 3:40 pm **Comments:** Listening Panel
- 3:55 pm **Wrap-Up:** Stephanie Campbell and Jaqueline Fillis

Co-Sponsor



**TACKLING
YOUTH
SUBSTANCE
ABUSE**

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RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum on Addiction and Recovery

This 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.

Sunday, December 3rd
2:00 – 4:00 pm

New Dorp Moravian Church
2205 Richmond Road
Staten Island, NY 10306

Register at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2028133884100593/>

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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For more information, contact:
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