

**Opioid Coordination Council
Recovery Strategies Committee
February 21, 2018
Meeting Notes**

Participants:

Chairs: Sara Byers (OCC member), Sarah Munro, VT Recovery Network.

OCC members: Liz Genge, Downstreet Housing; Peter Mallary, VAMHAR; Ken Sigsbury, Bennington Recovery Center

State agencies/departments: Adam Sancic, AHS Field Director; Kim Bushey, Corrections; Judy Rex, Children & Families; Megan Mitchell, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs; Charles Gurney, Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living; Hugh Bradshaw

Congressional: Kevin Veller (Congressman Welch); Kathryn Van Haste (Senator Sanders)

Recovery Centers: Brandon Malshuk, Sierra Ruth, Sheila Young, Liam Reynolds, Cindy Boyd, Stacy Jones.

Organizations and individuals: Steve Kline, NVRH/DART; David Riegel, VT Foundation of Recovery; Melinda Lussier, Hall Porter, Northwest Medical Center; Mairead O'Reilly, Legal Aid; Mickey Wiles, Working Fields; Peter Espenshade, VAMHAR; Kate Shaper; Aimee Marti, Aspent

OCC staff: Jolinda LaClair, Director; Rose Gowdey, Community Engagement Liaison

Committee Mandate (Jolinda LaClair)

- Make the connection between issues and resources, between treatment and recovery.
- Broad representation on committee: state government, private/business, recovery centers, congressional offices, service/treatment providers).
- Goals – Next steps in the strategy areas, including employment in recovery, recovery housing, recovery centers/recovery network, recovery coaching, criminal records expungement and related legal issues.
- Deliverables: by May, draft of next steps, resources needed. June, identify policy implications/needs. July 1, interim report to Governor – with consideration of budget and policy implications. By Sept. 15, final report.

Recovery Centers Update (Sarah Munro, Peter Mallary, Peter Espenshade)

- Vermont Recovery Network's recent retreat: Addressing gaps. Networking role is growing. CURES funding is providing important support.
 - Phone recovery support network/service, with desire to eventually expand to Corrections.
 - Data collection. SAMHSA grant to focus on what to needs to be collected, how to analyze.
 - Needs: People in recovery with children; pay for recovery coaches.
- Recovery centers: Awareness of recovery centers and their role has evolved in past few years. Governor is supportive. Money would be good too.
- Ideas: provide a presentation to this committee on recovery coaching. Per diem for coaches?

Employment in Recovery (Megan Mitchell, Hugh Bradshaw, Jolinda LaClair)

ADAP

- ADAP awaits word from Fed on Opioid State Targeted Response (STR) proposal
- Pilot development: Dept. of Labor employment counselors in recovery centers in 3 locations
 - Importance of having an advocate when you have a criminal and/or SUD history
 - Next – more/all recovery centers. Eventually, hub and spoke locations
 - Special training to the employment consultants re this area, and how to work with employers
 - Progressive employment – temp-to-hire
 - Individuals with SUD are eligible for Voc Rehab services

OCC

- Coordinating resources across state government to go beyond placing an employment consultant in recovery centers. Brattleboro, Burlington, Rutland by July 1. The others by Dec. 31.
- Employer education – can we develop a template for employers, to be provided through Rural Dev. Corps, Chambers, etc.

Working Fields – Mickey Wiles:

- Conventional staffing agency model, but for “second chance hires.” Employer pays for the service. Conventional staffing agencies employ approx. 1,000 people in VT, with strict restrictions on criminal backgrounds.
- Part of role is to educate employers on reasons to hire, and how to support.
- WF screens participants and provides support with recovery coaches.

