



Richard is a person in recovery since 1988 and is an original member of the Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA) founded in 2000 to advocate for the rights and needs of individuals in recovery and their family members. A multiple term LIRA President he was also the founding President of Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY) the statewide recovery community organization and

served on the board for 8 years. He was elected to the Board of Directors of Faces and Voices of Recovery in Washington DC in 2013 and served as Chairman of the Board 2014-2018 and remains as a board member today. He serves on many committees, advisory boards and task forces on LI and at the state and national levels. He is a go-to person on addiction and recovery issues.

By trade Richard is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Employee Assistance Professional, Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor, Level II Certified Experiential Therapist, Certified Recovery Peer Advocate and Certified Addiction Recovery Coach. Since 1990 he has worked in addiction treatment and Employee Assistance including nearly 5 years as Senior EAP Specialist and clinical supervisor of the FDNY Counseling Services Unit utilizing EMDR in extensive trauma resolution work with members of service who were impacted at the world trade center on and after 9-11.

Since 2009 he has managed LECSA EAP, a not for profit employee assistance program affiliated with the Long Island Federation of Labor one of the largest labor organizations in the country representing >250,000 union members.

Among many awards he has received the Advocate of the Year Award from the Association of Addiction Professionals of New York State in 2005 and the Social Worker of the Year Award in 2011 from the National Association of Social Workers on Long Island in recognition of his years of tireless advocacy work.