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Pennsylvania Recovery
Organizations Alliance

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Harrisburg, PA 17109-1014

PA House - Human Services Committee March 26th, 2019

Invest in our Future – Invest in our Youth

Envision what it would be like if we could get more of our young people into recovery early in life. It would change the way that we spend state resources. Imagine fewer kids getting arrested, dropping out of school and in all too many instances, dying at far too young an age. Consider our communities with greater recovery resources and fewer needs to focus on cleaning up the carnage.

Pennsylvania would do well to invest in helping our young people to get into treatment. We also must enforce PA Act 106 of 1989 requirements already on the books that provide intervention and family counseling to get our young people help more quickly and educate families in order that they are empowered to support the healing process for all members of the family.

We think that there needs to be a focus moving forward in order to:

1. Ensure substance use assessment and referral services are being properly funded and utilized regionally in our schools and pediatric medical practices.
2. Ensure that all funders:
 - a. Publish plain language information sheets mailed to all members annually on substance use services provided in member plans. These sheets are to:
 - i. Specify services including intervention, family counseling, treatment, recovery support services.
 - ii. Delineate all applicable federal / state laws governing care, how they are enforced and oversight bodies in the event of a problem accessing care.
 - iii. Provide information for families seeking help with a substance use condition, including intervention, treatment and recovery support services available.
 - b. Provide the full continuum of adolescent treatment and recovery support services regionally in every area of the state on a cost reimbursed basis.
 - c. Require a minimum one-year care continuum for covered lives under the age of 20 who meet the criteria of substance use dependency at the proper intensity and structure identified by clinical need and include recovery support services. This will provide the best opportunity to develop stable recovery for our young people.
3. Consider establishing dedicated funding for recovery high schools, alternative peer groups and collegiate recovery programs to extend recovery opportunities to provide long term recovery strategies for our most valuable asset, our young people.

Thank you,

William Stauffer, LSW, CCS, CADC

Executive Director

The Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations – Alliance