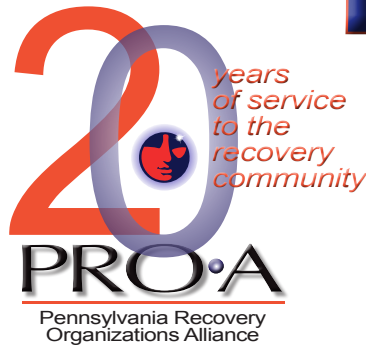


QUARTERLY report



Volume 20, No. 3 | 2018

By William Stauffer, PRO•A, Executive Director and
Patricia Baranowski, PRO•A, Recovery and Resiliency Coordinator

The Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations is proud to be celebrating 20 years of service to the recovery community of Pennsylvania.

This is a huge milestone for our organization! We are so honored to have served the Pennsylvania recovery community for two decades. We will be remembering our history, looking towards the future, and recognizing members of the community who have served the community with distinction. The event is also an opportunity for organizations to support our mission and help us to carry it forward! Please consider supporting us!

There will be a formal dinner followed by fellowship and a number of speakers. We are excited to share our history and to illuminate key actions that led to the development of recovery community organizations, both here in Pennsylvania and across the nation. We will be bringing together members of our original Board, our first Executive Director, and persons in our current service system and recovery community to share our history.

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RECOVERY MONTH EVENTS CALENDAR STARTING ON PAGE 12!

THE 5 YEAR MILESTONE CONTINUED



By Marianna Horowitz, PRO•A, Program Coordinator

In our last issue of the PRO•A newsletter, we introduced our agency's vision for a system of care that supports the first five-years of recovery from substance and alcohol use disorders. We envision a substance use disorder care service system that **1.** Supports long-term recovery **2.** Meets the needs of our young people **3.** Builds the 21st century workforce to serve the next generation **4.** Provides career and employment opportunities for people in recovery **5.** Includes quality recovery housing opportunities.

I have had several opportunities, across Pennsylvania communities, to present and to speak with others about our vision. Our vision challenges the way our system currently defines care to think in broader terms, beyond clinical care, about how we define care and to think of care as deliberate attention to something or someone, to protect someone or something, and to provide needs to something or someone.

Continued on page 3

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WORKING
TOGETHER
TO MAKE
"RECOVERY
VOICES COUNT"
IN PENNSYLVANIA



QUARTERLY report

Volume 20, No. 3 | 2018

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Message Carriers of Pennsylvania



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42-CFR Part 2

By Robin Horston-Spencer, Executive Director, Message Carriers

As a true advocate for those without voices, I find myself wondering what it would really be like to lose our first amendment right. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievance”. This is a lot to take in especially when there is so much upheaval such as: gun violence, police brutality, and the Opioid Epidemic - to name a few things pertaining to laws and our rights.

Our lawmakers pass laws that seem to benefit their constituents and create better communities for all; but, do they really? As a person in long-term recovery, I take a long hard look at the types of bills being passed because of how they may impact me and other citizens. I want to believe our legislators are trying their best to meet the needs of all their constituents. However, they pass new laws all the time that may or may not be helpful. For example, the House passing of H.R 6082, the “Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act” bill, to amend the 42-CFR Part 2 (Confidentiality of Substance of Use Disorders Patient Records). The purpose of this bill is to be inclusive for those to receive necessary treatment for continuity of care. However, as I see it, especially from an advocacy perspective, it is others making legal decisions for us. These decisions can lead to further rights being removed in the name of what’s best for those of us who want to seek treatment. This law can be very problematic should patient records get into the hands of insurers or landlords. In situations such as private insurance providers obtaining records, who can either deny coverage or attach a higher co-pay stating that we are high risk; or landlords, who may deny housing, this may result in a decrease in access to treatment, increased homelessness, and credit reports may impede other potential opportunities, etc. Yes, there is a need of having access for some; but this bill will impact all. Yes, there are the concerns due to the ever-present deaths from the Opioid Epidemic and the desire to help parents help their children, but there are no real solutions of a “one size fit all approach”. Just because we make it a law doesn’t mean it’s right. Here’s how our legislators voted; For: Republicans–217/ Democrats–140; Against: Republicans–7/Democrats–50.

To learn more about First Amendment Rights at <http://pittsburghfoundation.org/>

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One of the untold chapters of the national recovery movement is the role that Pennsylvania had in providing the foundation for recovery communities nationally through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Recovery Community Support Program (RCSP) grant. The grantee organization was the Gaudenzia Foundation, comprised of board members from across the Commonwealth. The goals of the RCSP grantees were to build the capacity of recovery organizations to participate in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of addiction policies, systems, and services so that they could be more responsive to the needs of recovering people and their families.

PRO•A focused on building a network of regional affiliates to provide training, identify persons in recovery to sit on boards and committees, and help members participate in advocacy in the areas of treatment, public policy, and public opinion. It was also clear from discussions with the recovery community that PRO•A had to be an autonomous organization in order to gain trust that we were truly supporting the recovery community and not treatment providers, which we did by becoming a freestanding 501C3 organization.

OUR CURRENT EFFORTS

As we look towards 2019, the Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance has developed as a key leader in the recovery movement here in Pennsylvania and beyond. We have strengthened the recovery community as few could have possibly imagined when our founders first decided to establish a statewide recovery community organization for Pennsylvania back in 1998. We are reaching thousands of people annually through presentations, trainings, and social media—while influencing public policy to support and strengthen recovery for individuals and families impacted by substance and alcohol use conditions. We are, together, raising the consciousness of the power of recovery to heal our communities, and we are working to unleash the greatest asset that we have to fight addiction—people in recovery and our family allies.

We have been recognized nationally for our efforts in workforce development and are seen as leaders within the peer community in respect to the work we have accomplished. We have also shown that we can work to bring together the drug and alcohol and mental health recovery communities, which we did in 2016 and 2017. Last September, PRO•A was in near constant motion around the state as we participated in many of the recovery events that occurred in Pennsylvania, a number of which we had helped to organize and facilitate. In 2017 we helped further workforce efforts through our efforts to establish peer supervision standards as well as a new drug and alcohol peer family credential with the Pennsylvania Certification Board.

Since our inception, we have supported our growing statewide network in doing exciting and important, life-saving work. We are working to spread recovery and improve opportunities for individuals and families seeking help with substance and alcohol use conditions. While we may have a long way to go, we know that the system we are seeking to develop is evidenced based, community supported, and will strengthen recovery for individuals and families in the ways we need to heal our communities. We envision a care system that supports long-term recovery for individuals, families, and communities.

WHAT'S NEXT?

What does the next twenty years hold for us?
With your support, we will, together, achieve progress beyond our wildest imagination!



OUR MISSION

To mobilize, educate, and advocate to eliminate the stigma and discrimination toward those affected by alcohol and other substance use conditions; to ensure hope, health, and justice for individuals, families, and those in recovery.

*Together, let's celebrate
20 years of making
a difference.*

November 7, 2018 from 6 to 9 pm
Hilton Garden Inn Harrisburg East
3943 Tecport Dr. Harrisburg, PA 17111

Please consider attending
or sponsoring this event.

For more information on how to
support our Anniversary Celebration,
contact Patricia Baranowski at
patti.b@pro-a.org or call 717-545-8929.

THE 5 YEAR MILESTONE CONTINUED

continued from page 1

This installment of The 5 Year Milestone story focuses on two points of our 5 year vision, meeting the needs of our young people and building the 21st century workforce, both of which are very personal to me. The absence of recovery supportive services hindered my ability to recovery and the ability of my family to recover - and finding purposeful employment enhanced my early recovery and continues to enhance my recovery process. This issue of our newsletter provides an overview of our current adolescent system, information on collegiate programs, articles about workforce programs and initiatives, and personal narratives from individuals who have been touched by the effects of SUD or AUD.

There are deep concerns about the state of our acute-care-adolescent-treatment system and the lack of extended supports we have for our young people following acute care.

It is important to understand that SUDs act much like a communicable condition. Young people often initiate use based on peer pressure and drug use spreads among our youth like wildfire. Conversely, we are also learning that strong and visible recovery communities and recovery support services can assist persons to engage and sustain recovery. It is common sense that through engaging earlier and working to help a young person with an AUD/SUD we can minimize damage and reduce the amount of resources utilized in our medical and criminal justice institutions in a lifetime.

My Story: Marianna Horowitz

As an adolescent who was in need of treatment 23 years ago, in 1995, I understand, on a very personal level, the repercussions a lack of adolescent services have on the individual and family of the individual in need of treatment. As an adolescent, at the age of 13, I received treatment at an in-patient, coed, adult treatment facility. Furthermore, when I exited treatment, there were no adolescent community support services provided to me or my family. There were no recovery supports offered to me, nor did I have access to peers in recovery or peer recovery support services. At no point did my school intervene through a Student Assistance Program, despite my poor academics or truancy. As a high schooler, I frequently attended school under the influence, ran away from home, and overdosed, which resulted in my being in a coma for several days. Again, there was no interaction from a student assistance program. I think it worthwhile to mention that I come from a small school; there was not a large student body for me to hide behind or get lost in. The absence of adolescent care services hindered my ability to recover and to build a meaningful life until I was nearly 30 years old. My family and myself were trapped in a downward spiral for 23 years.

ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Last year, we presented a testimony to the Pennsylvania HOPE Caucus, regarding the current state of our adolescent drug and alcohol service system.

- 90% of adults diagnosed with substance use disorder started using between the ages of 12 and 17.¹
- “The 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health data indicate that among those adults who first tried marijuana at the age of 14 or younger, 13.2% were classified with illicit drug dependence or abuse; this percentage was 6 times higher than that for adults. In fact, among adolescents, the transition from initiation to regular use of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs often occurs within 3 years.”²



Student assistance programs have been in Pennsylvania for three decades. In 1990, our legislative body amended the act of March 10, 1949 to include “On or before June 1, 1991, the Secretary of Education shall recommend to the General Assembly a plan to require and assist each school district to establish and maintain a program to provide appropriate counseling and support services to students who experience problems related to the use of drugs, alcohol and dangerous controlled substances.” Yet, they continue to be underutilized and remain an ill-enforced resource. Additionally, there is a single recovery high school here in Pennsylvania. We should be developing recovery high schools statewide for our young people, as we should collegiate recovery programs. Much more can and should be done to expand this network of recovery programs.

