

QUARTERLY report



Volume 25, No. 3 | 2023

Why Recovery Month MATTERS

By Anonymous

All across our great nation, Recovery Month has been observed every September since 1989. It was created to educate individuals in the United States about the benefits of substance use and mental health treatment services. Recovery Month aims to increase public awareness surrounding Addiction and Mental Health Recovery. It ‘promotes and supports new evidence-based treatments and recovery practices... and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible.’ ([National Recovery Month 2023 | SAMHSA](#)).

Growing up in a family whose generational trauma and shame only exacerbated the environmental risks that plagued myself and my loved ones, I was unaware that there was such a thing as recovery. Many of my family members who suffered with a substance use disorder did not live past 57; the younger generation past 27. What I knew about addiction is that it steals relationships, jobs, freedom, and ultimately, life itself. And the most fundamental aspect was the disease was covert, remaining clandestine, like a patch of surreptitious toadstools growing in the dark corners of our lives. It was not spoken of, but rather, obscured perfectly in the caverns of our familial roots. It flourished in the darkness, and without exposure, there was very little hope of a remedy to the illness.

Years later, I learned that these were some of the symptoms of this disease, and hiding this insidious disease could also be fatal. Silence, the sheer act of concealing the truth, can decimate life. Recovery Month is one of the catalysts to that silence!

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WORKING
TOGETHER
TO MAKE
"RECOVERY
VOICES COUNT"
IN PENNSYLVANIA



QUARTERLY report

Volume 25, No. 3 | 2023

900 South Arlington Avenue, Suite 254A
Harrisburg, PA 17109 . 1014
1.800.858.6040 Toll Free • 717.545.8929
717.545.9163 Fax
proa.asst@pro-a.org • www.pro-a.org

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

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

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PRO.A is now on FACEBOOK – “like” us at www.facebook.com/PaRecoveryOrganizationAlliance



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Why Recovery Month MATTERS

When recovery enters our lives, everything changes. Control becomes surrender. Isolation turns to connection. Shame turns to awareness and healing. And self-loathing becomes an opportunity to find acceptance and genuine humility that was hidden for so long. What I once believed was impossible, was now a possibility. Over twenty-million people identify as being in recovery or recovering. Each of our journey's is different, and yet the commonalities that bind us are the same. And we need to share that hope with others. What better time than Recovery Month. Recovery Month is not just about celebrating the milestones of individuals, but for families and communities as well. It's about seeing individuals rather than the disease, and overcoming the stigma of addiction. It's about sharing our stories of hope and inspiration, so that each year, more and more individuals will hear the hope of recovery, and know **We Do Recover!**

C.S. Lewis once said, *“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.”* What extraordinary things will you do in your life? Recovery allows them to be possible. Recovery Month gives us an opportunity to participate in events, advocacy, and shout it from the rooftops, **“We do recover!”** The world needs to hear our voice! Our communities need to hear that there is hope. Millions of persons, families, and communities have been transformed through recovery. Recovery is not only possible, but probable, for **“Every Person. Every Family. Every Community.”**

Pro-A invites you to its final Family Webinar of 2023, Wednesday, September 27, 10:00-11:30 AM

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE USING THE QR CODE



stories of Hope

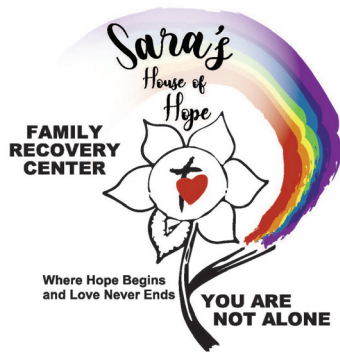


Join us as family members share their recovery journey. You will hear of loss, pain, love, healing and self-care. In all of these stories is a common thread: HOPE, which mends and restores us all.



I am a mother that has battled alongside her daughter's substance use and lost.

When we found out our sweet girl was using heroin, we were devastated and had absolutely no idea as to what to do. I can tell you it is something you should not attempt on your own. I was not educated in the field of substance use when it came to heroin. No parent should have to do this alone or feel so ashamed that they just isolate. We did the best we could. I knew of one facility, and they did extensive outpatient which did not work. I did not understand why she just couldn't stop. I believed her when she said she would stop. Boy, were we naïve. After a while it got so bad that I finally gave her an ultimatum, and said it's the streets or a rehab that was 1 year in length. She had gone to rehab and left after 8 months. We thought it was ok and once again we were wrong. It only took 3 months for our sweet Sara to start using again.



