

COMMUNITY-BASED RECOVERY SUPPORTS

BI-MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE

March 19, 2020 from 1:00-3:00pm



ATTENDEE COUNT: 60

Facilitators: Angelia Smith- Wilson and Allison Weingarten

Welcome: Angelia Smith-Wilson, Executive Director – FOR-NY **1:00 pm**

Brief Introductions: (*name, recovery role, affiliation, updates*) **1:05 pm**

Include any new Community-Based Recovery Supports projects/initiatives in your community; Highlights from Recovery Month! *Updates will be read and summarized from the instant messenger feature on Zoom.*

OASAS Updates: **1:15 pm**

Rob Kent, OASAS Chief Counsel

- Accelerated process for every OASAS provider to be authorized for tele practice treatment. Fill out attestation form. Every OASAS treatment provider should be offering tele practice services
- When you're approved for tele practice, every staff person including CRPAs, can provide tele practice services
- Normally audio and visual, but for now it can be just audio (via phone call)
- Opioid Treatment Programs can increase take home doses
- Now authorized to initiate buprenorphine treatment through telemedicine, audio and visual, during this federal emergency
- Question- Does OASAS have a policy about urine drug tests during these times? Told court system, if people aren't coming to the programs then they can't test, priority is to keep people engaged. Haven't suspended toxicology but haven't not suspended it.
- Question- Has OASAS released any guidance on best practices for drug treatment courts?

FOR-NY as well as all participants thanked Rob for his years of service in support of the recovery community and wish him luck in all future endeavors. To say he will be missed is an understatement!

Julia Fesko- Peer Employment

- CASAC for one month if renewal expires within this month then the expiration date will be extended

Susan Brandau and Marialice Ryan – Peer Integration Team

- OASAS has been maintaining learning collaborative phone calls.
- Supportive of moving the meeting to every month
- Hearing positive feedback that virtual meetings is easing anxiety over social distancing
- Working with FOR-NY to help other people understand distance meeting technologies Zoom etc.
- Family members are extremely stressed about access to Narcan kits, keeping communication open.
- Identifying who are certified CRAFT trainers throughout the state. In addition to 46 required hours, pilot trainings. Contact Susan if you'd like to look at the content for the pilot training.
- Even if you aren't billing you can still practice telehealth

Willie Townes

- Deciding how to do Alumni Meeting, it isn't cancelled. Going to try to do it via teleconference.

Friends of Recovery-NY Updates – Community-Based Recovery Supports: **1:30 pm**

- Stand Up For Recovery Day February 11, 2020 Overview

- From information that was reported to us, we made 81 legislative connections. Met with 42 assembly members and 39 senate members. North country 3% attendance but 14% of legislative visits- small but mighty!
- Looking to do a federal day of action on Wednesday 6/17 in conjunction with Faces & Voices of Recovery.
- Monitoring budget although it is up in the air right now.
- Richard Buckman- LIRA
 - ARCO Conference- Non ARCO members will be allowed to attend the ARCO Leadership Academy in advance of Hill Day.
 - THRIVE working on implementing virtual meetings and support, will be sending update when all information is decided.
- Tim IHNO
 - FOR-GE is putting on an event “Plotting Recovery” in September
 - Beginning initiative in Cattaraugus Co. with help from Carlee of YVM to start an RCO there
- Upcoming Trainings/Webinars
 - All trainings in the month of March are postponed. When they are re-scheduled we will send an update.
 - CRPA Scholarships are Still Available!
 - Scholarship is available to go through Best Practice Trainer Program. This year we are seeing them all the way through and paying their certification and testing fees as well.
 - Recovery Conference
 - Request for Proposals (RFP) for Recovery Conference is available
 - Looking for moderators and participants for panels. Contact Theresa at tknorr@for-ny.org for more information
- Communications
 - NYS Recovery Conference October 18-20, 2020 in Albany, NY
 - **Register Now and Pay Later** to lock in the early bird price of \$175.
<https://app.donorview.com/MDDyo>
 - New Location- Hilton Albany
 - This is the first year FOR-NY is putting on the conference ourselves
- Youth Voices Matter-New York- Welcome to Ben Riker!
 - Looking at ways to engage young people in this time of social distancing
 - YVM has 5 podcasts released- check them out now if you haven’t already!
 - If you are with a youth clubhouse or are with an organization working with youth and would like help transitioning to virtual meetings, please reach out to YVM