In Pennsylvania, we have shuttered and closed the vast majority of our adolescent residential programs over the course of the last decade or so. As it stands now, many parents are sending their children to out-of-state facilities to receive drug and alcohol treatment. We are hearing that Pennsylvania is down to two publicly funded adolescent residential treatment facilities, an 80% decrease from around 20 a few years back. This is a statistic worthy of greater understanding and a trend that needs to be reversed before we lose all of our adolescent residential treatment capacity.

The research is showing that, much like cancer and other chronic conditions, if a person can sustain recovery for a period of five years, lifetime resumption of use falls to around 15%.³ This is what we should be aligning all of our systems of care to do, and there is no better place to start than to focus on the services offered to young people. Young people can particularly benefit from additional services and resources to assist in their recovery process. Recovery high schools, recovery community organizations, drug and alcohol peer recovery support services, alternative peer groups, and collegiate recovery programs, that have been in use and saving lives for several decades in other areas of the country, have not yet been implemented here in Pennsylvania. ***Our young people are worth saving.***

¹ NIDA - Drug Facts

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/nationwide-trends>

² SAMHSA TEDS- Report Age of Substance Use Initiation among Treatment Admissions Aged 18 to 30

https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/WebFiles_TEDS_SR142_AgeatInit_07-10-14/TEDS-SR142-AgeatInit-2014.pdf

³ William White - From Treatment to Sustained Recovery

<http://www.williamwhitepapers.com/pr/2007HBOFromTreatmenttoSustainedRecovery.pdf>

Integrating PBRSS

By Stephanie Hastings, PRO•A, Recovery Service Community Coordinator

As the 2017-2020 RCSP-SN Grant began, PRO•A developed the framework for a community model for the integration of Peer Based Recovery Support Services (PBRSS) with a number of partners across multiple counties in the state. We began working to address the needs of peer providers in allied medical care institutions and in other community settings to ensure that peer providers are seen as viable players in the delivery system. The basis behind this framework came about as a result of the frustrations one local hospital had in instituting a warm hand-off program and getting an individual with a SUD from an emergency room to longer term SUD treatment. It was discovered that making the transition was only part of the answer. The same individual might desperately need a job, supportive housing, mental health treatment, educational opportunities, or other services. If staff is able to use this initial effort to bring in other partners and work with other counties and local RCO's, the needs of the whole person can be in the center of the discussion.

In addressing this system gap we are looking to work with program partners to provide education and training on the integration of PBRSS within allied medical and health care, employment, education, housing, and other social, legal, and family/SO services. We have recently begun working with a local medical provider on the integration of PBRSS for use in various areas of their service system. We have provided on-site technical assistance, education, and connected them with local RCO's. We are very excited to see the innovative thinking in their approach to the integration of PBRSS, which is utilizing the service not only in times of crisis but also preemptively to aide someone before they are seen in the ED as a result of an overdose situation.

We are always looking to collaborate with medical institutions, treatment providers, and other community services. If you are interested in integrating PBRSS into your service system or learning more about PBRSS, please contact Stephanie Hastings at 717-545-8929 Ext. 3 or at s.hastings@pro-a.org

PRO•A's Executive Director Testifies at US Senate Hearing

At the invitation of ranking member Senator Bob Casey, PRO•A's Executive Director, Bill Stauffer, participated in a hearing at the US Senate Special Committee on aging on Thursday, May 23. The Senate Committee was examining issues related to older adults and opioid misuse. This is an issue of focus for Senator Casey who has long supported services to assist persons needing help with a substance use condition.

As much of the focus has been on the younger population, one of the overlooked populations in the opioid epidemic has been that of the elderly. While opioid abuse declined in younger groups between 2002 and 2014, the epidemic almost doubled among Americans over the age of 50. As noted by Bill Stauffer, older adults "are more likely to receive prescriptions for psychoactive medications with misuse potential, such as opioid analgesics for pain and central nervous system depressants like benzodiazepines for sleep disorders and anxiety." It was noted that the committee will continue to look at this important issue impacting older Pennsylvanians.

PRO•A's, Executive Director, William Stauffer also testified that,

"I too will one day turn age 65 and expect to rely on Medicare. I hope that I and all those like me with substance use conditions, will have the full array of recovery services and supports available. Congress should work to ensure that is the case, particularly as 10,000 Baby Boomers turn 65 and become eligible for Medicare each day."

Beyond written testimony, Mr. Stauffer was able to answer questions that Senators had about the response to our addiction problem in the United States. Mr. Stauffer called for a change in the way we think about responding to the Addiction problem in America, at which point he noted:

"We know that 5 years of sustained substance use recovery is the benchmark for 85% of people with a substance use condition to remain in recovery for life, why are we not designing our care systems around this reality?"

The Committee Chair, Senator Susan Collins, of Maine, wrapped up the hearing with a quote from Mr. Stauffer's testimony "it is also true the needs of older adults who are experiencing a substance use condition get far too often missed or ignored. While substance use conditions have long been an issue for older adults, the topic receives scant attention in the literature, and there is almost no training for medical professionals to identify and refer persons to care for a substance use condition to get the help that they need."

Senator Bob Casey and the Senate Special Committee on Aging will continue to examine substance use issues impacting older adults and the impact of federal policy on older Pennsylvanians.

William Stauffer and Senator Casey (left to right)



William Stauffer, PRO.A, Executive Director



Hearing Room



Enhancing Recovery Capital for Emerging Adults Through COLLEGIATE RECOVERY PROGRAMS

By Eric Scott Klein, MSS, LSW

*Coordinator of the Northampton Community College Collegiate Recovery Program
Ph.D. Student at the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research at Bryn Mawr College*

The presence of collegiate recovery programs (CRPs) is growing quickly across the United States¹. These recovery programs can improve the effort of engaging, retaining, and building the recovery capital of emerging adult students in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). Broadly, a collegiate recovery program is a cohort of students who are in active recovery from substance use disorder who participate in a mutual support system based on campus². An impactful program should entice students and educators to “tune in” to the recovery program’s mission statement in order for it to properly support students in recovery with equity³.

In general, a CRP exists to provide an enriched sober environment in which students in recovery can achieve academic success. They are voluntary, can be anonymous, and they are welcoming of any type of recovery path⁴. A CRP will be tailored for students who are committed and active in their recovery who are looking for an opportunity to relate, enjoy, and support each other during their time in college, whether it is full-time, part-time, online, or commuting. A CRP is not a treatment program, nor is it structured therapy despite many being coordinated by licensed counselors. In the case of Northampton Community College, ours is overseen and housed inside of the counseling department. Additionally, a CRP is not affiliated with any specific 12-step program.

Post-treatment, and even after attending a recovery high school, continuum-of-care support for emerging adults in recovery from SUD is often lacking. The relationships and skills honed, supported and developed through hard work in intensive out-patient programs, recovery high schools or in Alternative Peer Groups (APGs) among multiple other pathways, can be squandered when the recovery capital of an emerging adult is not further identified and buoyed.

Recovery capital is defined as the entirety of all resources, internal and external, that can be utilized in order to sustain recovery from substance use disorder⁵. Collegiate recovery programs can map the development of recovery capital of students onto other, campus-wide growth processes to build a broader, inclusive coalition of students and community; or in other words: an alternative peer group.

Emerging adulthood is the life stage in which “nothing is normative demographically”⁶. Since collegiate campuses can be a hostile environment for people in recovery, building recovery capital for the student and the community via collegiate recovery programming is a developmentally-sound suggestion for pro-social and pro-community growth^{2, 7}. If an APG in a high school is “meeting the student where they’re at” then the CRP is the congruent for emerging adults in college. Additionally, if emerging adults feel these networks, relationships, or systems of engagement are important then they will directly impact positive, personalized outcomes⁸.

In a 2015 study, one-third of all respondents stated that they would not be in college were it not for a CRP, and 20% would not have chosen to attend their specific college if there was no recovery support². Once a student in active recovery enrolls for classes, the environment on campus may be difficult to navigate without a CRP in place. Despite the growth of these types of programs, critical questions remain. Conrad⁹ posits that the medicalization of treatment, or a clinical medical model, puts the onus of recovery on the individual without examining or giving credence to a broader consideration of the social context of that person. A person is not a flat, 2-dimensional cartoon. We have layers and they all affect recovery. Therefore, a CRP can be the perfect support tool which helps a person in recovery meet the goals of their next life stage, as they personally define them.

It is important to note that the recovery community is actively meeting these challenges. In the most up-to-date census of collegiate recovery programming, 76% (or 96 of the 127) of the responding CRPs/CRCs were founded in a five-year period beginning in 2012. Only 8 of the responding programs began before 2007, therefore 94% of the CRPs/CRCs developed had their onset in the last ten years¹⁰. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) produced by the SAMHSA¹¹, the approximate amount of people suffering from SUD, whether it was illicit drugs, alcohol or both concurrently, in 2015 and 2016 is staggering. When looking only at emerging adults, here recorded as 18 to 25 years of age, 5,327,000 people in 2015 and 5,236,000 people in 2016 were suffering from SUD.

Considering that the development of identity for emerging adults in recovery is directly tied to their sense of self, and their sense of self inside of their new social paradigm of sober living, collegiate recovery programming is essential to the continued care of people inside the first 5 years of their recovery. Furthermore, recovery is better predicted and supported on strengths rather than pathologies. A collegiate recovery program is one such strength-builder.

It is important to note that there is more work to be accomplished. Like other health care systems, collegiate recovery programs have not reached enough people of color, female-identifying people, LGBTQIA people, as well as other marginalized populations. Confounding intersectional biases exist. According to Hill Collins¹² and later, Mattsson¹³, intersectionality ventures to analyze a person’s sexuality, assigned or personal expression of gender, social order or class, as well as one’s ethnicity or race as to the manner which they relate to each other and in essence, “intersect” as modes of systematic bias or oppression. People in recovery often feel multiple parts, intersecting parts of their identity (i.e. LGBT and in recovery, or Latinx and female, etc.) being torn in opposing directions. Intersectional thinking informs us that social and personal identities fuse across a person’s life¹⁴. Also, one’s position inside almost any group is multifaceted and intersectional¹⁵. Alternative peer groups and collegiate recovery programs can lead campuses and communities towards a less stigmatized and more inclusive citizenry and work force across a region.

Additionally, continuum of care for post-treatment is elemental to and indicative of meeting SUD treatment goals². These services exist for adults with healthcare coverage or the financial wherewithal to pay for additional treatment support after attending a rehabilitation center. Therefore, it goes to follow that CRPs can be designed to meet the recovery management needs of college students as a continuum of care tool. Although it would be beneficial to all campuses and communities to have fully staffed CRPs with separate sober living facilities available, a CRP/CRC can provide levels of support for students with SUD without requiring significant initial budget or staffing requirements as they are often derived from a peer-to-peer foundation with a modest professional staff component. There are dozens of helpful resources available across the country for any institution of higher education interested in learning more about the development of a CRP on their campus. One can start by emailing PRO•A or this author. As “they” say, “we are not a sullen lot.”

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THE 5 YEAR MILESTONE CONTINUED

This year, PRO•A once again had the opportunity to support the Marginalized to Empowered Conference, now in their 3rd year, through the planning, implementation, event sponsorship, and scholarships. 140 people registered from various universities, service providers, and advocacy organizations. Attendees included both professionals and students. We offer a special thank you to St. Joseph's University, for allowing our agency to continue to support you; to all of the attendees, for participating in this year's event to learn about how they can implement Collegiate Recovery Programs (CRP's) in their communities; and to all of our wonderful presenters for their time and passion to support recovery for college students across our state and nation. Highlights of this year's event included:

- A Night Before Networking Event where individuals were able to network and view the film *The Anonymous People*.
- Conference attendees came from across PA, included individuals from NJ, and some attendees came from as far away as Massachusetts to learn about how PA is leading the way for building recovery communities in collegiate settings #CRP
- A keynote panel that included Rep. Margo Davidson, 164th District PA House of Representatives; Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, 18th District PA House of Representatives and Chairman, House Human Services Committee; Gary Tennis, President and CEO of National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL)

SAVE THE DATE
4th Annual M2E conference on
August 6, 2019!



Thank you for the Student Travel Scholarship for the Marginalized to Empowered Conference. This conference not only thoroughly educated me in the movement in the recovery community, but it also elevated my networking with others in the field.

I have had some monumental life experiences that have had a major impact on the molding of my identity. For years, I battled a drinking addiction that completely changed my identity. I went from being able to identify as a homeless, dumpster diving, non-hygienic man - to a person who is asked to teach Sunday school, sponsor a child in Africa, co-parent, be a motivational speaker, and am an honor's student in college. After being so fortunate to receive the proper medical and psychological help I needed, I now make it a life's mission to help others who struggle with the same illness. I attend 12-step fellowship meetings and reach out with open arms to anyone new, helping in any way I can. I give these newcomers rides to meetings, buy them literature, and take them out to dinner in hopes of instilling hope. I feed the homeless, and on holidays I speak at treatment centers. I now live with the mindset that I am blessed to give, not have. I now sponsor a family in Africa. I realized if I have money for Starbucks, NFL pay per view, and Green Bay Packers apparel, then I have the finances to help a child have adequate drinking water. My identity has grown from a church attendee to a motto of being blessed to give, not have.

One of my strongest identity traits is one of being extremely passionate about everything. I am involved in, especially when it comes to changing public perception surrounding my illness. I am truly on a positive mission in life and have never been so motivated. My hard work during the first year of college turned into the fruits of a 3.5 GPA. I currently hold Dean's list of high academic honors, received the Drexelbrook Community Scholarship, am the Founder/CEO of The Message motivational speaking company, and speaking/advocating at treatment centers monthly.

With the motivation and discipline, I am exhibiting there is no question of my long-term success. There is no greater feeling than to know I can make an impact on others which in turn affects the world. I can begin impacting others at a young age. There was a time in my life when I was ashamed of my identity. Through the years, I have realized I carry positive traits, and we are each unique with special gifts to offer. I realize my identity will forever change but only in an upward climb as I build upon the foundation of my truth. Like a student who achieves the highest level of education with more degree titles to his name, I want an identity with multiple initials indicating I have helped to change the world in an extremely positive manner. "A good man falleth seven times, get up 8." Proverb

Frederick Shegog,
 themessage2018@yahoo.com



Frederick Shegog



William Stauffer and
 Frederick Shegog
 (left to right)



Frederick Shegog and Patti Anne
 McAndrews
 (left to right)

SUD WORKFORCE DIPLOMA



PRO•A and Luzerne County Community College Partner on an Innovative SUD Workforce Diploma

The Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance and Luzerne County Community College launched an exciting new academic program which will provide credentialing to prepare students for work in the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service system. This is a joint, collaborative project with Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) which we believe to be the first of its kind in the state of Pennsylvania. We believe it will provide for a better equipped workforce while opening up a pathway to job opportunities and higher academic achievement for persons with lived experience of a substance or alcohol use condition.



Speakers: William Stauffer, PRO•A, Executive Director Secretary, Jen Smith, John Fabisheski, CRS

On June 11, PRO•A and LCCC held a joint media event to announce the start of the “Human Services: Addiction Recovery” program which is set to begin at the college in the Fall of 2018.

The Diploma in Human Services specializing in Addiction Recovery is designed to prepare students for work in the drug and alcohol service system, with a specialization in peer support services. The course content was developed by us in conjunction with Luzerne County Community College and is targeted to individuals interested in pursuing the Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) or Certified Family Recovery Specialists (CFRS) Credential offered by the Pennsylvania Certification Board. We also believe that the program will allow non-traditional students an opportunity to acclimate to further academic pursuits and degrees. We are truly excited by this collaborative project and the opportunities it will afford our community. For more information about the program, contact us at 717-545-8929 or contact Heather Jones at Luzerne County Community College at 800-377-5222 x7509 or hjones@luzerne.edu

UPDATE Cambria County Drug Coalition

By Keith Elders, Co-chair Recovery Workgroup, Cambria County Drug Coalition

The Recovery Workgroup of The Cambria County Drug Coalition would like to update you on some of our successes so far this year, as well as provide some insight into what we have planned in the upcoming months.

- The voice of recovery has been present at 17 Narcan trainings to-date across Cambria County, and we have taken an active role locally in assisting with the formulation of PCCD's statewide database of PA pharmacies that distribute naloxone.
- We even partnered with the PILLAR Project (Providing Information in Local Libraries to Assist Recovery) to introduce county librarians and other staff to Substance Use Disorder 101 along with a naloxone training.
- Additionally, we were invited by President Judge Norman A. Krumenacker and Cambria County Courts to participate in local youth fairs by carrying a message of recovery to the youth in attendance.

The Recovery Workgroup was also invited to participate in at an EMT the Appreciation Day event. At this event, 3 members of the Recovery Workgroup shared their recovery stories with local EMT workers, many who were admittedly jaded from treating the ever-rising numbers of opioid overdoses, to offer a message that recovery can and does happen. Sentiments from the Appreciation Day event were resoundingly positive and offered praises to the individuals in long-term recovery for renewing the EMT's hopes for the individuals they have committed to save day in and day out.

Slated for the coming months we have an Overdose Awareness Day event planned that will bring together the recovery community, their families, and all other sectors to remember those we have lost to substance use disorder. This event will be followed 2 weeks later with our National Recovery Month event entitled Recovery in the Valley. It will feature local providers and other resources while highlighting the multiple pathways to recovery with speakers from each of those pathways. *Recovery in the Valley* will culminate with our keynote speaker Jason Snyder, who grew up here in Cambria County. Jason will be stressing the importance of the multiple pathway approach as well as the continued need for advocacy efforts here locally, in our region, and across the state.



Empowering Through Employment



By Christine Corson, BS, CRPS; MVP Women's Program Director

In Delaware County, we are working together to increase the likelihood of individuals obtaining sustained recovery. Substance use and alcohol use disorders effect the community, and recovery impacts the community. Through supporting employment opportunities for persons in recovery, we elevate the impact their recovery can have in our communities. We are working together across agencies, organizations, local businesses, and with our local government to create employment opportunities for individuals who are in recovery.

In celebrating our 4-year Anniversary, MVP would like to share with you the success and expansion of our new program "The Second Chance Employment Program". From day one, we understood the need to not only assist our residents in their Recovery journey but also to assist them in their life skills, so they could live a responsible and purpose driven life in Recovery. MVP in conjunction with the Delaware County Workforce Development & the Delaware County Heroin Task Force has created the first employment program in Delaware County tailored directly for individuals in Recovery.

We now have the privilege of offering these employment services to all residents of MVP. Through this program vocational counselors conduct two 3 hr. groups a week, one for our female program and one for a male program. This employment program offers MVP residents self-esteem courses, resume building, mock interviewing, communication skills, career mapping, job placement, free GED courses/testing, college placement, vocational training/placement, union apprenticeship placements, CDL, CRS, CNA, and dozens of other certifications.

This Employment Program was launched on October 1, 2017 for our female program (WMVP). Due to the immense success of the participants who participated in this program, it has been expanded to the Men's MVP Program as of August 1, 2018. It is our goal to provide our residents with ALL the tools needed to obtain and maintain long-term recovery. The success of the Second Chance Employment Program shows the importance of meaningful employment in obtaining long-term sustained recovery.

