

COMMUNITY-BASED RECOVERY SUPPORTS

BI-MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE

May 13, 2021 from 1:00-3:00pm



Facilitators: Dr. Angelia Smith- Wilson and Allison Weingarten

Welcome: Angelia Smith-Wilson, Executive Director – FOR-NY

1:00 pm

Introductions: *(name, recovery role, affiliation, updates)*

1:05 pm

Use your organization's logo as your profile picture on zoom and introduce yourself in the zoom instant messaging feature!

FOR-NY Social Justice Recovery Policy

1:10 pm

Dr. Angelia Smith- Wilson will lead a brief discussion on how the recovery community can show solidarity in supporting statewide and national efforts to fight injustice.

Social justice – FOR-NY did 3-part anti-racist practice and principle series. Hope by fall to roll out specific and deliberate anti-racism principles statement that RCOs can adopt and integrate

OASAS Updates:

1:20 pm

- Trisha Schell-Guy –OASAS Deputy Counsel, Pat Lincourt - Associate Commissioner

Application for supplemental block grant, submitted to SAMHSA, addressing priorities, needs, stabilization funds, workforce retention, training, development, transportation, housing, treatment, prevention, recovery, crisis – broad and expansive. No feedback yet from Federal Government. Developing plans for money if/when money is given. Application process? Procurement? Another batch of money – enhanced FMAP services part of American Rescue Act, federal gov't to add 10% share to Medicaid for home-based services for community-based outreach services. About \$11 million. Need to reinvest in HCBS -unsure on how to distribute, guidance from CMS. Cannabis tax revenue – 20% to go to OASAS for prevention and public awareness, plus treatment and recovery. Discussions to take place about how to spend the money. How will this impact law? Will it impact employment? Money from Mobile Sports Wagering. Gambling education and treatment 1% in first year, then \$6 million annually after that. Opioid settlements and verdicts. Advisory committees? Additional block grant from second round – no information yet. Potentially \$90 million in 2023.

How can communities position themselves to gain access to that money? COVID relief and FMAP may speak to recovery community's role. Let agency know and correspond at highest level to make sure voices are heard. Governor's goal is to involve stakeholders in how money is spent, which OASAS supports. Look towards projects and programs that can be sustained versus block grants that last 2 years. Inviting folks to meetings, looking at OASAS website, outreach to Stephanie Campbell and Trisha Schell-Guy. Block grant – what was approved and not, letting folks know that information, getting feedback and input. Just learned from CMS that telephonic only is allowable and reimbursable under Medicaid from federal level at same rate as all telehealth/in person. Conversation is: does state level want to change what and who are covered with telehealth.

OASAS budget was increased. Anything proposed to eliminate (prevention initiative, jail based, outpatient, HIV, etc) reinstated – NO CUTS. 18% positive change from SAPT, COLA, minimum wage, DOH appropriation (FMAP), added money to jail based. \$151 million increase. \$976,316,000 total, \$739 million local.

- **Lureen McNeil - Bureau of Recovery Services**

OASAS: Recovery centers project, vision for centers to become hub of work, believe that expansion – reach more, better collaboration with community systems. 2 years ago, research survey for centers, gauge interests and involvement, gender differences – women identified family issues, men identified health, education, and vocation. Values survey identified family as high priority. Men felt they failed in some way, criminal justice issues. Free TTT for recovery centers to send 2 members to disseminate information. Starts tomorrow. Starting with ACEs, criminal justice impact on men and women, then looking at men's strengths, things that take away from men, what impacts men. Looking over data. Child welfare expert, criminal justice involved folks, and trainers involved. Women are becoming overwhelmed with issues regarding children. Public housing, asking to downsize housing so children with SUD will leave. Another project in the works with more details to come. Trainers who participate in TTT must train at least 2 additional folks.

Comments – including non-binary and trans folks in language? Next project will allegedly address this.

Can FOR-NY advertise? Yes, but once trainers receive training, it's out of OASAS's hands.

How to sign up? Connect with RCOC or email OASAS, but training is limited to just 2 members per RCOC.

- **Stephanie Campbell- Ombuds Office**

Thank you for responding to call for help. CHAMP to address social determinants to healthcare but still seeing issues that evolved through COVID. Address folks involved in hospital settings getting MAT/treatment on demand. Parity – NYS and California are leaders in parity. Ongoing discussions about medical necessity criteria. NQTLs – criteria that health plans use to limit scope of benefit coverage. DFS looking at external reviews of behavioral health denials, differences between private and Medicaid coverage.

- **Willie Townes, the Alumni Association**

OASAS: Alumni meeting on the 27th, change in format to help FOR-NY honor Lt. Gov. for Recovery Gems. Folks will share their personal stories – invitation to participate. Meeting will start at 7pm. Importance of helping peers – continue giving support.

FOR-NY will honor Willie and the Alumni Association during Recovery Gems.

FOR-NY Day of Action Overview and other FOR-NY Updates

1:45 pm

FOR-NY Staff will share the successes of May 4 2021 Day of Action and provide other updates including Recovery Conference, Recovery Gems, NYS RCOC Network, New Prevention Meets Recovery Workgroup

Theresa Knorr – FOR-NY: Recovery Conference, shared conference schedule, Dr. Gabor Mate will present, plenary of racial justice and recovery, Dion Flynn to wrap up the conference, hopefully will be in person, limited number of live tickets. Town Hall with full details to occur soon.

Ben Riker & Ashton Daley – YVM: Sunday of the conference, youth and family track, recovery high school session w/ Chelsea at ROCovery with principal and participants, collegiate recovery panel with Ashely at TCCC, LGBTQ+ info panel, Angelia to do chat on preparing youth to sit on non-profit boards, Columbia-Greene Clubhouse to present on paying youth to administer Narcan, evening networking session for families experiencing loss. Please complete survey if aged 12-30 and send link to those in that age bracket. <https://forms.office.com/r/iJs5sr4ePO> Spotlight on Sarah Ahmed who is working with YVM.

June 14th coffee talks with Prevention & Recovery

May 27th Recovery Gems

October – FAVOR conference in St. Paul, Minn.

11 days of session left, still working on opioid settlement dollar. Shout out to recovery advocates who participated in Day of Action. Harm reduction conversations – stay tuned.

Jason Pisano: held rally in Staten Island for Day of Action, hopefully media will release story, 7 open positions for CRPAs across 5 organizations in Staten Island, 5 full time, 2 part time. Email Jason if interested. RCOCs, hospitals, outpatient.

Brian Barr: Families Together NYS held meeting, Youth spotlight, Dr. William Rockwood passed away – legend in Recovery for NYS.

Dougie Bisher: A2A, Learning From Experience simulation, will share further details to appear in newsletter

ASAP/NYCB Updates

ASAP NYCB – <http://www.asapnys.org/ny-certification-board/> Everything folks need to know about getting certified, access application forms, summary for standards and requirement for certification, guidance for the field one-pagers, IC & RC peer recovery exams one-pager FAQ. All the information needed is on the website – take time to explore all content. Those offering training, please post on FOR-NY trainings calendar. <https://for-ny.org/post-a-training/>

Legislative Updates /Advocacy Needs Discussion

2:00 pm

- Joelle Foskett, Legislative Director, Senator Pete Harckham, Chair of Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

Senator Harckham: 4th and final committee meeting, passed 19 bills, language for opioid settlement fund, health team and central staff of assembly and senate are on board, Senate to put on finance agenda next week. Press conference by governors – his belief of how he can spend those funds, setting record straight that money is not intended for the Governor or grant the Governor opportunity to make such claims. Outreach efforts should be directed to Governor and potentially Assembly. Many different players who need to be on the same page and language has to be consistent with Attorney General

- Colleen Williams, District Director, Congressman Paul Tonko

Update on bills- big push for Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act, Medicaid Reentry Act. Congressman Tonko also involved in Congressional Recovery Task Force

- Assemblyman Phil Steck, Chair of the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

What to expect towards end of session – pass bill out of committee regarding settlement but bill will not be same as Rivera senate bill, preference for Woerner’s bill, regulation of recovery homes – conversations with OASAS, optimistic about bill this year but issue with degree of some professional involvement required to operate facilities, without availability of CASAC and mental health services may not be helpful to recovery – will address in legislation. Next meeting within the next 2 weeks. Those 2 bills are the highest priority and largest bills to hopefully pass through. Lockbox may not happen and Governor may choose to access money based on NYS constitution. Steck is viewing this as a reasonable compromise. There is belief that there will be an advisory committee. FOR-NY asks for an agreed upon bill between Senate and Assembly for opioid dollars to be passed this session. Steck is not promising that. Opioid bill is almost certain to come out of committee, but may not happen for recovery housing.

Wellness Check in

2:45 pm

Closing and Next Steps

2:55 pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM