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QUARTERLY report

Pathways to Pardons

UPDATE

William Stauffer, Executive Director, PRO•A

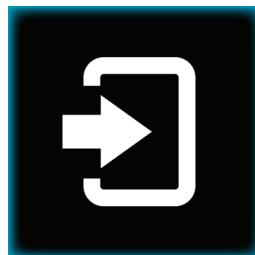
As a partner in the Pathways to Pardons initiative, PRO•A continues to travel around the state to co-facilitate presentations on the pardon's process and help residents learn about the process of removing criminal records from their histories. Applying for a Pardon can be an important step for many in the recovery process. Many applicants are persons who committed crimes as a direct result of having a drug and alcohol problem. Oftentimes, individuals may apply for a pardon:

- After achieving sustained recovery
- Because they want to clear their name
- Out of a need to make it easier to obtain employment or housing, to provide for themselves or their families.

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(Left-Right) Ryan Smith, Board of Probation and Parole; State Senator, Jay Costa; State Representative, Edward "Ed" Gainey; Steve Burk, Department of Corrections; Matt Franchak, Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Mike Stack; and William Stauffer, Executive Director of PRO•A



reentry at retreat

Carrie Greene, LSW, CAADC

When a person enters treatment, typical protocol is that discharge begins on day one. The same is true when individuals come into state prison. While some will never leave, and others will be "down" a long time, most of the population in state prisons will go home. Of all inmates currently incarcerated, at least 95% of them will be returning to their communities. According to the Department of Justice, more than

650,000 people are released from prison annually. What this means is that more than seventeen hundred people, across the United States, are released from prisons and jails each day.

Since most will go home and the likelihood for failure is high without supports, reentry services have become a primary focus for many state correctional institutes. SCI Retreat is no exception to this trend. We currently have space for roughly eleven hundred individuals, who have been sentenced to state prison, most of whom will return to various communities across Pennsylvania. One difference between Retreat and other correctional institutions is that more than half of our population is individuals who are living with a mental health disorder. To that end, SCI Retreat employs social workers whose primary job is to work with these particular individuals to identify and discuss reentry needs as well as help to develop a successful plan of reentry.

Recognizing that addressing the individual needs of inmates will help to reduce recidivism, National Reentry Week was established in 2016. This year, National Reentry Week took place from April 24th through April 28th.

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WORKING
TOGETHER
TO MAKE
"RECOVERY
VOICES COUNT"
IN PENNSYLVANIA





QUARTERLY report

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The PRO-A newsletter is a publication of the Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance. The newsletter is published four times a year and sent to recipients in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

Newsletters are mailed in February, May, August & November.

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Working Across Systems

Randie Yeager, Director of Human Services

Human Services is working across systems for people in Dauphin County.

Treatment services, of any kind, often work best when an informed and committed team of family, friends and experts from the recovery community assist individuals through their own pathway to sobriety. Certainly, services along the pathway include the level of care assessment and access to the treatment services recommended. Dauphin County's Drug and Alcohol [Services] Department, along with numerous contracted providers of treatment services, work hard to ensure access to treatment for individuals. In addition, they work with other human services and criminal justice departments to ensure access to address the array of needs for an individual or family working toward recovery.

One example of this approach is called Holistic Family Support. This is a team originated between Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Services for families involved with Children and Youth Services. Other organizations who participate in these individualized treatment teams include Hamilton Health's Baby Love Program, Dauphin County Early Intervention Program, RASE Project, Certified Recovery Specialists and Life Esteem, offering the evidence-based programs of Strengthening and Celebrating Families. Other entities can be incorporated into any plan by the individual, at any time, through their recovery process. One of the challenges of the Holistic Family Support Program is to provide the array of options within a timeline that an individual striving for recovery chooses, rather than overwhelming them with unnecessary timeline requirements.

Family Group Conferencing, which is a planning process, is offered to individuals and families within Dauphin County and across all systems. This is a family-driven process where the group develops and decides on a plan that will work for them. This process empowers individuals and families to use natural and system supports to enhance individual recovery plans.

Under the direction of Dauphin County Commissioners Jeff Haste, Mike Pries and George P. Hartwick, III, the county's Human Services wants to meet people where they are and sometimes that simply means we integrate Drug and Alcohol staff within other departments. We have done this at both Children and Youth, so parents can obtain an assessment at a location they already visit for appointments, and at the Judicial Center (Commonly referred to as the Booking Center.) When possible, diverting individuals from jail to necessary treatment services is beneficial for all.

The unit serving individuals at various county locations, and at our local hospitals after an overdose, or for anyone admitted with a substance use disorder, is our Mobile Case Management Unit. It currently consists of a Supervisor and two Case Managers.

The Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Services phone number to access these and many other services is 717-635-2254. They are located at 1100 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg PA 17104. Individuals and families involved with other county departments can also access services through their caseworkers.



PRO•A

Pennsylvania Recovery
Organizations Alliance

My Fellow Pennsylvanians,

Pennsylvania is in the throes of a terrible drug epidemic. All of us have been impacted one way or another. Deaths related to opioid and heroin dependence continue to rise. Tragically, we have one of the highest opiate drug overdose rates in the nation. Combating this unfolding disaster requires a collaborative across all of our institutions. There is one approach, however, that will likely make matters worse.

That approach, calls for the Pennsylvania legislature to adopt mandatory minimum prison sentences for all drug offenders.

We know well that law enforcement is a critically important partner in this collaborative approach to save lives and keep our communities safe, but mandatory minimums are a step in the wrong direction.

