

COMMUNITY-BASED RECOVERY SUPPORTS

BI-MONTHLY TELECONFERENCE

March 24, 2022 from 1:00-3:00pm

Facilitators: Dr. Angelia Smith-Wilson, Allison Weingarten

FOR-NY Social Justice Recovery Policy

1:10 pm

Angelia-Social justice initiative from FOR-NY, we have declared ourselves as an anti-racist organization, we have a conscientious approach to equity, diversity and inclusion

OASAS Updates:

- Stephanie Campbell- Ombuds Office

Stephanie Campbell- Budget season is here, more will be revealed after April 1st. Non-medical transportation is due on March 29, there will be \$500,000 in funding for programs to close the gap of transportation needs in the recovery community. Recovery Friendly Workplace Tax Credit Program, OASAS is really trying to get the word out to support folks in recovery and increase employment opportunities. (\$2,000 tax credit per eligible employee). New OASAS Commissioner is putting an emphasis on equity, diversity and embedding harm reduction across the full continuum.

1:15pm

- Mary Silva, Recovery Bureau

Mary Silva- Reviewing annual work plans, due March 31st. Annual RCOC reviews will be taking place in person, all RCOCs are encouraged to send updates of what they are doing. Working with ASAP to support Veteran Supported Recovery Certification.

FOR-NY, YVM, NYS RCOC Network, Alumni Association, ASAP/NYCB Updates

1:30 pm

Allison- RCOCs have independently started an RCOC network to come together and discuss solutions and things that can benefit one another.

Albert Aponte (NYSAA President)- Monthly meeting is tonight from 6-8, all are welcome to join. Alumni Association has partnered with FOR-NY. They are still looking for a coordinator. Jennifer Donadio is the new Administrative Support. They will be bringing back their one-day peer conference with mental health providers this year, NYC based, date will be announced tonight.

Ruth Riddick (NYCB/ASAP)- They have been certifying peer professionals for 10 years now, celebrating their diamond anniversary. Developing Veteran Supported Recovery specialty certification, in February they certified the first peers with this new certification.

Maddie Hogan- FOR-NY has started accepting and reviewing applications for the CRPA Scholarship Program. We have a waitlist but the application is open to the public.

Kyle Plaske NYS ASAP- NYS Budget deadline is approaching and it is expected to pass on time, the deadline is April 1st. Cost of Living Adjustment of 11% for human service workers (COLA) is supported by the Assembly, which included

language to renew this year after year and relative to the consumer price index. The Governor and Senate only approved a 5.4% increase.

Bill Doyle- RCOC Network (all OASAS funded RCOCs in NYS) is looking forward to coming together for their first in-person meeting as they have never had one, they are shooting for June right now, trying to come up with a list of things that they need extra guidance and support on from OASAS. Commissioner Cunningham was on the RCOC Network Call last month, she was very supportive of all the work they do.

Allison- FOR-NY did a Recovery Housing Day of Action, we had 1,500 viewers, focused on the importance of having the recovery community involved in advocacy efforts for recovery housing. We used our new advocacy platform and got over 900 touches with legislators.

Van Smith (NYSARR)- Planning a Recovery Housing Day Summit on 9/17/22 in Binghamton, more information will be released next month once they have more details planned out. Still seeking input from the recovery community and treatment community for this summit.

Lynn Goldberg (CHAMP)- Community Health Access to Addiction and Mental Health Care Project, funded by OASAS and OMH, wanted to explain the program and benefits to RCOC call.

Allison- NYS Coalition to Prevent Addiction and Support Recovery in Employment is having their next meeting. Trying to build a strong coalition from labor and employers to people in recovery, to treatment providers, to anyone who is interested in the intersection of employment and recovery. Also looking for people to be involved in their steering committee.

Ben Riker (Youth Voices Matter)- Ashton and Ashley will be scheduling their next youth Recovery Institute (YRI) cohort, there are scholarships still available. YVM is in the process of editing and amending their statewide Youth Recovery Survey, looking for input from members of the recovery community. YVM information and literature will be translated into Spanish in the near future. LGBT Community Center in Brooklyn is now a contracted partner of YVM. Ben and Deb Rhoades will be co-facilitating a training; Suicide Prevention for Peer Recovery Coaches (and other non-clinical support workers).

Ashton- has been presenting "How to Provide Peer Services to Queer youth and Young Adults When You Might Not Have That Lived Experience" which has been approved for 1 Continuing Ed credit for CRPAs and CARCs.

Angelia (FOR-NY updates)- Recovery Gems will be held virtually this year (with some folks meeting in person) on May 26th, winners have been notified and have all accepted and will be present. Recovery Conference will be held virtually again this year, but we will have an opportunity for the recovery community to come together and meet in person again, more info will be revealed. This will be the last year that the conference is being held virtually. FOR-NY is still advocating for the advisory committee for the "lock box language" for the opioid settlement dollars. FOR-NY is advocating for a person with lived experience who is comfortable sharing that to be on the advisory committee.

Allison gave presentation on our new advocacy software/platform, Quorum.

Legislative/Advocacy Updates /Advocacy Needs Discussion

2:15 pm

Connie Mandeville (MOA Billy Jones)- Budget negotiations are being finalized, a big thing is providing funding for the 11% COLA, negotiations are going very smoothly this year.

Sue Martin- Recently discovered that there is a lockbox for the funds being spent dedicated to opiate treatment and needs, they were promised an advisory board as promised earlier but money is being spent very quickly, and they haven't had a lot of feedback into it. The board is being heavily loaded with providers, but family members and people with lived experience are needed on this board.

Ben Riker- wanted to congratulate Jonathan Gross of Mountaintop Cares, all of the organizations on this call are resources for him.

Patrick Magee- is the new Executive Director of Mountaintop Cares, looking forward to working with everyone in the near future.

Savannah Lampley- wanted to plug that they partnered with an organization called CGI Wellness at Brooklyn Community Recovery Center, Three Bodies Workshop (physical, mental and spiritual wellness).

Linda Ferdico- Got their order of “Nalox Boxes” and will begin to hit the streets distributing them, getting the word out that first aid needs to include naloxone.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM