

Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum MANUAL

What is the purpose of a Community Listening Forum?

Community Listening Forums on addiction and recovery 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 with their communities' stakeholders. They also provide a platform for the community members to identify any barriers they are experiencing with seeking recovery, sustaining their recovery, and or finding recovery support services within their communities. It also provides an opportunity for the community to identify any discriminatory policies or negative attitudes that exist within their community; which create barriers for individuals within the recovery community.

These forums are being held across New York State. The Listening Forums will engage the community in discussion with local leaders and result in a report titled, <u>The State of Addiction Recovery in New York</u>, which will help to better inform the general public and policy makers.

STEPS TO ORGANIZING A COMMUNITY LISTENING FORUM



Identify the issue(s) or subject areas you want to highlight:

Every community is different therefore every forum will be different. The subjects that will be focused on will be dependent on the community's needs, which can also change over time.

For example, one community's forum may be held to inform the community and stake holders about the lack of recovery support services in the community. Another community's forum may be held to discuss the lack of medication assisted treatment available in their community.



Select the Place and Date:

Finding an appropriate location is important. As the location can help set the tone for your Forum. Select a place that is easy to access for participants and (if you invite them) local media.

Examples of locations to choose: local churches, recovery community centers, youth club houses, universities and colleges, and public libraries.

*Some locations may let you use their space for free or for a reduced rate. Ask!

The date and time are equally important. When selecting your date, check local community calendars so you can avoid competing with other community events.

Identify speakers, panelist, moderator and audience:

Select a note taker, and volunteers to work at the sign in table and take photos

You will need to select 4 types of participants for these town hall format forums:

1. Speakers:

These should be members and allies of the recovery community. Select about 10-12 speakers which can speak to the subject areas identified.

Example: One subject area the community wants to highlight is that harm reduction needs to be recognized as a pathway to recovery: select an individual whose pathway to recovery was harm reduction.

2. Panelists:

These should be community stakeholders such as School Board Members, Hospital Administration, etc. It should also include elected officials such as Senators, Assembly Members, City/Village Board Members, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, etc.

3. Moderator:

The moderator will begin the event by thanking everyone for attending the Forum and participating. They will introduce each speaker, keep track of the time, and manage the Forum. The moderator makes sure that everything runs smoothly according to your agenda. The moderator will also facilitate the responses of the Listening Panel.

4. Audience:

Invite the recovery community including people in recovery, families in recovery, and allies. Send invitations to the local community service/ human service organizations including local mental health practices, primary care physicians, treatment courts, probation departments, outpatient facilities, local media outlets, etc.

5. Note Taker:

Select an individual who will take notes on what is addressed in the forum. That way you can follow-up with the stakeholders, committee members and community.

6. Sign-in Table and photographer Volunteers:

Sign in table volunteers will be responsible for making sure they collect the contact information as people enter the venue. They may also hand out resources. Photographers will photograph the event and share photos on social media. Cell phone photos will do the trick!

Step 4

Step 3

Promoting your event

Create a flyer or an invitation. Friends of Recovery-NY has a generic flyer we will provide. Begin posting the flyer or invitation on all your organizations' social media sites, post it on your organization's website (if you have one), send to all local news outlets, send to FOR-NY so they can post on their website, post on community boards (in super markets, laundromats, libraries, etc.).

If your organization has a Facebook page create an event and invite all your page's followers. Encourage those people to also share on their social media accounts.

Ask local news stations to advertise your event, a lot of times they will do it for free if you ask and explain the importance of the event. Ask local newspapers to publish the event in their paper, most papers have community event sections.





Inviting the Audience, Panelist, and Speakers

Audience:

There are numerous ways you can invite people to the event:

- 1. Create a Facebook event
- 2. Make paper invitations to send out to the community
- 3. Have event posted in local media outlet
- 4. And many more...

*Tip: use any and all outlets you have to invite people to this forum

Speakers:

Ask them if they would like to speak on the subject your group has selected them for. Make sure they are comfortable speaking in front of media (because hopefully we have a lot of media coverage).

Panelists:

Send personal emails to the identified community stakeholders. *Attach the invitation or flyer to the email

Example email

Dear Assembly member,

[Your organization's name] is hosting a Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum on [Date and Time] at [Location] we would be honored if you would be a part of our listening panel. Community Listening Forums 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 with their communities' stakeholders.

They also provide a platform for the community members to identify any barriers they are experiencing with seeking recovery, sustaining their recovery, and/or finding recovery support services within their communities. It also provides an opportunity for the community to identify any discriminatory policies or negative attitudes that exist within their community; which create barriers for individuals within the recovery community. We really hope you or someone on your staff could join us.

[Your Name]

*Try to have the invitations out at least a month prior to your event date. That way people can make arrangements to come; especially legislators.





Preparing Speakers and Media

Speakers:

We need to ensure that recovery is being empowered by the speakers. We are one community with one voice!

- 1. Schedule an <u>Our Stories have Power Training</u> with your speakers. You may have to do several to make sure that all speakers have language training. FOR-NY has trained hundreds of people around the state as trainers do deliver this training. Contact FOR-NY to find a trainer near you!
- 2. Go over each speaker's speech with them, so that recovery is highlighted and there are no war stories. Make sure the speech is no more than 3-5 minutes long.
- 3. If possible do a rehearsal so that speakers are prepared to speak in this public format.

Media:

- 1. Give your media outlets the "<u>say this not that chart</u>," and explain to them why language is important when they are reporting to the community
- 2. Ensure that your media outlets are using recovery friendly language.

*We want to ensure headlines DO NOT like this:







Preparing Materials and Room

Resources:

- 1. Invite local organizations that provide community services to have a table. Including Faith based organizations, RCO's, RCOC's, outpatient providers, insurance providers,
- 2. Have a resources table which includes an array of resources that exist in your community

Tables:

- 1. Have a sign in table with a sign in sheet at the entrance of your space. If there is more than one entrance, have more than one sign-in table
- 2. Have resource tables setup around the space so the audience can walk around before or after the event and get familiar with the resources that exist in your community.

Room Setup: See diagram below

ENTRANCE Sign in \bigcirc Speaker Podium Panelists **Panelists Panelists Resource Table Resource Table Audience Seats Audience Seats Resource Table Resource Table Resource Table** Sign in **ENTRANCE**



RECOVERY TALKS IN PHOTOS!



Recovery Talks in the Bronx May 2018

Listening Panel, Audience and Speakers

Recovery Talks in the Bronx 2018 Speakers





Recovery Talks in the Bronx May 2018 Sign-in Table







Recovery Talks in Washington County *June 2018*

Listening Panel



Recovery Talks in Washington County *June 2018*

Speakers

Place Signs Outside venue to help audience members find their way



THE POWER OF RECOVERY



Recovery Talks in Schenectady County

Listening Panel and Audience



Recovery Talks in Schenectady County December 2018

Master of Ceremonies



Recovery Talks in Schenectady County Speaker



SAMPLE FLYER



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum on Addiction and Recovery

This is 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.

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Friends of Recovery Warren & Washington



Friday, June 8, 2018 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Road To Recovery

122 Main Street Upstairs in Old Court House Hudson Falls, New York 12839

To register email: Ashley Livingston gettin2brighterdays@gmail.com

Speaker's remarks will be limited to 3 minutes in order to allowas many people as possible to speak

For more information contact: Ashley Livingston 518-223-6127 gettin2brighterdays@gmail.com



Dear (listener):

Friends of Recovery – New York and Friends of Recovery – Warren & Washington Counties is convening a "Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum." The purpose of this event is to provide the opportunity for you and a select group of local leaders to learn more from community members, service providers, and other stakeholders about their personal experiences with addiction and recovery. The forum will provide an opportunity to raise awareness about addiction and recovery in the community and educate local residents, law enforcement, elected officials, and other stakeholders about the various barriers to achieving (and challenges of sustaining) addiction recovery. As you are well aware, our community is experiencing epidemic death rates as a result of Opioid overdoses and we need to work collaboratively to bring healing to our community.

We want to inspire positive dialogue about Recovery in the community, as well as erase the shame and stigma often attached to addiction. Lastly, we want to promote recovery advocacy efforts.

These forums are 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.

We hope that you will honor us, your constituents, and the community with your presence at this very important event.

Date: Friday June 8, 2018 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM

Location: 122 Main Street Upstairs in Old Court House Hudson Falls, New York 12839

Dear (speaker)

Friends of Recovery – New York and Friends of Recovery – Warren & Washington Counties is convening a "Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum." We are hosting this forum to bring together community members, policymakers, advocates, and funders for the purpose of exploring issues and strategizing ways that each sector can contribute solutions to the opioid overdose epidemic which has devastated our community. We have identified you as an ideal speaker to talk about Recovery as a solution to the addiction crisis. We are hoping that you can speak for three minutes about your personal experience with recovery, with a family member or friend who has experienced addiction, and/or what it feels like to have a loved one battle with, or succumb to the fatality of addiction. Your testimony will be of great value to the listeners, as first-hand experience offers an unparalleled sense of identification for others who may be facing similar situations either themselves or with a loved one. Most importantly, we are counting on your voice to help advocate for the services needed to support recovery in our community. We hope you will accept this invitation to impart hope and wisdom in the midst of this epidemic.

Date: Friday June 8, 2018 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM

Location: 122 Main Street Upstairs in Old Court House Hudson Falls, New York 12839



 Give a Voice and People a 	COMMUNITY LIS M: munity Needs wit to People impact and Families in Ad	th State and Local Leaders on Expanding Access to Addiction Recovery ted by Addiction; to Families and Friends who have Lost Someone to Addiction; Idiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery						
 Overcome the Stigma that prevents so many individuals and families from seeking help 								
PROGRAM AGENDA								
C-00	Welcome:							
6:00 pm	welcome.	Ashley Livingston, Friends of Recovery – Warren and Washington Counties Stephanie Campbell, Executive Director, FOR-NY						
6:10 pm	Moderator:	Allison Weingarten, Director of Policy, FOR-NY						
	Panelists:							
		Don Boyajian, Candidate, New York's 107th Assembly District						
		 Katherine Chambers, Director of Restorative Practices, Council for Prevention 						
		 Stacey Dina, Office of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (21st District) 						
		Robert Cook, Deputy Mayor, Hudson Falls						
		Sue Clary, Town of Salem, Town Supervisor						
		 Tony Jordon, Washington County, District Attorney 						
		 Jason McLaughlin, CASAC, Glens Falls Hospital Behavioral Health Services Center for Recovery 						
		 Services Center for Recovery Charlie Mosk, Connifer Park Outpatient Director 						
		 Jennifer Neifeld, CASAC, Program Director, Baywood Center 						
		Bill Nikas, Village Attorney, Hudson Falls						
		 Gary White, CASAC, Program Counselor, Baywood Center 						
		 John Wintchell, Washington County Under Sherriff 						
		 Rob York, Local Governmental Unit, Warren and Washington Counties 						
		Counties						
6:20 pm	Speakers:	Community Speakers						
7:40 pm	Comments:	Listening Panel Members						
7:55 pm	Wrap-Up:	Stephanie Campbell						
PANEUSTS:								
Don Boyajian, Candidate, New York's 107th Assembly District: Don is a third generation native of Upstate New York who capter as a municipal and environmental attorney. He currently lives in Cambridge pear bit								
New York, who serves as a municipal and environmental attorney. He currently lives in Cambridge, near his favorite trout stream. Don earned a degree in Environmental Geography and Biology from Colgate								
University and his law degree from Cornell Law School, with a focus on corporate accountability. Determined								
to make an impact on federal policy, Don landed a job with former Congressman Mike McMahon (NY-13). He								
worked his way up to lead on assigniture, natural resources, and energy policy. It was there that Don								

worked his way up to lead on agriculture, natural resources, and energy policy. It was there that Don recognized the impact that major corporations had on every type of federal policy, and became motivated to

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SAMPLE AGENDA (page 2 of 5)

get results for people by holding big corporations accountable. He clerked at the US Attorney's Office (NDNY), the NY Office of the Attorney General, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Always close with his family, Don came to work at Dreyer Boyajian LLP, which represents local communities against corporate polluters, including communities affected by PCB contamination in the St. Lawrence and Hudson Rivers. Don is running to represent New York's 107th Assembly District to ensure that his community has a strong and effective voice in Albany.

