

SUMMARY REPORT

EVENT: Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum

**FRIENDS OF
RECOVERY**
New York

**ONE COMMUNITY
ONE VOICE**

DATE: 11.02.2017

LOCATION: Germantown High School

ACTIVITY: Forum for individuals and family members
on alcoholism/drug addiction

COORDINATOR: Allison Weingarten, LMSW, FOR-NY Policy Director

CONTACT: 518-487-4395 x22 **LOCAL CONTACT:** Carl Quinn

About Our Event Activity...

Executive Summary

Columbia Pathways to Recovery co-sponsored the FOR-NY Recovery Talks Community Listening Forum. It was the 13th in a series of local forums being held across New York State to provide community members the opportunity to share their personal experiences with local leaders and decision makers in dealing with alcohol and drug addiction, the loss of a family member or friend, as well as recovery from addiction.

Category Public Policy

Number of participants 30

Purpose

- Provide a safe space for individuals and families in recovery to voice their experiences around addiction, loss and recovery
- Help individuals and families overcome the stigma that prevents many people from seeking help
- Engage the community in a productive discussion with local leaders that allows for more effective policies on addiction/recovery

Satisfaction Summary (Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent...)

Overall ease of event: 5

Overall satisfaction with outcome: 5

Value to Recovery Community: 5

Recommend Repeat of Event (Y/N): Y

Highlights

- The listening panel represented the health field, education, libraries and state government
- Speakers represented people in recovery and family members of people in recovery, people struggling with addiction and people who have lost their lives to addiction
- Speakers honored the struggle people with addiction face as well as the overwhelming sadness of losing a loved one, but they also shared hope in recovery
- Speakers addressed what has worked for them in their recovery and what is missing to address the disease of addiction

What we Discovered

Findings

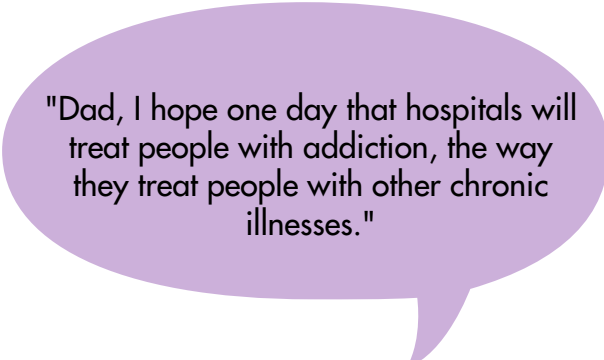
- Resources for people seeking recovery:

Friends of Recovery New York is trying to build recovery capital in New York State. We know there is prevention and treatment, but what happens after someone has been through treatment? Where are the supports for those people? Several speakers mentioned this lack of resources for those leaving treatment.

- What works for people fighting addiction/sustaining recovery?
 - Community resources like Columbia Pathways to Recovery
 - Family support
 - Greater community support network
 - 12 step programs
 - Methadone treatment
 - Therapy including Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR)

What do people who suffer from addiction and families need?

- Education—parents are taught about giving birth and raising infants, but 15 years down the road, there is no education.
- Support—when families and friends unite to support their struggling loved one it makes a world of difference
- Support for people who suffer from addiction and other co-occurring mental health disorders
- Treatment on Demand



"Dad, I hope one day that hospitals will treat people with addiction, the way they treat people with other chronic illnesses."

The promise of recovery--Speakers in Recovery attested to:

- Continuing their education
- Volunteering
- Doing positive things in the community they never before thought possible

What we Discovered (continued)

Barriers faced:

- Stigma: Why are hospitals not treating overdose and addiction like any other chronic illness?
- In order to get into treatment you must fail first.
- There are many hoops to go through to get into treatment and there is often only a short window of time that an individual will feel ready to be treated for their addiction
- Insurance often does not cover addiction or mental health diseases
- Counties, states do not communicate well and sometimes there is even competition for Medicaid funding

"My child had many hopes and dreams and not one of them was to be addicted to drugs."

"We must keep telling our stories and sharing the hope of recovery."

Recommendations

- Storytelling is a highly effective tool at ending stigma and it should continue
- This forum should continue to bring needed changes on a local, statewide and federal level
- Dutchess County is currently operating an addiction diversion center which could be brought to Columbia County
- These conversations must continue in meetings concerning children and the field of education
- Approach to addiction needs to move from punitive to compassionate
- Possibility of using libraries as a place to share information and also support people struggling with addiction or in recovery to help them access needed resources including job preparation and training

Agenda and Participants

6:30 pm	Welcome:	Carl Quinn, Executive Director, Columbia Pathways to Recovery
6:40 pm	Moderator:	Stephanie M. Campbell, FOR-NY Executive Director
	Panelists:	Assembly Member Didi Barrett Susan L.S. Brown, Superintendent, Germantown Central School District Frank Marshall, CASAC Bernadette Powis, NP Claire Parde, ED of the Health Consortium AnnaLee Giraldo, Director, Kinderhook Memorial Library
6:50 pm	speakers:	Community Members
8:10 pm	Comments:	Listening Panel
8:25 pm	Wrap-Up:	Stephanie Campbell

Co-Sponsors



SPONSORED BY:



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum on Addiction and Recovery

This is a series of local forums being held across New York State to provide community members the opportunity to share personal experiences in dealing with alcohol and drug addiction, loss of a family member or friend, as well as recovery from addiction.

The Listening Forums will engage the community in discussion with local leaders and result in a report titled, The State of Addiction Recovery in New York to better inform the public and policy makers.

Thursday November 2nd

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Germantown Central School

123 Main St. Germantown, NY

To register email: info@columbiapathwaystorecovery.org

Signup To Speak email: info@columbiapathwaystorecovery.org

Speaker's remarks will be limited to 3 minutes to allow as many people as possible to speak.

SPONSORED BY: Columbia Pathways To Recovery



For more information contact:

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