

SUMMARY REPORT

EVENT: Recovery Talks: Community Listening Forum

DATE: 12.15.15

LOCATION: Center for Family Life and Recovery

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

COORDINATOR: Stephanie Campbell- Dir. of Policy, FOR-NY

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FRIENDS OF
RECOVERY
New York

ONE COMMUNITY
ONE VOICE

About Our Event Activity...

Executive Summary

The Center for Family Life and Recovery (CFLR) and The Prevention Network co-sponsored the seventh FOR-NY Recovery Talks Community Listening Forum. Almost forty people attended the event, which was moderated by Judy Reilly, CFLR Services Director.

Category Public Policy

Number of participants 38

Purpose

- Put a face to people and families in Recovery; a voice to people impacted by addiction; and create a space for families and friends who have lost someone to addiction
- Help individuals and families overcome the stigma that prevents so many from seeking help
- End discrimination around addiction that creates barriers to Recovery
- Engage and empower Recovery advocates in communities across the state
- Create an organized advocacy effort to change state policies to expand access to 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

*"I had six years of sobriety when I was put on narcotics after being injured. That addiction was worse than my addiction to alcohol... I lost everything."
-Tony, Utica, NY*

Highlights – Comments, Problems Encountered, Opportuni-

- We must end stigma, which is more than discriminatory; it's often fatal.
- Families must be represented in treatment and recovery because addiction is a family disease, often resulting in children inheriting learned behavior from their parents.
- Physicians lack addiction training which results in their prescribing pain medication to people in sustained recovery which can lead to relapse.
- Lack of communication between military and civilian agencies have led to over-prescriptions of opiates, with consequences that result in dishonorable discharge and incarceration.
- Upstate beds and medication assisted treatment are often unavailable, which results in cycles of relapse and overdose.
- We must have treatment on demand - hitting rock bottom should not be a prerequisite to getting help.
- We need to humanize the disease of addiction with empowering language and end the crisis of conscience that treats people who are addicted as moral delinquents.

"We must end stigma, which is more than discriminatory; it's often fatal."

Agenda and Participants

6:00 pm	Welcome:	Bob Lindsey, FOR-NY CEO Cassandra Sheets, CFLR CEO
6:05 pm	Moderator: Panellists:	Judy Reilly, CFLR Services Director Captain Tim Bates, Rome Police Department Hon. Randall Caldwell, Oneida County Family Court Sergeant Terry Gilbert, Oneida Sheriff's Office Hon. Christopher Giruzzi, Utica City Court Hon. James R. Griffith, Oneida County Family Court Commissioner Robin O'Brien, Oneida County Dept. of Mental Health Mark Swire, BS, Critical Care Unit
6:10 pm	Lead Speaker:	Paul Dunn, CFLR Board Member
6:15 pm	Open Mic:	Anyone Who Wants to Speak
7:00 pm	Comments:	Listening Panel Members
7:25 pm	Wrap-Up:	Bob Lindsey, FOR-NY CEO

What We Discovered...

Findings

- There are not enough available beds for people, especially for women, who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs.
- Waiting lists of up to a month are literally killing people with relapse and overdose that often results in death.
- People are in desperate need for proper medical treatment, including detox.
- More forums are needed to bring people in the recovery community together to talk about solutions to the addiction epidemic.
- The children of parents who are addicted are some of our most vulnerable citizens who need education, help and support.
- Insurance is one of the biggest barriers to recovery, because managed care is often making critical decisions that should be made by addiction treatment providers.

"There are not enough available beds for people, especially for women, who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs."

Recommendations

- Increase funding and resources for family navigators and organizations that can address the urgency of the public health crisis of addiction.
- Increase funding and resources for drug courts and other alternatives to incarceration.
- Provide peer recovery supports for individuals and family members to receive evidence based, appropriate services.
- Increase treatment options for individuals beyond the 7-10 day provisions that often exist.
- Recognize family members as primary clients and provide them with supports specific to addiction and recovery.
- Regulate physician education so that it includes addiction and recovery training that is up to date.

"Increase funding and resources for family navigators and organizations that can address the urgency of the public health crisis of addiction."

Co-Sponsors



SPONSORED BY:



RECOVERY TALKS:

Community Listening Forum on Addiction and Recovery

This 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.

Tuesday, December 15th
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Center for Family Life and Recovery
Suite 401
502 Court Street, Utica, NY 13502

Register at <https://goo.gl/zG9xhp>

To Speak Speaker's remarks will be limited to 3 minutes in order to allow as many people as possible to speak

CO- SPONSORED BY: Center for Family Life and Recovery and the Prevention Network



For more information, contact:
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