Each day, at least ten Pennsylvanians die of opioid or heroin overdose. In 2015 alone, we lost more than 3,500 Pennsylvania citizens to drug overdoses. More Commonwealth residents die now from opioid overdose than from car accidents; it is the leading cause of accidental death in the state. The problem can largely be attributed to the rise in the widespread use of opioids, including both prescription pain relievers and heroin.

We need to acknowledge that Substance Use Disorders are a medical condition and impact roughly one in three Pennsylvanian families. We currently treat only 8% of the people who have a substance use condition. This “treatment gap” exists because we have historically underfunded treatment services, even as we spend vast resources on the consequences of untreated addiction. History has taught us over and over again that we cannot incarcerate our way out of the opiate epidemic; filling the “treatment gap” would be a wiser use of our resources than building more prisons.

Some advocates have asserted that one answer to reducing heroin and prescription drug abuse is for the legislature to adopt mandatory minimum drug sentences for drug offenders. Mandatory minimum sentencing laws require courts to sentence all offenders to the same minimum prison term if they are caught with a specific amount of drugs.

These advocates say mandatory sentencing laws will help them target major drug traffickers and kingpins. However, this bill, which was recently approved by the Pennsylvania House, would impose mandatory prison terms on individuals caught selling as little as two grams of opioids and one gram of heroin. A dragnet that large is likely to catch many more minnows than big fish, i.e., more users and low-level dealers than major traffickers.

The uncomfortable truth is that the distinction between drug users and drug traffickers is not as clear as many people would like to believe. Many people we call drug traffickers are actually selling small amounts of drugs in order to support their own use. In other cases, drugs are shared between friends and dumb luck is all that separates one who overdoses and one who survives.

Both as a person in long term recovery, who was offered help rather than punishment, and as a licensed professional with 28 years of clinical experience, time and time again, I have seen first-hand the devastating effects of addiction. Helping the men and women who have a substance use disorder, even those who turn to selling small quantities of drugs themselves, should be our focus. This should not be considered primarily a criminal justice issue – as it is fundamentally a public health issue.

These individuals do not need mandatory sentences in prison. They need avenues for recovery and to be restored to productive citizenship, like the thousands of Pennsylvania citizens like me who got a hand up, and not handcuffs and a multi-year sentence. Mandatory minimums can lead to institutionalization and far reaching consequences, including broken families and communities, and a burgeoning expense to shovel up the consequences - this is the wrong direction for Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO•A) is committed to ending the stigma and discrimination associated with substance abuse in order to foster a community in which those with substance use conditions can get help and live full, productive lives. PRO•A strongly urges the legislature to oppose mandatory minimum sentences and utilize a trauma-informed recovery approach that includes comprehensive treatment and recovery services to address this terrible epidemic. Let's not take a wrong turn in the middle of the Opiate Epidemic.

Thank you,

William Stauffer, CADC, CCS, LSW
Executive Director

900 Arlington Avenue | Suite 254 A | Harrisburg, PA 17109

My New Leaf

Embrace Recovery

Ray Brannon, Chief Organization Officer, My New Leaf, Inc.

My New Leaf Addiction Recovery App is Now Available Free on the iPhone and Google Play Stores

My New Leaf, Inc. is proud to release their first iteration of their free smartphone addiction recovery app to the public. Members will receive free updates, bug fixes and new features as they are released.

My New Leaf, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation in Pennsylvania. Their mission is to create a gamified, web-based, addiction recovery app to educate, coordinate and provide educational resources to aid in the recovery efforts of drug and alcohol substance abusers, their families and the professionals who serve them on a local, national and global level.



The app has garnered high praise from addiction professionals, recovery specialists and coaches. Dr. Dennis Daley, former Chief of Addiction Medicine Service of Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine states: "This is a well thought out, creative and excellent new application to aid the recovery of young people with mental health, substance abuse or both types of problems. Ryan Brannon and his team are to be commended for their hard work, persistence, and willingness to create new ways to reach youth."

After losing friends and loved ones to addiction and overdose, they set their own course to make a radical new approach using gamification techniques and evidence-based behavioral research to change the way people deal with early recovery. Built by a group of committed university students and recent grads who include programmers, graphic artists, animators and people in recovery, they believe technology has the potential to change peoples' behavior and assist them on the road to recovery.

Their journey began when Ryan Brannon, the founder and Executive Director of My New Leaf Inc., won several prizes, including first place at Indiana University of Pennsylvania's version of "Shark Tank;" the first place \$10,000 prize from the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education's (PASSHE) Business Plan Contest and a fellowship invitation to the Thiel Technology Summit in San Francisco.

Deborah Klenotic, in writing a feature article for IUP Magazine stated: "Ryan Brannon believes a gamified app makes sense for young millennials, who have grown up with gaming. 'Digital identities are becoming our comfort zones. And we're always on our phones,' he said. The gamified approach raises the question—can recovery be a bit fun? Gamification is an emerging area of health care that explores whether smartphone tools can motivate and enable people to manage their health conditions and fitness. The idea is that incorporating some positive entertainment can make behavior change more appealing. My New Leaf members will be able to create a profile of baseline data, including their motivations for substance use and for recovery. They can grow from a seed, to a sapling, to a tree by completing a variety of daily activities that help them improve self-monitoring and management behaviors, such as recognizing and coping with craving triggers."

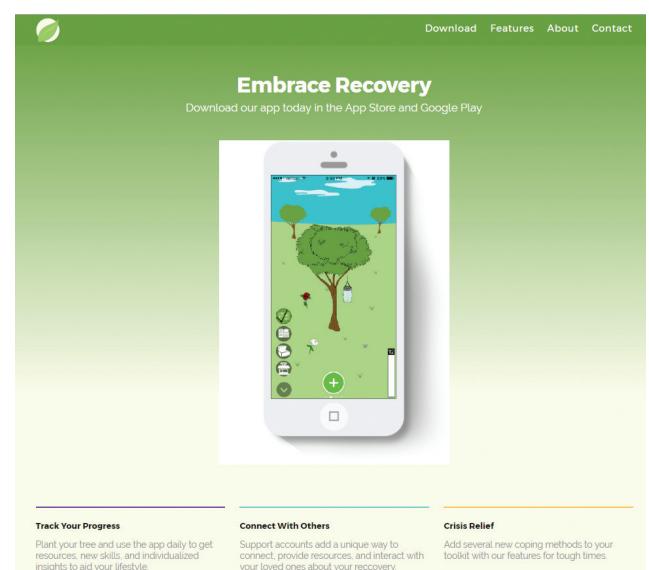
The app provides many gaming type incentives. By completing daily tasks, and building a recovery plan, they are awarded points that can be spent in the app store for virtual and real goods that include free recovery workbooks.

Ryan and his team spent a year doing the necessary research, seeking advice and guidance from respected thought leaders in addiction recovery, in creating the design before ever attempting to write one line of code. Based on their knowledge of gaming and evidence-based-research relating to recovery, they realized that their generation was shying away from 12-step programs. Many were, in very literal sense, "left to their own devices." Ignoring the smartphone platform as a medium for outreach and help he felt would be foolish, particularly to the broad age group he was targeting.

My New Leaf has a threefold action plan that takes a new approach to assist in addiction recovery. The plan includes: 1). the release of a free gamified app with a rewards-based approach to engage our digitally wired target population; 2). a digital means to identify, through proximate geolocation, providers of treatment and services for substance use and mental health crisis intervention that can assist in long-term recovery; and 3). the release of our fee-based companion program VAL (Virtual Assistant Liaison) for addiction and mental health agencies, addiction specialists, therapists, and caseworkers. V.A.L. is expected to be released for testing in 2017.



From left to right: Jay Carmella, Esq.; My New Leaf Board Member & COO; Ray Brannon; Rolando Schneiderman, Lead Programmer; PA Attorney General, Josh Shapiro; Founder & CEO, My New Leaf Inc., Ryan Brannon; Indiana County District Attorney, Patrick Daugherty



Embrace Recovery
Download our app today in the App Store and Google Play

Track Your Progress
Plant your tree and use the app daily to get resources, new skills, and individualized insights to aid your lifestyle.

Connect With Others
Support accounts add a unique way to connect, provide resources, and interact with your loved ones about your recovery.

Crisis Relief
Add several new coping methods to your toolkit with our features for tough times.

BECAUSE YOU MATTER.



Providing innovative Recovery Support Services to individuals and families
in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster,
Lebanon, Perry and York Counties since 2001.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 717-232-8535
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.RASEPROJECT.ORG



Award Recognition Certified Professional of the Year

The RASE Project is pleased to announce that our Founder & CEO, Denise Holden, was awarded the Certified Professional of the Year Award by the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB). The ceremony took place during the annual PCB Conference Luncheon on May 1, 2017 at the Eden Resort and Suites in Lancaster, PA.

PCB is a proud member of IC&RC, the global leader in the credentialing of prevention, addiction treatment, and recovery professionals. Organized in 1981, it provides standards and examinations to certification and licensing boards in 24 countries, 47 states and territories, five Native American regions, and all branches of the U.S. military.

During the award presentation speech to Ms. Holden, the PCB Board President referenced the many outstanding achievements of the RASE Project including receipt of national awards such as the Dr. Vernon Johnson Award, the I Award for Innovation, and the Joel Hernandez Award, as well as a local award for the COMCARE Model Program of the Year from the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

The RASE Project is well known for its innovative programming and has an impeccable reputation. We are very proud of our fearless leader, Denise Holden, and her achievements.





reentry at retreat

Continued from page 1

Across the state, justice involved individuals participated in events that highlighted the reentry process and provided vital information on community resources.

SCI Retreat took part by providing workshops, presentations, and speakers for the men who were interested in learning about how to be more successful upon their return home.

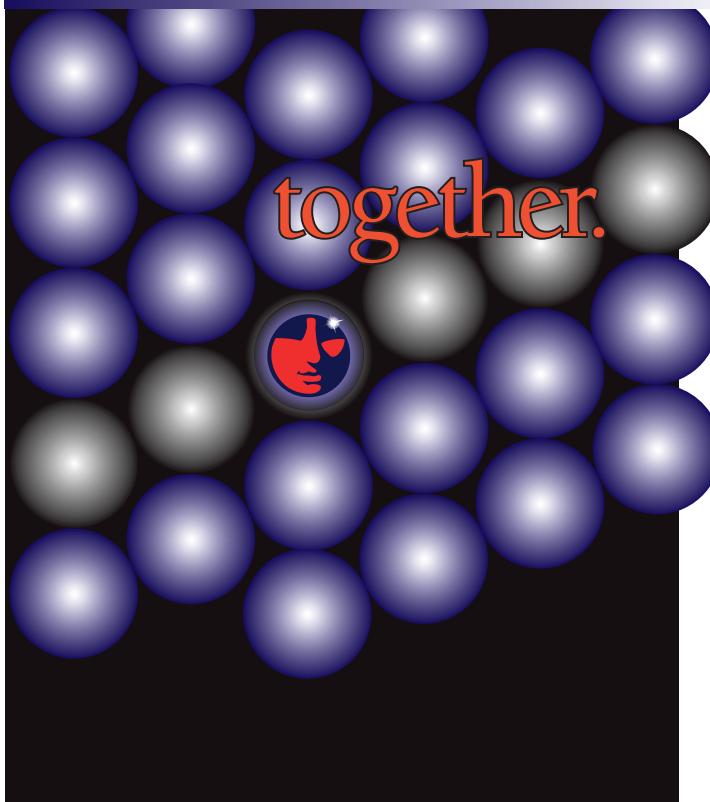
There is often the misconception that if you make it easy in prisons or jails by trying to meet the needs of inmates, they won't want to leave. The attendance by the inmates was a testament to how eager these individuals are to not just go home, but stay home. There was also no shortage of individuals willing to volunteer their time to come in and spend time talking to these guys. This is proof positive that there are people and agencies invested in the lives of people they've never met.

The week began with a reentry field parole agent, and the program manager of community corrections for the Eastern district of PA, speaking to first-time parolees about how to be successful on parole. It went so well that time ran out before all the guys were able to get in all their questions. On that same day, there was a presentation about Fairshake. Fairshake is an online reentry database that has a wealth of information and tips and can be customized to fit individuals' needs.

Realizing that having justice involvement may be a barrier to community reintegration and that many crimes are connected to substance use, the Pathways to Pardons program was created to help individuals work on cleaning up their criminal history. Retreat was thrilled to host both PRO•A and the Lieutenant Governor's office to present to the guys about Pathways to Pardons. During the week, various other speakers came in to SCI Retreat. There was a day filled with formerly incarcerated individuals telling their personal stories of success. Workshops were tailored to meet the needs of individuals who are Veterans and for individuals from the Philadelphia area. As well, local pastor Louis Smyth presented a workshop on how to incorporate spirituality.

The week was capped by bringing in about twenty vendors to participate in a reentry fair. Every person in the prison was given the opportunity to come and spend some time speaking with agencies that can facilitate a successful transition into the community. The SPCA came in to talk about the importance of volunteering. Local education providers came in to talk about available programs and funding. Treatment providers came to discuss pathways to recovery, as well as representatives from the National Alliance of Mental Illness and many more. The Retreat team set up shop to help each inmate apply for a non-driver ID and social security card.

For the staff at SCI Retreat, reentry does not only occur during one week of the year. Every person in the DOC is offered a PA non-driver ID, free of charge. Applications for social security cards and birth certificates are submitted regularly. For those who have a mental health disorder, case management is arranged with the committing county, treatment appointments are set up, and an application for health care coverage is submitted to the county assistance office prior to discharge from the institution. Phone calls are made to try and establish home plans for individuals at risk of being homeless. Whatever the request, if it will help someone engage and stay in their community, we try to make it happen.



together.



WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO PRO.A?

We are working tirelessly to reduce discrimination, improve access to services and assist recovery efforts in communities across Pennsylvania.

Please help us make recovery a reality to a person, family or community near you. PRO.A is a 501(C) (3) not profit organization with the Mission: To mobilize, educate and advocate to eliminate the stigma and discrimination toward those affected by alcoholism and other drug addiction to ensure hope, health and justice for individuals, families and those in recovery.

THANK YOU!

Please send a tax-deductible donation to:

PRO.A

**900 SOUTH ARLINGTON AVE. SUITE 254A
HARRISBURG, PA 17109**

Or online: <http://pro-a.org/donate/>

SB 290 CHANGES DUI LAWS IN PA

Kevin O'Rourke, Program Manager, ALCOLOCK USA

An ignition interlock device (IID) is a system consisting of two parts: a breathalyzer handset and an Electronic Control Unit (ECU). The handset is affixed to the vehicle dash and is connected to the ECU which prohibits the vehicle from starting if the driver's breath alcohol content (BrAC) is at or above the state mandated level. Each state's ignition interlock program administrator determines the BrAC level and the BrAC level is usually less than the State mandated legal blood alcohol content (BAC) limit.

As a result of Senate Bill 290 (SB 290), the law for ignition interlock requirements have recently changed in the state of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Congress passed SB 290 on May 27, 2016 with a planned implementation date for after 15 months. This Bill allows individuals with a first offense DUI to have an IID installed instead of serving a license suspension. PennDOT is working on the implementation plan which is expected to be completed by August 2017.

Since 2002, Pennsylvania law requires anyone convicted of a second, third, or subsequent DUI offence to have an ignition interlock installed for one year as part of the license restoration process. The current law also requires that an IID be installed on every vehicle owned, leased, or operated by the offender. PennDOT will issue a Letter of Restoration to the offender that details the requirements needed to restore their regular driving privileges. If this letter lists an eligibility date, then an ignition interlock can be installed with the one year requirement beginning with the installation date or the eligibility date, whichever is later.

SB 290 changes the law in significant ways. The most obvious is that those convicted of a first-time DUI offense with a BAC of .10 to .15 percent will be allowed to have an ignition interlock device installed and avoid the one year driver's license suspension that is currently required. This will enable first offenders to continue to drive to work and school, if they can pass the IID breath test. The new law also drops the requirement for an IID to be installed in every vehicle the driver owns or leases and only requires an IID to be installed in every vehicle that the driver operates.

While the State mandates the use of an IID in vehicles operated by DUI offenders, many people have found that the system works for them individually and have voluntarily chosen to keep the system installed on their vehicles indefinitely beyond the completion of the mandated one year term. Others have chosen to have a private system installed to prevent the operation of a vehicle if alcohol is detected. The private system can be leased or purchased by the user. Other circumstances such as concerned spouses, partners, business owners, or parents have also led to having the private system installed on vehicles used by others.

ALCOLOCK Pennsylvania operates locally in Mechanicsburg, PA and is the local provider of ignition interlock program services, as well as drug and alcohol detection devices. ALCOLOCK offers the wireless GR system for PennDOT mandated use in PA, as well as the voluntary V3 system.

ALCOLOCK USA is the premium provider of ignition interlock equipment and service, offering drug testing and breath alcohol screening solutions for more than 40 years. ALCOLOCK USA is a division of Alcohol Countermeasure Systems (ACS), a leading designer and manufacturer of alcohol interlocks and breath alcohol testers worldwide and operates a network of Authorized Service Centers throughout the USA staffed by ALCOLOCK trained professionals. ACS designs and manufactures industry-leading interlocks and evidential, screening and personal breath alcohol sensing equipment used by safety conscious governments, forward thinking companies and individuals around the world.

For additional information please visit www.alcolockusa.com.

Other links:

PA-DUI Association:
<https://padui.org>

PennDOT Ignition Interlock:
<http://www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Suspensions/Pages/Ignition-Interlock.aspx>

PennDOT Ignition Interlock FAQ:
<https://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BDL/BDL%20Fact%20Sheets/fs-iitl.pdf>

PennDOT Ignition Interlock Fact Sheet:
<https://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BDL/BDL%20Fact%20Sheets/fs-ii.pdf>

PA Governor Blog:
<https://www.governor.pa.gov/gov-wolf-signs-dui-interlock-law/>

SB 290

Save the Date! RAD 2017

Mike Krafick

On September 26, 2017, Recovery Advocates from across the state of Pennsylvania will gather at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg to promote addiction recovery. People from the recovery community, family members, and professionals working in the drug and alcohol

treatment field are encouraged to come show their support for recovery and meet with Legislators to share their stories of recovery with lawmakers. This will be the 3rd year that the Courage to Change

Recovery Advocacy Day is held and each year the number of people in attendance has grown significantly.

The message we hope to convey with this event is simple, We Do Recover! There is a lot of attention on the growing number of Heroin and other Opioid related overdoses across the state, but what does not get as much attention is the number of people that are able to find and sustain long-term recovery. We want to put a face on recovery and celebrate National Drug and Alcohol Recovery Month in September.

The Mission of the Courage to Change Recovery Advocacy Day is:

Inspiring others to advocate for change to reduce stigma associated with substance use disorders.

Recovery Community Organizations will be invited to set up information tables at the event to promote the recovery efforts that are going on in their communities. Any RCO that is interested in having a table at the event should email recoveryadvocacy@gmail.com.

For more information about Courage to Change Recovery Advocacy Day visit <https://www.facebook.com/recoveryadvocacy/> or go to <http://www.pacdaa.org/Pages/RecoveryAdvocacy.aspx>

SAVE THE DATE RECOVERY ADVOCACY DAY

**COURAGE TO
CHANGE**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA**

Prevention Works | Treatment is Effective | People Recover



Marianna Horowitz, Program Coordinator, PRO•A

When I began my journey as a professional in the field, the most profound thing I heard was that people with an alcohol or substance use disorder didn't know there were people out there who wanted to help them. I thought back to my journey through active addiction and the truthfulness of that statement resonated deep within me. As I have learned through my professional career, this is far from the truth. Throughout the course of my nearly 3 years in the field, I have learned much about these helping hands.

I've seen good recovery residences and other well-run programs. I've seen the passion in family members wanting to be a part of the solution and grieving the problem. I've encountered persons, working in systems known for being ineffective, who are trying to implement changes to make the systems more effective. I've shared in the joy of individuals who worked hard and accomplished their dreams of creating safe spaces in schools and communities for people in recovery to live, play and work; who put into motion ways for people to move beyond the stigmas of their addiction and criminal history, and who diligently work to broaden access to recovery through increasing access to peer-services and promoting multiple pathways to recovery.

As I look and learn about the burgeoning family movement and the young people movement, I marvel at how my parents did it with me more than 20 years ago when there were minimum to no family, adolescent and young people resources. Consequently, I wonder how my life would have changed had these services been available. With the certainty of experience, I understand the repercussions should these services ever become unavailable; for, this is my story.

Through the course of 2017, I have received many calls from individuals who want to become involved, not just in the recovery movement, but as a parent or community member. There has been an increased interest in addressing the needs of the adolescent and young people population as well as opening recovery community organizations (RCOs). Please see pages 9 through 12, of this issue of the PRO•A Quarterly Report Newsletter, for a take away that you may remove and use as a community resource to Creating Recovery-Ready Communities.

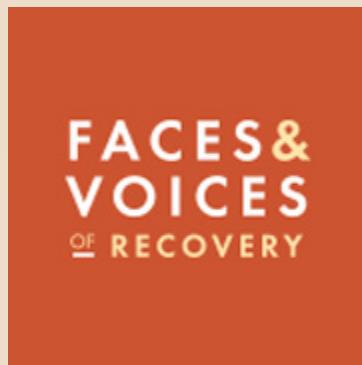
CREATING RECOVERY-READY COMMUNITIES

The recovery movement has been underway across the nation since the inception of 12-step fellowships.

As the movement advances and continues to experience momentum, amid the alcohol and substance use disorder epidemic sweeping the nation, many people, professionals and communities are upping the ante in their efforts to address the needs of the most vulnerable and overarching population of individuals who have a substance or alcohol use disorder.

Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) put out a Creating Recovery-Ready Communities:

Guide to Recovery Support Services that includes helpful definitions for making your community *Recovery-Ready*.



Continued on page 10

PRO.A is now on FACEBOOK –
“like” us at [www.facebook.com/
PaRecoveryOrganizationAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/PaRecoveryOrganizationAlliance)



UPDATE Pathways to Pardons

Continued from page 1

The process from initial application to receiving a hearing used to take about three years. However, through the efforts of the Office of the Lt. Governor, the process has been streamlined with the goal of getting it down to an eighteen-month process.

We have participated in town hall meetings in several areas of the state, over the course of the last few weeks, including:

- A meeting in Philadelphia with Representative Donna Bullock on March 29th.
- A meeting in Chambersburg with Senator Richard Alloway on April 11th.
- A meeting at State Correctional Institute Retreat on April 25th.
- A meeting in Pittsburgh with Senator Jay Costa and Representative Ed Gainey in Pittsburgh on April 27th.



State Representative
Edward
“Ed” Gainey and
William Stauffer

We have received consistent feedback from members of the recovery community about how important the Pathways to Pardons process is. For more information, please check out our website at:
<http://pro-a.org/pennsylvania-pathways-to-pardons-process/>.

please visit our website
www.pro-a.org

CREATING RECOVERY-READY COMMUNITIES

GUIDE TO

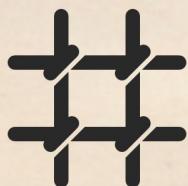
RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES



ALTERNATIVE PEER GROUP (APG) – A community-based, family-centered, professionally staffed, positive peer support program that offers prosocial activities, counseling, and case-management for youth and young adults who struggle with substance use. The main focus is to offer and shape a new peer group that utilizes positive peer pressure to stay sober.



COLLEGIATE RECOVERY COMMUNITY – A supportive environment within the campus culture that reinforces the decision to disengage from addictive behavior. It is designed to provide an educational opportunity alongside recovery support to ensure that students do not have to sacrifice one for the other.



JAIL & PRISON BASED RECOVERY SUPPORT – Individuals in recovery bring recovery groups, coaching and other activities into facilities to assist incarcerated individuals with achieving and maintaining recovery and connecting with community-based recovery support upon release.



PEER RECOVERY COACHING – Non-clinical, peer-based activities that engage, educate and support an individual or family member to make life changes to be successful on their chosen pathway of recovery. Peer recovery coaches appropriately highlight their personal experience of lived experience of recovery while helping others.



MEDICATION ASSISTED RECOVERY SUPPORT – Peer-based recovery support groups, recovery coaching, training, education and advocacy activities designed for the unique recovery needs of individuals in medication assisted treatment.

CREATING RECOVERY-READY COMMUNITIES

GUIDE TO RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES



RECOVERY COMMUNITY CENTER – Recovery-oriented sanctuary anchored in the heart of the community. A physical location where the recovery community can organize. A hub for recovery and family support services. Services may include recovery coaching, life skills groups, employment, education and housing support.



RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL – Secondary school designed specifically for students in recovery from substance use disorder or dependency. Although each school operates differently depending on available community resources and state standards, each recovery high school share common goals.



RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION – an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. These organizations organize recovery-focused policy advocacy activities, carry out recovery-focused community education and outreach programs, and/or provide peer-based recovery support services (P-BRSS).



RECOVERY RESIDENCE - A sober, safe, and healthy living environment that promotes recovery from alcohol and other drug use and associated problems. They offer peer-to-peer recovery support with some providing professionally delivered clinical services all aimed at promoting abstinence-based, long-term recovery.



TELEPHONE RECOVERY SUPPORT – Calls to people in recovery to “check in” to provide support and encouragement as well as information about community resources, recovery meetings or other supports that may help them maintain their recovery.

www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org

**FACES &
VOICES
OF
RECOVERY**

Creating Recovery-Ready Communities

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your community, you may want to consider volunteering. Volunteering is a great way to network, create helping relationships and learn about the needs in your community. Please look over the checklist below for steps you can take in making your community *Recovery-Ready*.

✓ ASSESS YOUR COMMUNITY TO FIND OUT WHAT SERVICES ARE OFFERED AND WHAT SERVICES ARE NEEDED.

You can enlist the help of community-based organizations both in and out of the drug and alcohol field. These might include members in the recovering community, existing RCOs, treatment facilities, churches, volunteer-based organizations, united way chapters or unions.

✓ EDUCATE YOURSELF ON PEER-SERVICES AND MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY.

William White is considered to be one of the leading experts on peer-services; you can familiarize yourself with his work. Visit the PA Certification Board website or the PRO•A website to learn about peer credentials and the CRS and understand that recovery is an individualized process.

✓ NETWORK AND CREATE RELATIONSHIPS.

Attend town hall meetings, community meetings and community events. If you do not feel comfortable speaking, you do not need to, you can begin by simply observing. Observe how individuals act towards one another. Listen to what individuals are saying to learn their views, pay attention to who attends most events and who does the most talking; this will help you to identify leaders in your community.

✓ EDUCATE YOURSELF ON NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Many of these organizations have chapters in states, counties and regions. Some national organizations include Faces and Voices of Recovery, the Association of Recovery Community Organizations, Young People in Recovery, Facing Addiction, SAMHSA, and the Legal Action Center. These organizations often provide toolboxes, educational material, information on how to tell your story in a constructive way and provide access to other resources to help you create local chapters, start an RCO, or fight stigmas associated with drug and alcohol, mental health and criminal backgrounds.

✓ CREATE A GROUP OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND SET UP MEETINGS TO SPLIT UP THE WORK, DISCUSS HOW TO DETERMINE THE ASSETS AND NEEDS OF YOUR COMMUNITY, CREATE GOALS AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS.

This network should be comprised of: RCOs, individuals from the recovery and family communities, professionals in the drug and alcohol field and other community supporters. These individuals should work together to ensure that all persons have equal opportunities for full community partnerships.

YPR Wilkes-Barre Chapter

Edward Cortazar



Young People in Recovery (YPR) has recently formed a Wilkes-Barre chapter.

YPR aims to build relationships with community members and together, act to raise awareness and reduce stigma. YPR volunteers will facilitate workshops, encourage recovery messaging, and strive to connect people, in or seeking recovery, to available resources such as adequate employment, housing, and education. We welcome your involvement, whether you are young or old. For more information on how to get involved, call Darlene Duggins-Magdalinski at 570-332-3550 (evening) or Carol Coolbaugh (570-991-7199).

My heart sinks each time I hear of another overdose death in my community; I am terribly saddened when I learn anyone has suddenly exhausted all prospects for their own recovery and increased these alarming statistics. The probability of recovery is important to me, and the reality is personal. I lived for years in active substance use and routinely assumed the risk of overdose without much dread whatsoever. Today, I am a person in long-term recovery and my life is very different. Indeed, those who have helped me along my pathway toward recovery includes others in recovery as well. However, the recovery community also consists of anyone who advocates recovery. This could be friends, family, neighbors, or anyone who wants to help, young or not. This is the recovery community, this is Young People in Recovery.

YPR is a national grassroots advocacy organization focused on creating recovery-ready communities throughout the nation for young people in, or seeking, recovery. YPR aims to improve access to treatment, educational resources, employment opportunities, and secure, quality housing on the local, state, and national levels. By creating a national network of young people in recovery, we empower young people to get involved in their communities by providing them with the tools and support to take charge of their futures.

For more information and to start, join or find a chapter, visit <http://youngpeopleinrecovery.org>.

RECOVERY FORUM

Marianna Horowitz, Program Coordinator, and

Stephanie Hastings, Recovery Services Community Coordinator, PRO•A

On April 21, Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania held their 17th Annual Adult Recovery Forum. This was the first year that PRO•A was honored to have an invitation to attend. This forum, Realizing Recovery: Coping with Emotions, focused on recovery from mental illness as well as drug and alcohol. Speakers included Jordon Corcoran, founder of Listen, Lucy; William Stauffer, Executive Director of PRO•A; and Katrin Schall, Lead CRS for SPHS. The event also hosted an array of exhibitors, as well as The Leadership in Recovery Awards ceremony. The awards ceremony recognized HealthChoices members who demonstrate strength, courage and creativity along their recovery journey. These individuals chose to not allow their diagnosis' determine their course in life but rather let their recovery define them.

Jordon Corcoran shared information about her organization Listen, Lucy and her story of mental health recovery. Listen, Lucy launched the #acceptance movement and provides "a place to express yourself freely, creatively, and anonymously to find comfort in seeing you are not alone." Through Jordan's individualized recovery process, she has learned the importance of having a creative outlet to express herself and find connection with her peers. Through her website, she created a virtual community so that others may access the same coping tools that are so vital to her own recovery. At <http://listenlucy.org/>, individuals can find a safe virtual environment of peers to share and express with one another their stories, free from stigma and ostracism, to find compassion, understanding and connectivity.

William Stauffer attended the conference, which PRO•A was requested to have the "Our Lives Matter" Quilt, to speak on recovery from substance and alcohol use. Individuals, friends, families and communities often have their own recovery process and add perspective to the recovery process through their own ambiguous loss of a living loved one or the untimely death of a loved one. The Our Lives Matter Quilt Project affords families and friends the opportunity to unite with local RCO's, State and County officials to bring awareness to the magnitude of the addiction crisis, establish connections and resources within their communities, work to strengthen their communities and develop a statewide unified voice.

Katrin Schall is an individual in long-term recovery. As the Lead Recovery Specialist at Southwestern Pennsylvanian Human Services, Inc. (SPHS), located in Greensburg, she does her part to be in service and to aide others in their recovery process. Katrin courageously shared the passionate story of her journey to finding recovery and staying in recovery. Her story, like too many other stories, included prison for her substance use disorder. After spending numerous years incarcerated, and through the opportunity to receive treatment, she began to offer Certified Recovery Groups to current inmates.



Dr. Debra Luther – VBH-PA Vice President of Clinical Services

Jordan Corcoran – Listen, Lucy – Keynote Speaker

Charlotte Chew-Sturm – VBH-PA Director of Provider Relations

Sue Klaus - VBH-PA Manager of Prevention, Education & Outreach



Mark Fuller, M.D.
VBH-PA CEO

Bill Stauffer – PRO•A ED
Afternoon Plenary Speaker

Katrin Schall – CRS – SPHS
Afternoon Plenary Speaker

Engaging Community Partners

William Stauffer, Executive Director, and
Marianna Horowitz, Program Coordinator, PRO•A

The Engaging Community Partners to Decrease Addiction Project is an initiative involving collaboration between Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute; Jean Bennett, SAMHSA Regional III Administrator; Angels in Motion (AIM) and stakeholders from the South Central, South East and Lehigh Valley regions of Pennsylvania.

The mission of the Engaging Community Partners to Decrease Addiction Project is to build regional research capacity by developing community partnerships with patients, researchers and stakeholders passionate about decreasing youth addiction.

A series of community engagement meetings was convened to discuss the steps to be taken and elements to address in accomplishing the mission. Each of the attendees had an opportunity to present ideas, based upon their unique perspectives, about ways to prevent children, teens and young adults from taking risks that might lead to overdose or addiction.

Through these meetings, overseen by our leadership team of patients, researchers and stakeholders, we determined the following to be key topics to explore:

- Improvement of healthcare team-patient/parent communication
- Care coordination
- Management of children's pain
- Methods for proper disposal of leftover medication

This is a multi-tiered initiative. The leadership team has two mission-associated goals for the Tier 1 Performance Period ending in the Spring of 2017:

- 1) To generate a list of ideas which will serve as the basis for development of research questions about decreasing addiction.
- 2) To successfully apply for and be awarded additional funding and approval from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute to progress to Tier II during which our research questions will be refined.

PEER WORKFORCE MEETING

William Stauffer, Executive Director, PRO•A

In March of this Spring, SAMHSA Region III held a peer workforce meeting. PRO•A met with peer leaders, from the five state SAMHSA Region III, to discuss the strengthening of the peer workforce and its role and function in the strengthening of services to our community. This was a productive meeting led by SAMHSA Regional III Administrator, Jean Bennett, and included leaders from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. This is an exciting group to be included with.

The meeting was held in New Castle, Delaware and included lively discussions on our commonalities across the region in respect to training competencies, training domains and certification requirements. A major focus of the meeting was an examination of peer workforce opportunities and barriers across the region. A number of states reported that the 21st Century Cures Act monies are going to be used to strengthen substance use condition peer-services over the course of the next two years. Pennsylvania was awarded over 26 million dollars this year through the 21st Century Cures Act.

PRO•A is excited to see the growing recognition of the value that peer-services offer for the drug and alcohol community across the region. We are seeing it increasingly understood by policymakers that drug and alcohol peer-services can and should be a vital element within our service delivery system, and as well that persons with lived recovery experience of substance use conditions have a critically important role and function within our human service workforce.



Region II Peer Workforce

WE ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO ONGOING MEETINGS WITH THIS GROUP – STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE UPDATES!



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PRO•A

WANTS TO INCLUDE YOU!

The 28th Annual Recovery Month Pennsylvania Event Calendar

The Pennsylvania Recovery Organization Alliance is putting together a calendar of statewide events in celebration of Recovery Month, which will occur in September 2017.

We want to show how we celebrate recovery across our great state and to get people involved in the great work that you are all doing!

If you or an affiliated entity is holding an event for Recovery Month, we want to include it in our Recovery Month Edition of our newsletter.

Utilize our new web feature on the PRO•A calendar page at <http://pro-a.org/calendar/> or contact the PRO•A Program Coordinator, Marianna Horowitz, by email at mhorowitz@pro-a.org or phone at (717) 545-8929 x1.

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2017.

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- The date, time and address of the location of the event
- A contact name, phone number and email address
- A brief description (one or two sentences) of the event include what you are doing and include costs, if any, to participate

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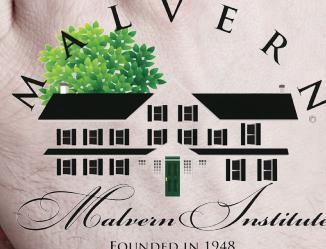
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IN MEMORIAM

JEROME A. “JAY” YOUTZ

1951-2017

DONA DMITROVIC
ON BEHALF OF THE PRO•A BOARD

I met Jay Youtz in the late 90s, when I was hired to lead PRO•A. At that time, Jay was spearheading the recovery movement in Bucks County with the organization PRO-ACT, a project birthed out of his master's thesis for Lincoln University.

He was one of the founding board members of PRO•A along with the likes of Deb Beck, Mike Harle,

Gary Tennis and many other strong advocates from Pennsylvania.

He and I worked collaboratively on the development of PRO•A. Jay, having so much passion that when he spoke about policy and practices negatively affecting people in recovery his voice would get louder and louder! We went around the state with a PRO•A “dog and pony” show, to organize and encourage the recovery community in advocacy work.

Little did we know, that after a few months of training, we would sign up 3,500 individual members but then be stumped to figure out what to do next. We traveled to Washington DC, along with other national groups and the early grantee recipients for the SAMHSA RCSP, trying to determine how we could organize this “new” recovery movement.

Jay was a true pioneer in every sense of the word. He never lost his passion for helping others.

He would stop whatever he was doing to take a call, do an intervention, find a bed for treatment, a recovery house or whatever was needed and he never gave up until that happened. I can't count how many times people

I know got what they needed for recovery through his assistance.

I spoke to Jay a few weeks before his death. As usual, during our conversation, he bragged about Elizabeth and Brooklyn and let me know that Kathleen was great. He loved his family immensely, extended family included, and when he spoke of them, you could hear that in his voice. He was excited about Recovery Centers of America and how proud he was to be part of that team and help with the vision of the program.

Selfishly I will miss Jay terribly; his passion, his laughter and the ability to call him when someone needs help.

The lives he touched through his tireless advocacy work will live on forever. Jay had such an impact mentoring others; we are blessed he paid it forward.

*Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.
~ Albert Einstein*

Jay's life was exactly that.



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