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***Group Facilitators*:** Rachelle Brown- NYRCC, Margaret Price- Recovery Coach, Bill Williams- Where There’s A Will Fund, Stephanie Campbell- FOR-NY and Theresa Knorr- FOR-NY

***Executive Summary***

Twenty-five families of young people impacted by alcohol and drug addiction gathered at The Church of the Ascension Parish Hall on May 21, 2016 to attend the FOR-NY New York City Family Recovery Forum. The purpose of the program was to learn from their experiences regarding a host of issues including access to information, services and supports in order to identify challenges families are facing, develop ways to strengthen family involvement in the treatment and recovery process, and examine the need for systems change.

***Goals***

* Listen and learn from family members’ experiences regarding access to information, services, and supports
* Gather input from families to identify ways to strengthen family involvement in the treatment and recovery process
* Provide education and training about recovery-empowering language and messaging
* Create interest in developing Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) across New York City

***Participant Profile***

* 25 attendees (23 evaluation responses)
* 31.8% were Black or African American
* 9.1 % were Asian
* 13.6 % were Hispanic or Latino
* 54.5% were White
* 4.5% were Alaska Native
* 65.2% were Female
* 34.7% were the parent of a young person still struggling with addiction
* 17.3% were the parent of a child who entered recovery as young person
* 21.7% were the parent of a young person who passed away as a result of addiction
* 26% were another family member of a young person affected by addiction

***Borough Representation***

* 7 were from New York (Manhattan)
* 5 were from Kings (Brooklyn)
* 4 were from Queens
* 2 were from Richmond (Staten Island)
* 5 were from the Bronx
* 2 were from other areas, including Long Island

***Participant Evaluations***

* 95.7% reported being, at least, satisfied with the overall quality of the training
* 95.7% agreed the meeting was well organized
* 82.6% % believed the material presented would be useful in dealing with substance abuse
* 91.3% reported they would recommend they would utilize the information they gained from the forum

***Resources requested for a Family-To-Family Toolkit***

* Families identified their most significant needs for help as:
  + 19 of 21 said access to information and education on addiction
  + 18 of 21 said they needed Family support programs and resources
  + 17 of 21 said that education on the effect of addiction on the family
  + 9 of 21 said they needed Family Advocate and Family Recovery Coaches
* Families identified trainings that would be helpful as:
  + 17 of 21 requested Family to Family Peer Support training
  + 15 of 21 requested The Science of Addiction and Recovery training
  + 11 of 21 requested Our Stories Have Power training
  + 7 of 21 requested Recovery Coaching training
* Additional needs identified were:
* 17 of 21 said they need Family support / education/counseling/continuing of care
* 15 of 21 said Access to Detox and Treatment Facilities
* 15 of 21 want additional opportunities for family input/engagement
* 7 of 21 identified the need for a *Whole-Family* adolescent treatment system

***Key Issues***

* As demographics of attendees was diverse, family members who historically have been “left behind” identified the need to address access inequalities to resources, including in urban communities.
* Families need
  + Addiction counseling, treatment and ongoing support and services in their communities
* Expanded treatment for their loved ones after they have received Narcan
* Neutral resource information for families around education, treatment services
* Family treatment to be built into adolescent treatment programs
* Public forums where families can share their success stories in recovery

***Recurring Themes***

* Stigma and discrimination is still a major barrier to successful treatment and recovery outcomes
* Mandatory addiction education is needed for health care providers
* Family peer recovery coaches and family support navigators are desperately needed
* Insurance companies are not abiding by parity law- enforcement and accountability are needed

***Recommendations***

* Increase access to community based supports and services for families:
  + Recovery Community Organizations (RCO’s) / Recovery Community Centers (RCC’s) in every borough
* Train individuals to support families struggling with addiction and sustaining recovery
  + Family Recovery Coach / Advocates / Family Navigators
* Provide advocacy training and development through RCO’s to address:
  + Legislative and policy issues, mentor education for families, medical providers, insurance carriers