- Katherine Chambers, Director of Restorative Practices, Council for Prevention: Katherine Chambers, has been with the Council for Prevention for more than 12 years in a variety of roles after attending Siena and NYU for undergraduate and graduate work in Psychology and Law. She is currently the Director of Restorative Practices - encompassing Warren County Youth Court and the Hope and Healing Recovery Community and Outreach Center. She is also a Certified Olweus Trainer, working with several local school districts to establish bully-free culture and climate. For the last several years she has done data analysis for schools throughout Warren and Washington counties looking at student substance use rates and their connections with school, family, and community.
- Stacey Dina, Office of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik: Stacie Dina is the Glens Falls Regional Director for Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (NY-21), working with constituents, business leaders and local municipalities within the southern portion of the 12-county district, including Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties. Throughout her two terms in office, Congresswoman Stefanik has worked with advocates, local community and law enforcement leaders, and medical professionals to advance legislation that would direct necessary funding and resources to those on the front lines of this unfortunate epidemic. As a member of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, Congresswoman Stefanik helped to pass H.R. 953, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, allowing for a number of grant opportunities available to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations for their efforts in prevention, treatment and recovery. More recently, Congresswoman Stefanik co-sponsored H.R. 5124, the Community Action Opioid Response Act; H.R. 3566, the Addiction Recovery for Rural Communities Act; and H.R. 2147, the Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act; among others within the Task Force's 2018 legislative agenda.
- Robert Cook, Deputy Mayor, Hudson Falls: As a public servant, Bob is starting his third term as a trustee for the Village of Hudson Falls and his second year as Deputy Mayor. Bob is starting his 46th year as an educator. He has served in almost every teaching or administrative capacity from pre-school through graduate school. He retired from Hudson Falls as an Intermediate School principal. Currently he is the supervisor/coordinator for the SUNY Plattsburgh student teaching program throughout the Albany region. Bob and his wife Judy have fived in Hudson Falls for 23 years. Their three sons all graduated from Hudson Falls High School. They are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.
- Sue Clary, Town of Salem, Town Supervisor. Ms. Clary serves as the Town of Salem Town Supervisor. Ms. Clary was on the village Planning Board for five years, was deputy town clerk for four years and also served as the town Planning Board clerk. Ms. Clary is a fierce advocate for infrastructure improvements in the Town of Salem.
- Sara S. Idleman, Town of Greenwich, Town Supervisor: Sara Idleman is a retired middle school social studies teacher who is currently serving as the Greenwich Town Supervisor and a member of the Washington County Supervisors. She has worked extensively with children and teens as a ski instructor, swim teacher and in many other capacities. Today her time is spent with family, friends, those in recovery and as a public servant in her community. She is celebrating her 30th year in recovery and grateful to all those who support her and to those to whom she can be supportive.



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- Tony Jordon, Washington County, District Attorney: DA Jordon is from the Town of Jackson and was first elected Washington County District Attorney in November 2013 and was re-elected to a second term in November 2017. Tony was elected to serve on the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York's Board of Directors in January 2017 and was elected Vice-President in July 2017. In December of 2017 Tony was appointed by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore to serve as a member of the New York State Permanent Commission on Sentencing. Additionally, he has been appointed to assist the New York State Association of Counties in developing a plan for all Counties to address challenges and recover costs associated with implementation of the Raise the Age initiative and was recently appointed to assist the Governor's Office in exploring changes to the Pre-sentence incarceration of individuals charged with crimes in New York by exploring differences between Counties upstate and New York City. Prior to being elected as District Attorney, he served as a New York State Assemblyman since January 2009 serving as Minority Leader Pro Temp.
- Ashley Livingston, CRPA-Provisional Co-Chair, Friends of Recovery Warren and Washington Counties: Ashley is a person in sustained recovery and is co-chair of Friends of Recovery Warren & Washington RCO which educates and motivates our communities to advocate for better policies and procedures for treatment and recovery at a local, state and federal level. She is currently working in our communities as a Recovery Advocate at the Hope & Healing RCOC helping individuals and families find and enhance their personal recovery. Ashley is also the recipient of the FOR-NY 2018 Laura Elliot – Engel Advocacy Award for her tireless advocacy work.
- Jason McLaughlin, CASAC, Glens Falls Hospital Behavioral Health Services Center for Recovery: Mr. McLaughlin currently works as a clinician for Center for Recovery and is the Agency CASAC for Washington County Social Services. Mr. McLaughlin is also on the Washington Family Court Treatment Team and works on the Medical Village development team for the ambulatory detox. Jason is a person in long term recovery and works with faith based organizations doing community outreach for addiction and recovery.
- Charlie Moak, Connifer Park Outpatient Director: Charles Moak BS, CASAC is the Program Director at Conifer Park Outpatient Clinic in Glens Falls, New York. He began in the field of substance abuse services in 1987, at the Leonard Hospital as a detox counselor, later clinical director, and finally Program Director at St Mary's Hospital (Seton Health), overseeing a detoxification and rehabilitation program for 25 years. He taught at Adirondack Community College (ACC), in their CASAC preparation courses, including Addiction and Coexisting Psychiatric Disorders, and Counselor Client Relationships from 1989-1991. He spent 2 years from 2009 -2011 at the WMY Methadone Maintenance program as a case manager. The present Outpatient Program offers counseling both group and individual, family treatment, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the form of buprenorphine (suboxone) and naltrexone (Vivitrol). He describes himself as a person in long term recovery since 1984, and always endeavors to instill hope in those who he serves who suffer from addiction.
- Jennifer Neifeld, CASAC, Program Director, Baywood Center: First and foremost, Ms. Neifeld is a person in long term sustained recovery. Ms. Neifeld's current position is Program Director at the Baywood Center, a Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Clinic serving over 180 people who suffer from the disease of addiction. Prior to Ms. Neifeld's current career, she attended SUNY Adirondack and completed the necessary requirements for a Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor, CASAC. Ms. Neifeld has raised five children.
- Bill Nikas, Village Attorney, Hudson Falls: Mr. Nikas is a lifelong Hudson Falls resident. Mr. Nikas graduated from Colgate University and Albany Law School. Mr. Nikas Practices Iaw in HF, specializing in complex litigation, real estate and estates. Mr. Nikas is President of Phoenix Rising non-profit corporation and



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currently serves as the Hudson Falls Village Attorney. Mr. Nikas is also the owner of Sandy Hill Vision LLC, Real Estate Development Company.

- Gary White, CASAC, Program Counselor, Baywood Center: Gary earned his Associates Degree in Human Services and Psychology. Gary has spent the last 30 years working with adolescents with behavior problems, substance and legal issues in a day treatment or residential facility. Gary has also worked with families of adolescents on juvenile probation. Gary has also been a Foster Parent. Gary is currently working as an Addiction Counselor.
- John Wintchell, Washington County Under Sherriff: Mr. Wintchell is a US Army Military Veteran, an alumni of SUNY Adirondack Community College and served as a member of the Glens Falls City Policy from 1988-2012. Mr. Wintchell has served as the Under Sherriff for the Washington County Sherriff's office since 2012. Mr. Wintchell has also served in a volunteer capacity for the Washington County and New York State STOP-DWI and serves on the Board of Directors of Adirondack Samaritan Counseling Center, as well as serving in many more volunteer positions in the community.
- NYS Assembly Member Carrie Woerner, 113th Assembly District. Assembly Member Carrie Woerner was elected to the New York State Assembly in November 2014. In the Assembly, AM Woerner has continued to advocate for responsible spending and is focused on improving the business climate for small businesses and farms, strengthening public schools and protecting the traditions, heritage and culture of Saratoga and Washington counties. Assembly Member Woerner is a strong ally to the recovery community working with people in recovery and family members to advocate on the state level for needed advances for people with addiction and family members.
- Rob York, Warren and Washington Counties Local Governmental Unit: Mr. York has been privileged to serve the community as the Director of Community Services for Warren and Washington Counties since 2002. Mr. York held various administrative positions within the Office of Community Services prior to his appointment as director. Mr. York also worked as a therapist serving children, families and adults in both County-based and community not-for-profit provider settings for a number of years before pursuing administrative roles. Mr. York currently live in Queensbury, NY. Mr. York and his wife have three daughters, two granddaughters and one Labrador retriever.

ABOUT OUR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:



Our Mission: To demonstrate the power and promise 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. FOR-NY gives a voice to people and families in recovery.

CONTACT INFORMATION: FRIENDS OF RECOVERY NEW YORK (FOR-NY) info@for-ny.org 1529 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203 518-487-4395 www.for-ny.org

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SAMPLE SPEAKERS LIST





SAMPLE SIGN-IN SHEET

Event Name: Recovery Talks	Event Date:	Friends of Recovery - Sign - In Shee	New York t*		Event Time:	Event Location: Organization
First Name	Last Name	E-Mail	County	ZipCode	Phone (Area Code First)	
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*By signing into this event, you are consenting to recieve Friends of Recovery - New York's electornic communications, including but				Friends of R	ecovery - New York	www.twitter.com/recovery_ny
not limited to, newsletters, event announcements and advocacy emails. In each communication there will be an option to				1529 Wester	n Ave, Albany, NY 12206 ry@for-ny.org	www.facebook.com/recoveryny www.linked.com/company/forny
unsubscribe at anytime.				familyrecove	ry@tor-ny.org	www.linked.com/company/forny