Housing (Liz Genge)

- Expand the Family Supportive Housing program statewide (OCC report)
- Conduct a statewide needs assessment (OCC report)
 - Transitional, recovery residences
 - Preliminary survey of providers pulled 84 responses statewide. Follow-up survey for deeper dive.
- Discussed “Coordinated Entry” (CE) at VT Coalition to End Homelessness – “no wrong door” to enter the system
- VT Coalition to End Homelessness:
 - Coordinating 11 AmeriCorps VISTA positions to embed in areas across state (except Burlington)
 - Approved a committee to apply for technical assistance
- Support Vermont Alliance For Recovery Residences (VTARR) and credentialing process
- Identify new federal housing resources – USDA rural housing development (USDA-RD) – people in drug treatment court getting subsidized housing
- Incentivize landlords to drop barriers to housing: VT Council on Homelessness is doing a lot on that. COTS, others. How can we learn from them?
- Strategic use of the housing bond for housing development. Help to facilitate communities bringing projects to VT Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) is ready for communities to bring projects.
- Remove barriers – expungement laws, e.g.
- Housing First program is able to bill for Medicaid

Discussion – across recovery centers, employment and housing (Notes from Newsprint Sheets BOLD)

Big Picture

- Hierarchy of recovery needs/continuum of supports needs: **Nexus between treatment and recovery – warm hand-off**
 - **Physical and behavioral health**
 - **Aces**
 - **Resilience**
- Don’t need to get someone a job. Need to be able to connect to someone who can help them get job
- Most data point to 3-5 years of recovery to reach stable. Needs evolve –
 - i. Get well -- remove the vulnerabilities (exposure to acquire drugs in circumstances)
 - ii. Get housing: Zoning laws that discriminate
 - iii. Get a job: education/what you need to grow
 - iv. Next level jobs

- v. Peel the infrastructure away
- **Relapse: How to reduce**
 - **Recovery housing (Dave Riegel – data. ADAP – data)**
 - **Technical assistance for centers on funding**
- **Keep an eye on legislation**
- How do we go for a few big wins? Focus on a subset of the population (not buckshot) – pick a population – what can we do to leverage progress for this subset of population
- What outcomes do we seek for each goal? E.g.: 3 family housing facilities in the next 3 years, with built in family supportive housing; or 3 recovery centers are one-stop shops in 5 years
- **Expungement**

Recovery coaches

- **\$\$ pay**
- **Moms with addiction**
- **Offender – community**
- **Paid, unpaid**
- **Supervision/support (emotional)**
- **Certification**
- One-stop centers, funding for coaches in emergency departments
- Support and supervision for recovery coaches
- Funding thoughts:
 - Grant writing – think about where we want to go, where the pots of money are
 - Identifying matching money can be an issue (look at EAP model)
 - Need infrastructure for supporting recovery coach positions statewide for long-term

Recovery Centers

- **One-stop shop/wrap-around supports – recovery centers**
- Stability of the centers: fundraising, high volume use of centers
- **Tech support needed for recovery centers: Fundraising, Board development**

Housing

- **Lamoille: 41% in for recovery coaching lacked jobs. No homeless shelter. Churches open doors when cold.**
- **Homeless shelter**
 - **Men, women, family**
 - **Around every recovery center in VT**
- **Zoning (Bennington)**
- Housing is critical – SUD behaviors in homeless shelters multiply. Support people not returning to same places/people as when they were using. On site – better.
- Standards – VTARR
- Does anyone have data on impact of recovery housing on relapse? (NARR, VFOR)

Transportation

- Barriers
- Ross McDonald, VTrans
- Opportunities – Local Motion (bicycles)
- Engaging youth – modified recovery coach
- \$: match

- EAP
- Federal regulations – barriers
- Case management
- Community buy-in

Additional notes from Newsprint Sheets

- Services: Food shelf, access to resources
- Goal statement
- Messaging – public awareness

Ideas Generated in Discussion

- Recovery Coaches:
 - Next meeting: a presentation to this committee on recovery coaching; where recovery coaches are employed, what is out there for funding, etc.
 - Support recovery coaches via a per diem
 - How to get upstream – could recovery coaching concept become peer to peer in high schools?
- Housing
 - What if we had progressive housing – “try before you buy”?
 - Follow-up survey (deeper dive) to the OCC Housing survey last fall
 - Strategic use of the housing bond for housing development. VT Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) is ready for communities to bring projects. How can we help to facilitate?
 - Convene housing summit with an emphasis on those with SUD
- Employer education – can we develop a template for employers, to be provided through Rural Dev. Corps, Chambers, etc.
- VTrans for transportation connection

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 22, 1 – 4:00 p.m.