- 6 graduates (100%) of WMVP (Women's MVP) are employed full-time in careers of their choice, and all have over a year of continuous recovery.
- 17 out of 23 clients obtained employment, with 9 being placed in the career of their choice. All 9 have more than a year of continuous recovery.

In addition to the career opportunities afforded to our clients through the Second Chance Employment program, earlier this year, we worked alongside PRO•A, The Bridge to Recovery Foundation, and Delaware County Heroin Task Force to offer the Certified Recovery Specialist classes in Delaware County. Two individuals worked in the field prior to the class, and out of the seventeen individuals who took the class, 5 have obtained employment as a CRS since the training. Supportive employment, vocational and educational training, and placement that focuses on the individualized needs of people in recovery, is necessary to support the recovery process, is a part of the recovery process, and should be made more readily available to persons in recovery and utilized to integrate peers into the drug and alcohol workforce.



Delaware county CRS class



Be a Part of the Conversation is working with PRO•A to provide the full 60-hour training series to become a CFRS. Our series takes place on Saturdays from 9 am to 4 pm at the Center for Families at 101 Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA 19355, beginning September 29, 2018 and concluding December 8, 2018. You can learn more by visiting <https://conversation.zone/cfrs/>



Rebuilding Lives, One 2nd Chance at a Time

By George M. Vorel, C.E.O., *Envirosafe*

Through diligence and hard work our daughter excelled in elementary school. Junior high, however, presented new challenges, and she found herself unable to resist temptations presented by peers, drugs and alcohol. Her high-risk behaviors slowly eroded away the confident daughter that we knew.

A person with an addiction by the age of eighteen, my daughter no longer had control over her life. And, as is the case with many persons who have an addiction, her self-esteem was non-existent. She was physically, emotionally, and spiritually bankrupt by the age of twenty-five. After numerous attempts at sobriety, her final treatment program afforded her the ability to seek employment. She was fortunate to find an employer who was willing to overlook her checkered history. Today she identifies this as the turning point on her road to recovery.

As is often the case with people who have an addiction, she did not have a driver's license. Despite the walks to the bus station and a stop one mile short of work, she managed to arrive on time. Building relationships with the owner and co-workers and receiving well-earned paychecks helped contribute to her restoration of self-worth. As she gained the confidence of her employer, she earned a promotion in pay and responsibility. With the responsibilities of an apartment and bills, she once again became self-sufficient.

Armed now with the ability to believe in herself, she took another step forward by enrolling in college. Within her first year, she was offered a tutoring job through the college. Yet another example of an employer not judging her past but finding value in her present. Now armed with self-confidence and a determination to continue bettering herself, she went on to obtain a master's degree in social work and graduated with honors from the University of Pittsburgh. Today she is a respected counselor at a treatment center for substance abuse.

Knowing the positive impact meaningful employment had on my daughter's recovery, I asked myself, what can I do as business owner? I wanted to give individuals who struggle with addiction the same non-judgmental employment opportunity that was afforded to my daughter. We began to look at how we screened potential employees. Resumes of at risk individuals typically do not reflect steady employment. Therefore, we altered our hiring process to a "working interview." That is, once the verbal interview is complete, the prospective employee proceeds to the shop floor. There he/she completes a skills assessment to help us better identify the individual's attitudes and skills. It also enables the prospective employee to determine if Envirosafe will be a good fit for them.

To ensure a safe work environment, we must adhere to a strict policy regarding drug abuse of zero tolerance. We do, however, understand that relapse can be a part of recovery. Through random drug testing, if an individual tests positive, there is a mandatory period of suspension. We encourage them to seek help and will review continued employment once they are able to maintain sobriety.

We expanded employment opportunities to individuals who are residents of a local treatment and prison reintegration program. A key to our success in retaining employees is to convey and maintain to them that they are valued for their work, needs, and opinions. Doing so builds a mutually beneficial relationship. We have assisted employees in the purchase of homes and automobiles. A Navy veteran was sleeping under a bridge when we hired him and, with our help, not only rented an apartment but purchased a car, the first in his life.

Employment at Envirosafe is about, when necessary, a second chance. After all, our daughter would not be here if not for the second chances bestowed upon her.

RCO Update:HLC

By Harmony Life Center, Anne Wightman, HLC Board Member

In May, Harmony Life Center had a Unity in Recovery Event at Washington Park. We had emotional Testimonies of Encouragement, Prayers, Food & Games. Over 300 community members felt the love and support of Harmony Life Center that amazing day!

Speaking of AMAZING AND FEELING THE LOVE...

Harmony Life Center will have had its doors open for one year in September. We house over 50 meetings a month and have over 700 amazing people come through our doors each week! Our Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for October 14, 2018. Mark your calendar!

47 North Main Street Washington Pa.15301 • All Volunteer, Resource, Recovery Support



Pictured left to right Mrs. Hopper and Marlo Barry

PRO•A calendar

2018 REGIONAL STATEWIDE RECOVERY MONTH EVENTS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS, PLEASE CHECK OUR ON-LINE CALENDAR AT [HTTP://PRO-A.ORG/CALENDAR](http://PRO-A.ORG/CALENDAR)



August—Overdose Awareness Events 2018

AUGUST 30 | 2 PM | PA OVERDOSE AWARENESS VIGIL

LOCATION: PA State Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg

DESCRIPTION: Please join us to honor and remember those we lost and to hear stories of survival, recovery, and hope. Please note that this event is taking place ahead of overdose awareness day, not to detract for local and regional events taking place around Pennsylvania. The event is free to attend.

AUGUST 31 | 9 AM | PRAYER SERVICE & TRAININGS INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE DAY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Karen Plavan 412-281-8360 | LOCATION: Trinity Cathedral, 328 Sixth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend. Please see the event schedule below.

- 9-11 AM - Treating Opiate Use Disorder; Presenter: Jennifer A. Archut, Clinical Supervisor for the Opioid Treatment Program, Caron Treatment Center in Wernersville, PA
- 11 AM - Ringing of the Bells - Pittsburgh will Not Forget... Pictures will be displayed by the families who lost loved ones in the front and sides of the cathedral.
- 11:30 AM - Distribution of Lunches to EMS City of Pittsburgh
- 12 Noon - Interfaith Prayer Service
- 1:00 PM - Narcan Training

AUGUST 31 | 9:30 AM | OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY, MOMENT OF SILENCE

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org | LOCATION: Chester County Justice Center on Market Street in West Chester and the Chester County Government Services Center on Westtown Road | DESCRIPTION: To mark the occasion, 144 pinwheels will be displayed in front of the Chester County Justice Center on Market Street in West Chester and the Chester County Government Services Center on Westtown Road, representing the 144 lives lost to overdose in Chester County in 2017. In addition, citizens are invited to participate in a moment of silence on August 31st at 9:30 a.m. to remember those lost to overdose and the loved ones left behind.

AUGUST 31 | 6 PM

4TH ANNUAL INDIANA COUNTY OVERDOSE AWARENESS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

CONTACT INFORMATION: Becky Perkovich, r.a.perky47@gmail.com, 724-388-1124

LOCATION: IRMC Park, North 7th Street, Indiana, PA

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend. The schedule below.

- 6-7pm Multiple organizations with information and resources
- 7pm Speakers: Those in recovery and those who have lost loved ones
- 7:45pm Awareness Walk on main street
- 8pm Candlelight Vigil and Video

AUGUST 31 | 6 – 8 PM | BUILDING COMMUNITY SHARING HOPE

CONTACT INFORMATION: Per Hagen at phagen@councilsepa.org | LOCATION: Charles A. Melton Community Center 501 Miner St.

West Chester PA | DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend. Join Chester County PRO-ACT as we remember those we have lost to the disease of addiction and celebrate hope and recovery from substance use disorder. There will be a free buffet dinner, free Narcan, recovery resources, Keynote speakers, and a luminary ceremony.

AUGUST 31 | 6 – 8:30 PM | INTERNATIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Victoria Rhodes at 717-977-0053 or 717-498-0623 or by email at Rememberteri@gmx.com

LOCATION: 405 Park St. Mercersburg PA 17236

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend. Each year we lose thousands of people from drug overdose globally. Some survive but suffer a permanent injury, with devastating impact to their families and friends. International Overdose Awareness Day provides an opportunity for us to reflect on practical ways to prevent overdose in our community. Overdose is preventable. Knowing the real facts about drugs and what to do when you see someone experiencing an overdose DOES save lives. Overdose Day events that aim to educate our communities about drugs can really help. Come join us.... our event will include: Narcan training and Narcan distribution for adults PLUS Medication safety program for children, resource tables, door prizes, food available to purchase, rock painting and crafts for children. Bring your own lawn chairs!!

The entertainment will begin with music by the Mercersburg Mennonite Church Worship team from 6 till 6:30. Acoustic guitar and singing artist Cody Wilt of Huntingdon County will provide music for the evening. A candlelight remembrance message and vigil will be conducted by Pastor Tim Fisher from Covenant Life Church, Hagerstown, MD. If you have a loved one you would like to light a candle for, please email Vicki Rhodes at RememberTeri@gmx.com.

AUGUST 31 | 6 – 8 PM

NATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS MONTH – REMEMBRANCE EVENT

CONTACT INFORMATION: More Info: www.wdacinc.org | LOCATION: Courthouse Square 100 West Beau St. Washington, PA 15301

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend; there will be limited supplies of Narcan available. In honor of National Overdose Awareness month, WDAC would like to honor those who have lost their lives to addiction with a butterfly release. There will be guest speakers and resources regarding overdose prevention and recovery.

AUGUST 31 | 6:30 – 9 PM | BRENDAN'S BAND OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you would like to have a video tribute, please provide your photos and a few sentences about your loved one to Tiffany Neafcy at 610-750-2127 or tneafcy@gmail.com.

LOCATION: Good Shepard Church 35 West Philadelphia Avenue, Boyertown, PA 19512

DESCRIPTION: Join us on Overdose Awareness Day for a candle vigil, sharing of memories, video tributes, and a balloon release.

Please bring your own balloons to release at the end of the event in honor of a friend or loved one. Light refreshments will be provided.

AUGUST 31 | 7 – 8 PM | OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org | LOCATION: First Baptist Church, 415 W. State Street,

Kennett Square, Pa 19348 | DESCRIPTION: This Candlelight Vigil hosted by Kacie's Cause will include featured speakers, a lighting of candles and "open mic" share for the attendees.

AUGUST 31 | 7 – 9 PM | OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: The Green of Oxford Presbyterian Church, 3rd Street, Oxford, Pa 19363

DESCRIPTION: This Candlelight Vigil hosted by Kacie's Cause will include featured speakers,

a lighting of candles, ABE the pony, the Kacie's Cause Mascot, and "open mic" share for the attendees.

National/Statewide Events 2018

SEPTEMBER 25 | 11 AM

CONTACT INFORMATION: recoveryadvocacy@gmail.com

LOCATION: Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex 501 North 3rd Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

DESCRIPTION: This is a FREE event. You are invited to join Pennsylvania's recovering community for a day of advocacy in Harrisburg.

Recovery Advocacy Day aims to raise awareness of substance use disorders, celebrates individuals in long term recovery, and acknowledges the work of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. Speakers will be speaking from 11 am to noon in the main rotunda.

Participants are encouraged to stay throughout the afternoon to visit with their elected officials to share their recovery experience and convey a message of hope. View our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/recoveryadvocacy/>.

You can preregister for the event by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recovery-advocacy-day-tickets-48031088278>

Continued on page 14

NorthWest Events 2018

SEPTEMBER 7 | 3 – 6 PM | MEADVILLE RECOVERY CELEBRATION

CONTACT INFORMATION: Julia Covert, jcovert@ccdaec.org, 814-724-4100

LOCATION: Diamond Park Square, Meadville, PA 16335 or Rain LOCATION- 920 Water Street, Downtown Mall Meadville, PA 16335

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend. Please join us for our 7th annual Recovery Celebration and Celebrate Recovery in our community with food, fellowship, speakers, information and resources, and much more!! Vendors at 3 pm, ceremony at 4 pm and live music at 5 pm!

SEPTEMBER 8 | 9 AM | ROAD TO RECOVERY 5K RUN/WALK

CONTACT INFORMATION: Julia Covert, jcovert@ccdaec.org, 814-724-4100

LOCATION: Diamond Park Square, Meadville PA 16335 (Rain or Shine)

DESCRIPTION: Cost, \$30, Join us for our first annual Road to Recovery 5k! Everyone is welcome, this is a fun 5k walk/run to highlight Recovery in our community! While the road to recovery is rewarding but long, this road to recovery is exactly 5 kilometers!

Register now at <http://roadtorecovery5k.com> to reserve your spot, a shirt, and bag! Pre-Registration pick up will be at our 7th annual Recovery Celebration on Friday Sept 7th from 3-6 pm in the Diamond!

SEPTEMBER 11 | 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM | RECOVERY CELEBRATION

CONTACT INFORMATION: Rita Wheeler, Co-Chair (814) 452-4462 ext. 103 or rwheeler@mhanp.org

LOCATION: Hosted by the Martin Luther King Center, 312 Chestnut St., Erie, PA 16507

DESCRIPTION The Recovery Celebration (15th year for Erie, PA) celebrates the recovery of people from mental health and substance use disorders. The focus of the celebration is on people sharing their recovery stories to inspire others, give encouragement and hope to others. The recovery stories will reflect the theme: "Join the Voices for Recovery: Invest in Health, Home, Purpose and Community". Participants are asked to sign a Recovery pledge. The event includes: proclamations, awards, information about local resources, giveaways, refreshments, networking and fellowship. The event is free and open to the public.

SEPTEMBER 14 | 5 – 7 PM | VENANGO COUNTY RECOVERY CELEBRATION

CONTACT INFORMATION: Abigaile Rosen at (814)-676-9940 Ext. 47 or by email at arosen@fscas.org

LOCATION: Bandstand park, Liberty Street, Franklin PA

DESCRIPTION: A time to raise awareness about mental and/or substance use disorders, sharing stories of recovery, celebrating the accomplishments of individuals in recovery, and encouraging others who are still in need of services and support.

SEPTEMBER 14 | 7 – 11 PM | SPEAKER/RECOVERY DANCE

CONTACT INFORMATION: Rita Wheeler, Co-Chair (814) 452-4462 ext. 103 or rwheeler@mhanp.org

LOCATION: Hosted by the Mental Health Association , at 1101 Peach St., Erie, PA 16501

DESCRIPTION: The focus of the Speaker/ Recovery Dance is on sharing a recovery lead and having fun in a safe and sober environment. The event includes signing recovery pledges, giveaways, music, refreshments and fellowship. There is a small fee to attend the dance.

SEPTEMBER 16 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM | LIGHT UP THE SKY FOR RECOVERY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Dan Bailey 724-657-7466

LOCATION: Riverwalk Park. East Washington St. New Castle, Pa 16101

DESCRIPTION: FREE event. Candle Light Vigil with speakers on topics of addiction, suicide, & mental health.

SEPTEMBER 22 | 9:00 AM | GAUDENZIA ERIE, INC.'S 21ST ANNUAL RACE FOR RECOVERY 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jason Kisielewski, Community Affairs Manager, (814) 746-4184, JasonK@gaudenziaerie.org

LOCATION: Presque Isle State Park Erie, PA US 16505

DESCRIPTION: The annual Race for Recovery is our only fundraising event and helps us continue our mission of treating men and women at any level of care, regardless of their ability to pay. The proceeds go to the Patient Fund and are used for clothing, bus fare for job searches and school, recovery books and literature, and any other needs a client may have. Gaudenzia Erie, Inc. is committed to providing our clients with the tools that allow them a promising future and the ability to become productive members of their community, and mentors to other people with the same needs. This event consists of a 1K fun run/walk, 5K run/walk, and 10K run. Please help us "E-Race" the Stigma of Addiction! For more information, visit <http://www.erieraceforrecovery.com/>.

SEPTEMBER 25 | 6 – 8 PM | CLARION COUNTY REALITY TOUR

LOCATION: Clarion County Corrections, 309 Amsler Drive, Shippenville.

DESCRIPTION: Clarion County Reality Tour is a community effort to instruct and inform families on the importance of talking to youth about substance use and the dangers of using. Reality Tour is a powerful interactive experience held at the Clarion County Jail that will start one of the most important conversations a family can have. This event is for individuals ages 10 and older and is FREE. Pre-registration is required, register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clarion-county-reality-tour-2018-19-tickets-48160727031?aff=es2>, or you may also call 814-226-6350.

We can and do recover!

North Central Events 2018

SEPTEMBER 1 | 1 – 7 PM | 2ND ANNUAL RECOVERY ROAST AND RALLY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jenny Colon at jennifer@recoverycommunityconnections.org

LOCATION: The Grotto, South Williamsport 201 Second Ave. Williamsport PA 17701

DESCRIPTION: Food, vendors bounce house speakers, horseshoes, and more!

SEPTEMBER 22 | 12 – 8 PM | RECOVERY MONTH AT BILGER

Contact: Terry O'Connor at 814-577-8362

LOCATION: 1921 Bilger's Rocks Rd, Grampian, PA 16838

DESCRIPTION: Bring your family and enjoy a day of FREE outdoor activities including a tour of the rocks as tour guides are available.

Activities include: Medi-Cupping ** Mushroom walk ** 12-step meetings ** fire truck rides ** scavenger hunts ** marshmallow roast ** hay rides ** youth games ** resource tables ** food. All groups, family members, and all pathways of recovery are welcome.

SEPTEMBER 28 | 11 AM – 2 PM | NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY RECOVERY FEST

Contact: Mandy Frank, 570-495-2161

LOCATION: 217 N. Center St. Sunbury, PA 17801

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend. Walk registration begins at 11, the recovery walk is from 11:30 to noon, and festivities from noon to 2 PM. There will be resource tables for behavioral health services and drug and alcohol services, as well as entertainment.

North East Events 2018

SEPTEMBER 2 | 12 – 5 PM | CELEBRATE LABOR DAY IN RECOVERY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Carlos at (610) 849-2209

LOCATION: Bethlehem Recovery Center, 548 N New St. Bethlehem, PA 18018

DESCRIPTION: Meetings and Speakers is the meeting/speaker portion specific to a certain pathway of recovery, or are they general recovery speaker? This event is FREE to attend and will feature speakers from multiple pathways of recovery.

SEPTEMBER 11 | 12 – 1 PM

RECOVERY REVOLUTION 11TH ANNUAL "LUNCH AND LEARN" COMMUNITY FORUM

CONTACT INFORMATION: Please call if you are planning to attend 610-599-7700 or email info@recoveryrevolution.org

so we may be able to get a head count for lunch.

LOCATION: A Clean Slate 100 S. 1st Street/Across the street from Recovery Revolution main building

DESCRIPTION: September is National Alcohol and Drug Recovery Month. On a local level, Recovery Revolution Inc. is excited to be supporting Recovery Month by welcoming all community members to our "Lunch and Learn" Community Forums.

Recovery Revolution's 11th annual "Lunch and Learn" Forums will be on Three Tuesdays in the Month of September at the Recovery Center LOCATION called "A Clean Slate." Each forum will include a 15 minute "Ask a Professional" section at the end of each session. Lunch will be served and there is NO COST to any participants.

There will be free material and referrals for additional resources. Attend one or attend them all. The series will be held at "A Clean Slate,"

- September 11, 2018 | "Addiction: A Family Disease" Carol Geedman, BA, CADC, CCS- Family Counselor at RR
- September 18, 2018 | "What is a Recovery High School" Brooke Tesche, Ed.D., Superintendent/Kolbe Academy
- September 25, 2018 | "Addiction and Recovery" Ruthanne Taggart, CADC

SEPTEMBER 12 | 4 – 7 PM

CMP DRUG & ALCOHOL COMMISSION 5TH ANNUAL RECOVERY WALK

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jamie Drake at jdrake@cmpda.cog.pa.us

LOCATION: The Grove at Corner of 7th & Iron St Lehighton, PA 18235

DESCRIPTION: This is a FREE event, rain or shine. Bring a chair. there will be vendors, food, entertainment, speaker, t-shirts, and a butterfly release.

Come Join to help break the Stigma of Addiction and Prove that Recovery is Possible

SEPTEMBER 17 | 6 – 10 PM | "REVENGE" OF KARAOKE AND OPEN MIKE NIGHT

CONTACT INFORMATION: Carlos at (610) 849-2209

LOCATION: Bethlehem Recovery Center, 548 N New St. Bethlehem, PA 18018

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend! Karaoke with light refreshments and snacks. Bring a snack if able.

We can and do recover!

Continued on page 16

SEPTEMBER 18 | 12PM – 1 PM

RECOVERY REVOLUTION 11TH ANNUAL “LUNCH AND LEARN” COMMUNITY FORUM

CONTACT INFORMATION: Please call if you are planning to attend 610-599-7700 or email info@recoveryrevolution.org

so we may be able to get a head count for lunch.

LOCATION: A Clean Slate 100 S. 1st Street/Across the street from Recovery Revolution main building

DESCRIPTION: September is National Alcohol and Drug Recovery Month. On a local level, Recovery Revolution Inc. is excited to be supporting Recovery Month by welcoming all community members to our “Lunch and Learn” Community Forums.

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LOCATION called “A Clean Slate.” Each forum will include a 15 minute “Ask a Professional” section at the end of each session.

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SEPTEMBER 22 | 11 AM – 2 PM | 2ND ANNUAL CELEBRATE RECOVERY

CONTACT INFORMATION: For more information, call (570) 420-2850 | LOCATION: The Mountain Center 354 Memorial Blvd. Tobyhanna

DESCRIPTION: Hosted by Representative Maureen Madden, there will be food, games, providers, resources, raffles and more!

Our keynote speaker for this event is Jason Snyder, Regional Director for the Operations for Pinnacle Health and former Special Assistant to the PA Department of Human Services for PA Governor Wolf.

SEPTEMBER 23 | 12 – 2 PM | ART LESSONS WITH J.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Contact Carlos at (610) 849-2209 | LOCATION: Bethlehem Recovery Center, 548 N New St. Bethlehem, PA 18018

DESCRIPTION: Local artists offer lessons to adults and children of all ages. This is a FREE event.

SEPTEMBER 25 | 12 – 1 PM

RECOVERY REVOLUTION 11TH ANNUAL “LUNCH AND LEARN” COMMUNITY FORUM

CONTACT INFORMATION: Please call if you are planning to attend 610-599-7700 or email info@recoveryrevolution.org so

we may be able to get a head count for lunch.

LOCATION: A Clean Slate 100 S. 1st Street/Across the street from Recovery Revolution main building

DESCRIPTION: September is National Alcohol and Drug Recovery Month. On a local level, Recovery Revolution Inc. is excited to be supporting Recovery Month by welcoming all community members to our “Lunch and Learn” Community Forums.

Recovery Revolution’s 11th annual “Lunch and Learn” Forums will be on Three Tuesdays in the Month of September at the Recovery Center

LOCATION called “A Clean Slate.” Each forum will include a 15 minute “Ask a Professional” section at the end of each session. Lunch will be served and there is NO COST to any participants.

There will be free material and referrals for additional resources. Attend one or attend them all. The series will be held at “A Clean Slate,”

- September 11, 2018 | “Addiction: A Family Disease” Carol Geedman, BA, CADC, CCS- Family Counselor at RR
- September 18, 2018 | “What is a Recovery High School” Brooke Tesche, Ed.D., Superintendent/Kolbe Academy
- September 25, 2018 | “Addiction and Recovery” Ruthanne Taggart, CADC

SEPTEMBER 29 | 1 – 6 PM | AARMED WALK FOR RECOVERY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Evette Wermuth 570-817-1410 or at cupcakegrammie1@gmail.com

LOCATION: Kirby Park 160 Market Street, Wilkes-Barre PA 18704

DESCRIPTION: The AARMED WALK FOR RECOVERY is a non-profit organization holding our 3rd annual event in hopes of raising awareness on the opioid epidemic across our country and erase the stigma attached to addiction. The registration fee is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per household.

We do have several guest speakers, including state legislation and local law enforcement, people in recovery speaking out about their life, and special guest speakers Alexis Johnson and Marty Norman. The event is an enjoyable, yet educational day for the entire family! We have basket raffles, entertainment by DJ Baghdaddy. Children are welcome, we believe in EARLY EDUCATION! We also have activities for the children including,

Disney character appearances, Star Wars character appearances, face painting, and much more! Please join us in honoring those in recovery, assisting those into recovery that are in need, and remembering those we lost to this epidemic.

South East Events 2018

SEPTEMBER 4 | 1:30 – 3:30 PM | OVERDOES PREVENTION TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: Government Services Center, Room 149 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, Pa 19380

DESCRIPTION: The Chester County Overdose Prevention Task Force (ODPTF) was formed in March 2015 to coordinate overdose death prevention efforts between various organizations. The Task Force is led by: Chester County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services, Chester County District Attorney’s Office, Chester County Health Department, Chester County Human Services, and Good Fellowship Ambulance and EMS Training Institute. The mission of the ODPTF is to prevent overdose deaths in Chester County through a multidisciplinary, coordinated effort between government departments, community organizations, and treatment.

SEPTEMBER 6 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM | ANONYMOUS PEOPLE SCREENING

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org | LOCATION: Exton Library, Struble Room 450 Exton Square

Pkwy, Exton, PA 19341 | DESCRIPTION: The Anonymous People is a documentary which follows over 23 million Americans who are living in long-term recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Please join us on for this screening of Anonymous People, which will be followed by a group discussion.

SEPTEMBER 7 | 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM | KRATOM LUNCH AND LEARN

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: Government Services Center, Room 175 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

DESCRIPTION: This lunch and learn is for [professionals only. As a result of the increasing use of Kratom by our clients, Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services is working with Ken Dickinson, BS, MS, RPh, HonDSc to provide an in-service on the drug. The training will offer information how Kratom works, what its effects are and how best to address its use with our clients. To register, please click this link: <http://scheduleme.link/3121/>.

SEPTEMBER 11 | 1:30 PM – 3 PM

OVERDOES PREVENTION TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: Government Services Center, Room 175 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19380

DESCRIPTION: Chester County Overdose Prevention Task Force presents “Opioids: Past, Present, and Future” The presentation will cover the opioid epidemic in Chester County and how we got here, information on the life-saving drug Naloxone, and how to access treatment services in Chester County. To register, please click this link: <http://scheduleme.link/3161/>. *County employees must register through wellness.

SEPTEMBER 11 | 6:30 PM – 8 PM | PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Yvonne Stroman, Community Programs Specialist, Council on Chemical Abuse

601 Penn Street, Suite 606 Reading Pa 19601 – (610) 376-8669 ext. 123 or by email at Ystroman@cocaberks.org

LOCATION: Common Ground Recovery Community 5 Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing PA 19610

Event DESCRIPTION: As part of the celebration for National Recovery Month, representatives from Celebrate Recovery, SMART Recovery, and Refuge Recovery will provide information about their respective pathway to recovery. Join us for a panel discussion about the different pathways to recovery. Learn more about Celebrate Recovery, Refuge Recovery, SMART Recovery, LifeRing Secular Recovery and Medication Assisted Treatment. Representatives will respond to questions from attendees as well as provide literature for additional information. This event is Free. Light Refreshments will be offered following the panel discussion

SEPTEMBER 14 | 5 – 10 PM | AWESOME FEST

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org | LOCATION: East Goshen Park 1580 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380 | DESCRIPTION: Awesome Fest: Created by Teens, for Teens. This FREE Event will include: Body Art, Open Mic, Yoga, Bhangra Dance, Kick Ball & Dodge, Ball Fitness Workshops, Rhythm of Life Drumming, Teen Film Review, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Star Wars, The Last Jedi Screening AND MUCH MORE!

SEPTEMBER 15 | 7 – 11 PM | RECOVERY CONCERT

CONTACT INFORMATION: Denise Leckerman at 215-377-1034 or Jim Pietrowski at 267-549-7989

LOCATION: University of the Arts (Gershman Bldg.) 401 S. Broad St, Philadelphia PA 19147

DESCRIPTION: Clean & Sober Radio along with the Lehigh Leckerman Scholarship Fund present the 2018 | Recovery Concert, featuring David Uosikkinen and “In the Pocket”. Tickets are \$60, order your tickets at <https://cleanandsoberbroadcasting.com/tickets/>.

SEPTEMBER 16 | 1:35 PM | PRO-ACT NATIONAL RECOVERY DAY AT THE BASEBALL GAME

CONTACT INFORMATION: Nancy Adam at 215-345-6644 ext. 2160 or by email at NAdam@councilsepa.org

LOCATION: Citizens Bank Park North Pattison Ave. Philadelphia PA 19148 | DESCRIPTION: Enjoy a fun filled day of Phillies Baseball! Come see the Phillies take on the Miami Marlins and home during Recovery Day at the Baseball Game! For the 13th consecutive year, PRO-ACT will attend the annual event developed to gain visibility for recovery in celebration of SAMHSA's National Recovery Month. Tickets are \$20 each and include a donation towards recovery support services. Tickets are available online at www.councilsepa.org.

SEPTEMBER 17 | 12 – 1:30 PM | PA YOUTH SURVEY (PAYS) LUNCH AND LEARN

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: Government Services Center, Room 175 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, Pa 19380

DESCRIPTION: PA Youth Survey (PAYS) Lunch and Learn *BYO Lunch PAYS is a biannual survey of our youth on their behavior, attitudes and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence. To register, please click this link: <http://scheduleme.link/3141/>.

SEPTEMBER 20 | 9 AM – 12 PM | FIRST RESPONDER VICARIOUS TRAUMA TRAINING

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: Public Safety Training Center 137 Modena Rd, Coatesville, PA 19320

DESCRIPTION: First Responders Vicarious Trauma Training - This is for First Responders Only. Exposure to trauma through the course of your work can have personal and professional implications, especially for professionals who work with clients at risk for overdose. Trainers from the Center for Excellence in Advocacy will facilitate a discussion about responses to trauma exposure, such as vicarious trauma, burnout and compassion fatigue. Participants will gain self-care strategies and identify organizational practices that support staff as they respond to people in crisis. To register, please click this link: <http://destraining.chesco.org/>.

SEPTEMBER 21 | 1 – 4 PM | MEDICATION SAFETY PRESENTATION

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: Government Services Center, Room 171 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, Pa 19380

DESCRIPTION: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Training. This training will include: a brief overview of the overdose deaths here in Chester County as well as what the TASK force is currently working, an overview of how medication assisted treatment (MAT) works and examples of the types of MAT and how to access such treatment services in Chester County. To register, please click this link: <http://scheduleme.link/3111/>.

Continued on page 18

**SEPTEMBER 22 | REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 7 AM, PRE-SHOW AT 8:15 AM
WALK BEGINS AT 9 AM | PRO-ACT RECOVERY WALKS 2018**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Nancy Adam at 215-345-6644 ext. 2160 or by email at NAdam@councilepa.org.

LOCATION: Great Plaza, Penn's Landing, Philadelphia

DESCRIPTION: This is a free event. If you wish to donate or register to walk please go to our web site at <http://www.recoverywalks.org/>.

Celebrate recovery and work to end the stigma surrounding drug and alcohol addiction. People have been walking in Recovery Walks! to support recovery from drug and alcohol addiction disorders during September's National Recovery Month for 17 years. We pay taxes, we vote, and we each contribute to our community's well-being. Together we can eliminate the shame and embarrassment associated with this disease and save lives! Together we can show decision makers that the individuals, families and communities want to end stigma! We can't afford to be silent anymore. Everyone knows someone in recovery. To make a donation visit http://recoverywalks.org/get_involved/jointhewalk.cfm. All donations provide recovery support services for those suffering from substance use disorders.

SEPTEMBER 22 | 10 AM – 3 PM | RECOVERY DAY LANCASTER

CONTACT INFORMATION: Amy Sechrist, asechrist@compassmark.org

LOCATION: Buchanan Park, Lancaster

DESCRIPTION: The Lancaster County Recovery Alliance will host Recovery Day Lancaster 2018 | on September 22 in Buchanan Park, Lancaster. In its 5th year, the event features a one-mile Walk for Recovery, live music by artists in recovery, family-friendly activities, and an all-you-can-eat BBQ for \$5, as well as fellowship and friendship. Live bands include Apes of the State, A Day Without Love, and Wallace. The day closes with Lancaster County's largest serenity circle.

Recovery Day Lancaster promotes a celebration of healing and helps to normalize recovery as a healthy and contributing factor towards a strong community. Recovery is ultimately more sustainable in a welcoming and supportive community, and Recovery Day helps promote this by increasing understanding and lowering stigma. Our wider community can see that recovery is happening and is worth supporting. We believe that by making our community of people in recovery more visible, we ultimately make recovery from addiction a more accessible and sustainable public resource.

SEPTEMBER 22 | 10:30 AM – 12 PM | 11TH ANNUAL BERKS COUNTY RECOVERY WALK

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kimberly Carlance at 484-755-9371 or by email kcarlance@ediinc.org

LOCATION: City Park in Reading - GPS LOCATION 1281 Hill Road Reading PA 19602.

DESCRIPTION: Hosted by Easy It Inc., Caron Treatment Centers, and CCOA - this event is FREE to attend. Walkers will receive a free t-shirt. Please join us for the 11th annual Berks County Recovery Walk. The walk will kick off with a few words from County Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt and Scott Althouse, the Executive Director of Easy Does It, Inc. at 10:30 a.m.

The walk will begin at 11 and return to City Park by noon.

Stay and enjoy the 21st year of Soberstock, an afternoon full of fun, music, and community. There will be information about services available in the community, food vendors, craft vendors, bounce houses, kid's activity tent, and great musicians.

SEPTEMBER 22 | 12 – 4 PM | 21ST ANNUAL SOBERSTOCK

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kimberly Carlance at 484-755-9371 or by email kcarlance@ediinc.org

LOCATION: City Park in Reading - GPS LOCATION 1281 Hill Road Reading PA 19602.

DESCRIPTION: The 21st Annual Soberstock will be at the Volunteer Firemen's Memorial Bandshell, at the City Park The festival begins at noon right after the 11th annual Berks County Recovery Walk. Join us for music, celebration, food vendors, craft vendors, and most importantly get some information on all the help and support available in the community. Let's celebrate together! Recovery Rocks! Bands include: 2015 Rock and Roll Hall and Fame Ricky Byrd, with special guest Liberty DeVitto and Muddy Shews, Rod DeGeorge, and Nova... and More!

SEPTEMBER 29 | 9 AM – 3 PM

1ST ANNUAL BEACON OF HOPE BUCKS COUNTY RECOVERY WALK

CONTACT INFORMATION: For questions or to volunteer please email Steve: steve.buckreis@buckswebsolution.com

LOCATION: Bucks County Technical School 610 Wistar Rd. Fairless Hills, PA 19030

DESCRIPTION: Join Beacon of Hope Bucks County for the 1st Annual Celebration of Recovery Walk. We have amazing guest speakers lined up, prizes, Chinese auction, a DJ, kid's activities, recovery resource info, food vendors, and more....

The walk is a free event, T-shirts are available for pre-purchase \$10, they will be \$15 the day of the walk.

**Suggested donation from those wishing to participate in the walk: items that individuals could use on their journey, items including- SEPTA transportation passes, gift cards, toiletries males/females, new t-shirts, new socks and new underwear.

South Central Events 2018

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 16 | 10 AM

YORK COUNTY'S RECOVERY CELEBRATION & OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

CONTACT INFORMATION: Matthew Null by email at mnull@gaudenzia.org, Pre-Registration is Required

LOCATION: York Revolution – 5 Brooks Robinson Way, York, PA

DESCRIPTION: Please join us for a day of fun, resources, and baseball game.

Resources will be available outside the stadium prior to the event, open pitch is at 1 PM, tickets \$12 and include a meal.

SEPTEMBER 22 | DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM, SHOW STARTS AT 6 PM

RASE PROJECT ANNUAL COMEDY SHOW

CONTACT INFORMATION: Angelica Fiore-Torres - angelica@raseproject.org or the Corporate Office at 717-232-8535

LOCATION: Best Western Premiere, 800 E Park Drive Harrisburg, PA 17111

DESCRIPTION: RASE Project annual kick-off event for National Recovery Month. The 2018 event will host a dinner and comedian Alonzo Bodden. Tickets, \$37.00 for single ticket, \$70.00 for couples, \$350.00 for table of ten.

SEPTEMBER 29 BEGINNING AT 10 AM | DAUPHIN COUNTY 4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY DAY

Contact: Helen Spence at 717-574-8810 or hspence@dauphinc.org

LOCATION: Harrisburg Mall Front Entrance Paxton Street side, 3501 Paxton Street, Harrisburg Pa 17111

DESCRIPTION: This event is FREE to attend. The 4th Annual Recovery Day will kick off at with our walk registration at 10 AM with a one Mile Walk for Recovery, walk begins at 10:30, around the Mall. After the walk, activities will move inside for a one-stop-shop of resource vendors. This family friendly event is for all ages, young and old, to aide in recovery from any of life's challenges. In addition to the variety of vendor resources, there will be FREE prizes and snacks, activities for the kids, live entertainment and guest speakers sharing their life's challenges "Join the Voices for Recovery; Strengthen Families and Communities"!!!

South West Events 2018

SEPTEMBER 8 | 7 PM | RECOVERY LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT!

Contact: Kelly Dodge, Admin Coordinator - kelly@mcofpa.org, Eventbrite sign up will be made available

LOCATIONS: Message Carriers Office - 5907 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

DESCRIPTION: This night bike ride through East Liberty supports recovery! This is the 4th Annual Bike Ride for National recovery Month - Let's show what recovery looks like with family, friends, those in recovery, and supporters to prove that communities can heal, and lives can be saved! We will have routes for the novice and the skilled, so let's get ready to ride!

SEPTEMBER 15 | 8 AM – 1 PM | 3RD ANNUAL PITTSBURGH RECOVERY WALK

CONTACT INFORMATION: info@pghrecoverywalk.org

LOCATION: The Recovery Walk Kickoff and registration begins at 8 am at the 11th Street & Waterfront Parking Lot in the Strip District and the walk will proceed down Penn Avenue into Market Square.

DESCRIPTION: The third annual Pittsburgh Recovery Walk will be held on September 15, 2018, as part of National Recovery Month. This event celebrates the many roads to recovery from addiction and all those who have traveled them. It aims to dispel negative stigma and recognize recovery as a positive force in our community. The Pittsburgh Recovery Walk is free and open to the public. Everyone whose life has been touched by addiction or recovery is invited to join our city-wide celebration. All are welcomed. More information is available on our website, <https://pghrecoverywalk.org/>

SEPTEMBER 19 | PLEASE ARRIVE BY 5:45 PM, THE TOUR BEGINS AT 6 PM. BLAIRSVILLE AREA REALITY TOUR

CONTACT INFORMATION: Becky 724-388-1124, pre-registration is required.

View the registration form at <http://www.aidac.org/uploads/Blairsville%20Reality%20Tour%202018-19%20registration%20forms.pdf>

LOCATION: Blairsville First United Methodist Church 50 South Walnut Street, Blairsville, PA 15717 (Parking and Entrance in rear of church)

DESCRIPTION: Sponsored by: Blairsville Support Group Against Drugs and Blairsville First United Methodist Church Reality Tour is a drug awareness and prevention program that takes you into the life experiences of a teen struggling with SUD (Substance Use Disorder). This experience will create a lasting impact on all who attend. It's a great tool for parents to initiate the conversation with youth about alcohol, tobacco and other drug use! Reality Tour includes:

- Dramatic scenes that depict an arrest, imprisonment, an emergency room overdose and a funeral.
- Drug information/discussions and their addictive natures.
- Local statistics pertaining to drug and alcohol use in Indiana County.
- Peer pressure refusal skills for Youth and Parents both.
- Questions/Answers with people in recovery and law enforcement officials.
- Morphed mug-shots for youth to show physical affects from drug use.

SEPTEMBER 19 | 5:45 – 8 PM | LATROBE REALITY TOUR

CONTACT INFORMATION: Mary Ann Musick at latroberealitytour@gmail.com or 724-396-0467.

LOCATION: 901 Jefferson St. Latrobe PA 15650

DESCRIPTION: \$5 per person, this tour is drug prevention/education program geared at parents and their children who attend together so everyone hears the same message. For more information, please visit our Facebook page.

SEPTEMBER 22 | 12 – 4 PM

THE ADVOCACY GROUP FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY (TAG) ANNUAL RECOVERY WALK

CONTACT INFORMATION: Mike Krafick at 724-762-6507 | LOCATION: Riverfront Park Kittanning, PA

DESCRIPTION: The Advocacy Group for Addiction Recovery (TAG) is hosting their annual Recovery Walk at Riverfront Park in Kittanning, PA.

The event is FREE, but T-shirts will be on sale for \$10. There will be live music, food trucks, and a dunk tank.

Come show your support for recovery and show the community that We Do Recover! Extended Events

Extended Event

SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 9 | RECOVERY DISPLAY IN SENATOR DINNIMAN'S OFFICE

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kate Genthert at 610-344-6767 or kgenthert@chesco.org

LOCATION: 1 N Church St, West Chester, PA 19380

DESCRIPTION: The window display is coordinated by the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services. The display strives to education on recovery as well as community resources.

THE 5 YEAR
MILESTONE CONTINUED

From Transition to Transformation



By Laura Zales, Program Manager, EDSI

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines 'transition' as the process or time period of changing from one state or condition to another. At EDSI, a workforce development and consulting company, we have a passion for providing services to individuals in making a successful transition from a wide variety of life events. EDSI currently has offices in nine states offering a wide variety of services in the public and private sector and each office operates on a guiding principle to create enthusiasm in our clients, see through their eyes, understand their needs, and deliver more than they expect. We understand that the journey people travel on their way through their transition is fraught with obstacles and removing those obstacles is a key component of our support service strategy.

Individuals making a transition from a correctional institute or exiting a substance abuse treatment center face a number of challenges upon their reentry to the community. It is our challenge to provide support services that make a successful transition possible and available. Results of a study published in 2016 by Washington University in St. Louis cited the direct costs of incarceration at \$80 billion with an additional \$1.2 trillion dollars of indirect costs associated with the impact to families, children and their communities. Statistics from the National Institute on Drug Abuse cite the societal cost of substance abuse at over \$480 billion per year which is more than the combined annual spending to treat cancer and diabetes. The effects of recidivism and relapse in terms of their socioeconomic impact make supporting individuals during their transition a national priority.

At our Delaware County office in Chester, Pennsylvania, EDSI operates 'A Step Up' (ASU), which is a job preparedness program for individuals making a reentry from a corrections facility or substance abuse treatment center with a proven history of success. The most recent data for the program indicated that 75% of the enrolled participants obtained employment, with 41% of participants obtaining employment in their career of choice.

The ASU program is designed to hold participants responsible for managing their time and behavior in an environment that is compassionate and supportive. Developing knowledge, skills, and abilities linked to personal accountability is a key contributor to the success of the program. Participants must demonstrate their ability to adhere to a schedule and complete all assigned tasks to be enrolled in the program. Training topics include courses on how to create a resume, conduct an online job search, complete a job application, and prepare for a job interview. In addition, participants complete a skill assessment which is used to identify optimum placement matches between participants and employment opportunities.

The ASU program also provides funding for clothing, transportation, and certificate training which removes potential barriers individuals encounter during their transition process. Workshops for Time Management, Anger Management, Communication, Business Etiquette, and Budgeting Personal Finance complement the job preparedness training as well as develop basic life skills. EDSI also provides a Community and Legal Workshop to address needs such as employment, housing, child custody, domestic abuse, and addiction. Our program works and the services we offer are provided directly by EDSI or in collaboration with a number of public and private agencies in a network of care for people in transition.

Public and private agencies in Delaware County who are interested in referring participants to EDSI are invited to schedule a program overview presentation by contacting Laura Zales, the Program Manager at 610.876.4855 or via email at lzales@edsisolutions.com. Partners are asked to provide the names and contact information for referrals who are interested in attending a program orientation to Ariona Holmes, the Project Coordinator, who conducts outreach for the program. Ariona can be contacted at 610.876.4855 or via email at aholmes@edsisolutions.com. Walk-ins are welcome but will only receive literature describing the program and individuals will need to call and schedule an appointment for an orientation.



PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION BOARD

While there were multiple factors that contributed to the development of the CRS peer credential, several of the primary motivations were: the over formalization of our profession, the decrease of peers employed in the drug and alcohol workforce, and a workforce shortage as increasing numbers of professionals were “greying out” and reaching retirement age, while new prospects are more limited. The CRS credential is intended to strengthen peer services in Pennsylvania for those with lived experience with a SUD or AUD and is an entrance pathway for peers to enter the SUD field and build a career and a lifetime of helping others, that may include other credentials in their future.

- Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance and Pennsylvania Certification Board

PCB – Career Ladder

There are many pathways to certification, and no “wrong door” for professionals to enter through. The Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB) has developed the following to outline the general requirements for certification, as well as the requirements to obtain other credentials. PCB offers credentials that help a professional progress along a career ladder. While some professionals may choose to stay at a certain level, progression through the ladder comes with the proper experience, education and examination. Professionals may begin wherever their current experience and education level permit.

For more detailed requirements, please review the corresponding application on PCB’s website at www.pacertboard.org. PCB offers several certifications:

- Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS)
- Certified Family Recovery Specialist (CFRS)
- Certified Peer Specialist (CPS)
- Certified Allied Addiction Practitioner (CAAP)
- Associate Addiction Counselor (AAC)
- Certified Associate Addiction Counselor (CAAC)
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)
- Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC)
- Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS)

	CRS	CFRS	CPS	CAAP	AAC	CAAC	CADC	CAADC	CCS
Education	54 hours	60 hours	75 hours	50 hours	100 hours	300 hours	300 hours	180 hours	30 hours
Experience	None	Letters of Reference	None	2 years	1 year	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years
Supervision	None	None	None	100 hours	100 hours	300 hours	200 hours	100 hours	200 hours
Exam	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Degree	High School Diploma/ GED	High School Diploma/ GED	N/A	High School Diploma/ GED	High School Diploma/ GED	High School Diploma/ GED	Bachelors	Masters	Masters or Prerequisite certification

For more information or if you need assistance determining your next steps, please

email info@pacertboard.org or call 717.540.4455.

View this document online, In its entirety, at www.pacertboard.org/sites/default/files/Career%20grid%20August%202016.pdf

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**CHESTER COUNTY
C O L O R**



**FIGHTING OPIOID AND HEROIN
ADDICTION IN CHESTER COUNTY**

**REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM
RACE: 9:00 AM**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
EVERHART PARK
WEST CHESTER**

For more information, or to register, visit
chesco.org/color5k

JOIN THE VOICES FOR RECOVERY
invest in **health, home, purpose, and community**

National Recovery Month
Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover
september 2018



PLEASE JOIN US!
**Pennsylvania Kick-Off of
National Recovery Month**

September 5, 2018, beginning at 11 am
@PaRecovers #PaRecovers

At the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex 501 North 3rd Street Harrisburg, PA 17120, Main Rotunda Please join DDAP in kicking off National Recovery Month, emceed by DDAP Secretary Jen Smith. The event will feature speakers, give-a-ways, and exhibitor tables. For more information, contact Rachel Kostelac at rkostelac@pa.gov

Help us recognize and celebrate with Pennsylvanians living in recovery from alcohol or substance use disorders addictions.

**Prevention Works.
Treatment is Effective.
People Recover.**



BECAUSE YOU MATTER.



We are now providing services
in Central Florida
in Kissimmee
and Osceola County.

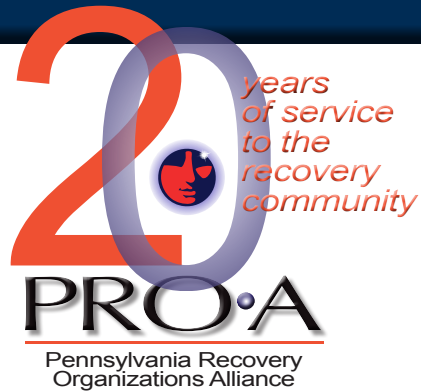
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OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.RASEPROJECT.ORG**



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Join us for our anniversary celebration! details on page 3



pa.performcare.org

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and Perry
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NorthCentral region

Bedford and Somerset
1-866-773-7891
Franklin and Fulton
1-866-773-7917

Deaf or hard of hearing:
1-800-654-5984 TTY
or 711 PA relay

pa.performcare.org

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