NYCB Update- Ruth Riddick

- NYCB is still business as usual processing applications for certifications
- If you are proposing as a trainer to pivot to a digital platform you must contact NYCB first. An advisory will be posted to NYCB’s website when available.
- Contact Ruth with any questions rriddick@asapnys.org

Special Guest: Nicole Triplett, New York Civil Liberties Union to Discuss Bail Reform

1:45 pm

FOR-NY Survey on Bail Reform

- 40 responses- about half in favor and half not in favor

Law went into effect January 1, 2020- Goals

1. Get rid of wealth as factor in pretrial incarceration
2. Shore up due process protections
3. Reduce reliance on money bail

Results

- Did not get rid of cash bail all together, but eliminated cash bail for several low-level offenses
- Shored up more transparent processes so that judges' decisions are on record, other forms of bail are used etc.

This year's budget proposal

- Scrap last year's bail reform law
- End all money bail but allow judges to retain more people. This would allow people to operate off racial biases, risk score, etc. Not in favor of this.
- Biggest ask is to stay committed to new law
 1. New law is working, thousands of people are going home and not facing pre-trial incarceration. Creating more avenues for access to healthcare, housing, drug rehabilitation.
 2. See the harms of the proposal- this would be a step backwards and bring more biases forward, widening of racial disparities, harsher and collateral consequences, jails to continue growing.
 3. Any sort of knee jerk response now would further exacerbate problems that they were trying to address. I.e. increase jail population

False Narrative around the new law-

- Any effort to try to address systemic injustice is somehow threatening safety. Rebuttal- Any sort of quantitative data would never use only 60 days' worth of data to make an informed conclusion. Need more comprehensive data at a longer time frame.
- Eliminating cash bail, adopting NJ type model, in money bail let judges determine who is dangerous. Rebuttal- It's not just getting rid of money bail, take into holistic approach the harms of pre-trial incarceration. Still have a lot of systemic racism.

Comments/Questions

1. Is there a way to find out the numbers of arrest associated with people being under the influence when their crime was committed?
Answer- What they're tracking is what charges are bringing what outcomes
2. The main concern I hear from treatment providers is that arrested persons are getting fewer services because they aren't being held and going bed to bed. How would you respond to this? Innocent till proven guilty!
Answer- Jails should not be a placeholder for the administration of healthcare or any sort of treatment. Agree that now we need to figure out how counties can get more money for more providers and beds for after arrest.
3. Thoughts on the assumption that "with bail reform in place, people are going to have opportunities to fatally overdose because they don't have the relative safety of incarceration?"
Answer- Allie- we can't be relying on incarceration for that. We need to be advocating for real health options outside of the criminal procedures. Nicole-Yes, discuss funding needs for localities outside of the penal system

Call to Action:

<https://action.aclu.org/send-message/ny-pretrial-reform>

Recovery Community Discussion of Corona Virus – Innovative ways to Connect

2:30 pm

How can FOR-NY support you?

Comments:

- Van Smith- Online Resources have been incredible! Encouraging people to limit movement, but people are beginning to get anxious.
- Bill Doyle- Going completely virtual. Now able to reach more people because of it because anyone can join. Think outside the box, try different things.
- Angelia (FOR-NY)- Would it be helpful for people to get together in this format again next month? These meetings are bi-monthly, but we are asking if it'd be helpful to have one next month too with the current state of affairs. A lot of "yes"!

Closing and Next Steps

2:55 pm

NEXT MEETING: Special Meeting Thursday April 16 2020 (Virtual)

<https://zoom.us/j/833681645> or call +1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 833 681 645