After nine months of on and off using she decided for herself that she would return to the yearlong program and this time stay for the entire program. She said this time she was doing it for herself and not for us. She also said she knew she could not come back to this area. She was finally getting it, then she waited for a bed. A few days before heading out, she got a Xanax that was pure fentanyl and it killed her instantly. This happened in October of 2015.

We were not going to let her death be in vain. We started a nonprofit called Sara's House of Hope. We aim to help, heal, and strengthen families in our communities by offering education, compassionate support, and by creating a nurturing atmosphere for those dealing with a loved one's substance use or experiencing a substance-related loss. To build an environment where hope begins and love never ends and to offer a place where you can experience love that offers you peace, healing, and freedom on the journey to wholeness.

We realized that when a person has substance use disorder, it not only affects that person but the entire family and friends around them. We want to take care of them also. I dug in and got my CFRS (thru PRO•A) and took many classes. I wanted to know it all.

In April of this year, we reached our goal! We have opened "Sara's House of Hope Family Recovery Center." We are offering multiple grief groups for those who lost a loved one from SUD (licensed counselors are used). For men, (coming soon), women, siblings, for those in recovery (who have loss of any kind) and grandparents raising grandchildren.

We will be starting Smart recovery for Family and Friend in September, as well as a support group for those who just need an ear. We want to help them to know how and what to do with their loved ones. How to set boundaries and to help the facilitate getting help.

There are so many more programs in the works, and we are looking forward to where we are going.

We want to become a community and family to these people who walk through our doors so broken. To have them understand that they are not alone in the battle. Let's come together and break the stigma of all things substance use related. It takes a village to overcome this. Our loved ones have or had a disease and the more we talk about it the less stigma there is attached. Do NOT be ashamed! Walk through those doors and let us show you there is freedom in a community. We understand.

Contact: Terry and Lori Mishler, 717-512-6492, wecare@sarashouseofhope.org

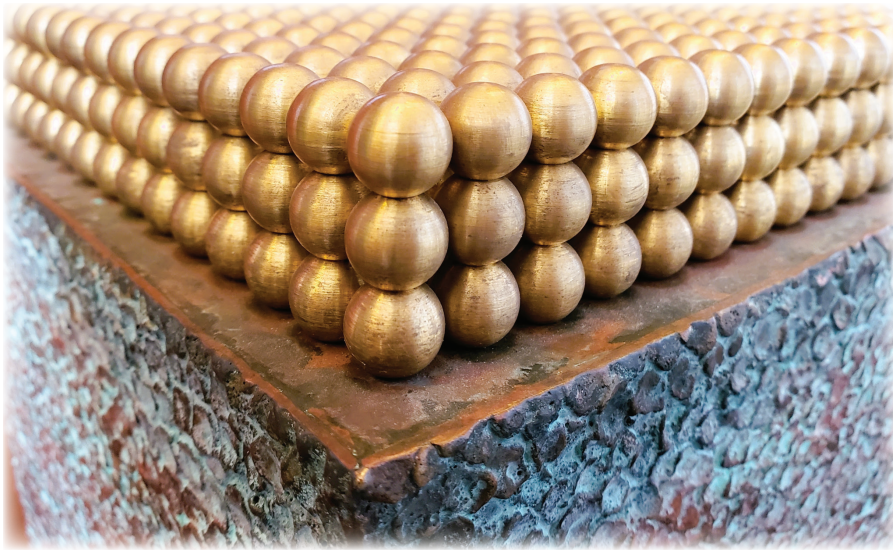
A Place where Hope begins and Love Never ends!



The Algorithm of Medical Care Discrimination



By William B. Stauffer, PRO.A Executive Director



Persons like me in long term recovery can face horrible treatment if it becomes known we have had a substance use disorder. This is particularly true when we may need controlled substances as part of our legitimate medical care. There are now algorithms being used to scan our personal and medical data to see if we may be drug seekers. If you get identified as a drug addict, you are likely to get treated poorly, kicked out, and not helped. If we want to get more Americans into sustained recovery, we need to start treating people more fairly in our medical care systems. This must include fixing how we identify and provide care to persons with suspected addiction in our hospitals and doctors' offices.

A number of years back, I had a dental emergency. I have had a few of those in my life, unfortunately. I had a procedure and the antibiotics the dentist gave me were not strong enough. The infection came roaring back with

a vengeance. The side of my face looked like I had a golf ball in my cheek. It is the most pain I have ever experienced. A 10 on the pain scale. This occurred while I was visiting family in Western Pennsylvania. It got really bad in the middle of the night. I went into a rural hospital and asked for help. The staff took turns coming into the room to look at me. I was a sight, and I am sure everyone wanted to see the patient who looked like a squirrel with an acorn in his mouth.

They wrote out scripts for a more powerful antibiotic and gave me a strong opioid to provide some relief. I recall them mentioning it was addictive and if I knew that there were risks. I told them I was a clinician who worked in addictions, and I did know that the meds I needed that night were addictive. I did not tell them I was in recovery. I was afraid that they would leave me in excruciating pain. I have experienced horrible treatment at the hands of medical staff who became aware I had a history of substance use issues. It does not even matter that I am in recovery. I have had hundreds of patients I have worked with who recounted similar tales of unprofessional care at the hands of doctors and nurses. I could not tell them I was in recovery; I did not want the same to happen to me on this night with that agonizing pain.

I got the meds and went to stay with my family. I took the meds and switched over to an NSAID as soon as the antibiotics began to work. I let my family know I was taking an opioid. That is my standard protocol for the handful of times in 36 years of recovery I have needed to take medicine with an addictive potential. It was what I needed. I got through it fine with zero impact on my recovery. Society has a stigmatized view of people like me, that any use of a medication results in a relapse. It is simply not reality. It just means we need to be a little more cautious and practice good self-care. We are just as capable of doing so as a diabetic is capable of navigating a day with dietary risks.

I have been thinking after reading this journal article from the annals of Emergency Medicine, [In a World of Stigma and Bias, Can a Computer Algorithm Really Predict Overdose Risk?](#) Bamboo Health has developed software that gathers peoples data to determine an overdose risk score called [NarxCare](#). It uses an algorithm and there are reports emerging that far too often patients with legitimate medical problems end up being scored as potential drug addicts. They are then treated like pariahs by medical professionals, not offered help but kicked to the curb and treated like criminals.

As [this article notes](#), NarxCare gathers information like criminal records, sexual abuse history, distance traveled to fill a prescriptions and even pet prescriptions to assign risk scores to each person. Minorities score higher as our criminal justice system has historically targeted Black, Indigenous, and people of color for drug crimes and arrested them at higher rates than whites. Women who have more documented sexual trauma than men get scored higher. How does addiction treatment or self-identified recovery score on the algorithm? That is proprietary.

A recent and quite comprehensive legal review, published in the California Law Review, [Dosing Discrimination: Regulating PDMP Risk Scores](#), by Jennifer D. Oliva, Esq, Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development, Professor of Law, and Director, Center for Health & Pharmaceutical Law, Seton Hall University School of Law notes that:

“NarxCare risk scoring likely exacerbates existing disparities in chronic pain treatment for Black patients, women, individuals who are socioeconomically marginalized, rural individuals, and patients with complex, co-morbid disabilities and OUD.”

Professor Oliva has found that the software flags people who are rural and travel far for medical care or pay cash and use multiple payment methods. Such payment methods are often used by people who are uninsured or underinsured. They scramble to try and find ways to pay for their medication.

If your sexual trauma history gets in your medical record, you may end up not being able to obtain the same medical care as others as you could get flagged as a potential drug addict at risk for overdose. As I noted, the software is proprietary. Not open for validation and not regulated. Oliva notes in her detailed legal review of the software that:

“there are no other examples of automated predictive risk scoring models created primarily for law enforcement surveillance that are used in clinical practice. This is likely because such cross-over use of risk assessment tools is ill advised. That stated, to the extent that clinicians do use PDMP risk scores to inform or determine patient treatment, PDMP software platforms ought to be subject to the same regulatory oversight as other health care predictive analytic tools used for similar purposes. The significant questions raised about PDMP risk score accuracy and such risk scores’ potential to disparately impact the health and well-being of marginalized patients demand immediate regulatory attention.”

This [article at Wired.com](#) writes about a woman who was kicked out of receiving services from her primary care provider. Her dogs were prescribed opioids and benzodiazepines. That gave her a high score for potential addiction. She became a person to be gotten rid of, not helped. She became a medical care pariah. She got the drug addict treatment, she was shown the door and terminated from care. This proprietary software influences medical care for millions of Americans. I found that [Rite Aid uses it in Pennsylvania and 11 other states](#) as does [Walmart](#) and [CVS](#).

As noted above, it appears that instead of being used to help get persons who are at risk for addiction help, the software is often used to remove persons from care. I ran across countless stories where that was the outcome. This may stem from fear that doctors and pharmacist have of [DEA sanctions](#). As persons on such medications face withdrawal as they are sent to the streets, it may actually result in increasing the overdose risks of patients it identifies as being at high risk.

When it is in error, there is little recourse for the patient. It is highly unlikely it will be corrected. Once you get flagged by this [unvalidated](#) proprietary software as a drug addict, good luck clearing it from your electronic health record. Persons in recovery have every reason to fear how the flow of such information will influence their treatment. We have a system of care designed to find and fail us. You have [the right to request](#) that something be removed from your electronic health record. Your medical provider is required to respond, but they can just say no. [This study, done in 2014](#), found that if you requested a change to your medical record in regard to drug seeking behavior, your request had less than a 10% chance of being approved. Marked for life. The letter A for drug addict written into your EHR for eternity.

As addiction is a medical disorder, we should be providing medical care to a person with a substance use disorder as we would say a diabetic. Without judgement and with the same care and concern as any other patient. We do not do so in America. Being treated like a drug addict in America means being treated like an outcast. A member of an unclean caste. This says a lot about how far we have to go in respect to proper care for addiction in America.

What other medical condition would the use of unvalidated, proprietary software be used to guide medical care? Hundreds of thousands of persons like me across America are forced to think about medical care bias against us every time we seek help. We must change how we treat people with substance misuse issues and those of us in recovery. We need to be cared for respectfully and with compassion, just like what we expect for any other medical condition.

Last year, I wrote this piece, [“Take the Drug Addicts Out to the Hospital Parking Lot and Shoot Them.”](#) I suggested then we need stronger privacy laws and that we must hold medical professionals accountable for discrimination in the treatment of persons having or suspected as having a substance use disorder. We need to have zero-tolerance policies on discriminatory treatment of persons with a substance use disorder written into every hospital policy. They should include strong administrative sanctions for all staff who discriminate against us and everyone who witnesses it and fails to report it. Put such policies in place in every medical institution in the country.

How can we get more people into recovery in a system of care that acts so punitively towards us? If we want to increase the number of Americans in recovery, we must improve the care provided to persons with substance use disorders. We need to ask hard questions about how such algorithms impact a person who has or is suspected of having a substance use disorder. We must receive the same standard of care as everyone else. We must stop medical care bias against us.

We will know when we have a healthcare system that works for persons like me with substance use disorders when people like me do not have to be afraid of being identified as having a history of substance use disorders in our medical care systems. When we experience no shame, no negative judgment, and no disparate care we will have arrived at where we need to be. A day when we no longer live in fear of these algorithms of discrimination.

We have a long way to go to meet that standard, but we must work towards it if we are to actually help the millions of Americans who need help with a substance use disorder.

6th Annual
Leadership in Recovery Event
Wednesday, November 15th
2023



PRO•A

Pennsylvania Recovery
Organizations Alliance

Keynote Speakers – Danielle Tarino, H. Westley Clark M.D., JD, along with additional speakers

This Leadership in Recovery Event is part of our mission to reflect on the past, while maintaining our focus on the future, and moving forward with continued work in the recovery movement.

PRO•A has served Pennsylvania's recovery community for over 25 years. Moving forward in our mission, we are bringing together members of our communities, many of whom have served in a leadership role, as well as friends and colleagues from Pennsylvania's current service system and recovery community to continue recognizing the fundamental role that individuals play in the recovery movement.

We will have a half day event (*conference only*) to discuss current matters impacting our community and opportunities to strengthen our efforts followed by our evening event. The evening celebration will include dinner, networking, speakers, and our annual awards presentation.

Together, we can and do make a difference. Please support us in our recovery mission.

Striving for lives and recovery communities living together with meaning, hope and purpose. This leadership event is focused on the theme of flourishing and advocating for every opportunity available to support all members of our community to flourish. We need to build a substance use care system that serves the needs of all our diverse communities to support long term recovery.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY! SEATING IS LIMITED

\$75. full day | \$50. in-person dinner | \$25. conference only

For further information, to purchase advertising or tickets please contact:

Patti Baranowski, patti.b@pro-a.org or call 717 545 8929.

If paying by check, please make checks payable to PRO•A and mail to PRO•A Attention: Patti Baranowski
900 Arlington Avenue, Suite 254A, Harrisburg, PA 17109

You can also go online to purchase tickets electronically:

<https://pennsylvania-recovery-organizations---alliance.ticketleap.com/>

SAVE THE DATE!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Country Club of Harrisburg, Fishing Creek Valley Road, Harrisburg, PA

1-4:30 PM

Training and discussion on current matters impacting our community and opportunities to strengthen our efforts

5 PM

Dinner/Registration Opens
Social Networking, Photo Ops

5:45 PM

Dinner Seating

6-8:30 PM

Awards Dinner



In 1998, a diverse group of recovery community advocates from across Pennsylvania gathered together to consider a shared vision of a statewide recovery community organization. They envisioned something similar to the funding established by the government for the mental health community set in the prior decade. Because of their vision, PRO•A was born. It was the start of something big. They articulated a mission in that room 25 years ago and that was: “to mobilize, educate, and advocate to eliminate the stigma that was discriminatory toward those impacted by alcohol and other substance use disorders, and to ensure hope, health and justice for individuals, families and communities in the Commonwealth.”

History has proven that we are only effective when we work together towards a common goal. We have seen the power of a strong recovery network in strengthening recovery capital across our communities. We know that recovery is not only possible, but probable! PRO•A is honored to have served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in advocating, educating, and mobilizing our local communities for the past twenty-five years!

We are at our silver anniversary, and it is a time to celebrate how far we have come as well as acknowledge and prepare for the next chapter of our journey. We hope you will join us on November 15th and support this vital mission now and into the future!

Looking forward to celebrating with you!

For Sponsorship Opportunities, please contact

Patti at patti.b@pro-a.org or sponsor online... go to

<https://pro-a.org/> and click on 2023 Leadership Dinner.

Sponsorship Ends: 10/1/2023

Please contact us for advertising opportunities.

PRO•A IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR 6th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP DINNER AWARDEES

PRO•A SERVICE TO RECOVERY COMMUNITY AWARDS

PRO•A saw the value of recognizing individuals and institutions that serve the recovery community with distinction and work to keep recovery a central focus of our substance use service system. Far too often our cause gets marginalized, our people get pushed to the side and left out, even as we know that the central unifying force for recovery has been the development of recovery community and connection with lived experience voices.

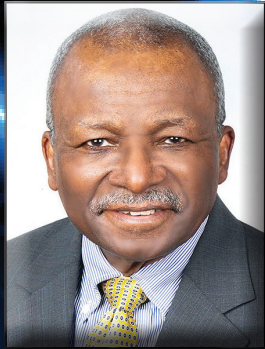
All Awardees are selected through a public nomination process or the PRO•A Board after review of our service leaders and consideration of their efforts to our community and of the things that they have done over the course of their professional or volunteer lives.



RICK ESTERLY

THE PRO•A 2023 LIFETIME SERVICE TO THE RECOVERY COMMUNITY AWARD

This award is our highest honor, reserved for persons who have devoted their lives to serving persons with addiction, providing a positive contribution that will last for generations. We are indebted to such individuals, without which many of us would be suffering or dead, instead of living productive lives in recovery. It is our honor to be able to select one person annually who has served with such distinction over the course of decades.



H. WESTLEY CLARK, M.D., JD

THE PRO•A 2023 AMBASSADORS OF RECOVERY AWARDEE

The Ambassador of Recovery Award is an award given to a person or persons who has provided exemplary service to the recovery community and moved the objectives of our community forward, saving lives, sustaining families and healing communities.



SAGE'S ARMY

THE 2023 INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION CHAMPION OF SERVICE AWARD

This award is for a Pennsylvania organization who has provided exceptional work to support recovery efforts in a community within Pennsylvania connecting an individual and their family with treatment and resources within our substance use service system.



MARISSA O'NEAL

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION OF SERVICE AWARD

This award is for an individual working in Pennsylvania who helps save lives by engaging with these persons and connecting them to addiction treatment and recovery support services.



Veterans Resources

To all of our military service members and veterans,
we thank you for your service and sacrifices.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

JOIN PRO•A AT www.pro-a.org... IT'S FREE!

PRO•A

PRO•A calendar

2023 REGIONAL STATEWIDE RECOVERY MONTH EVENTS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS, PLEASE CHECK OUR ON-LINE CALENDAR AT [HTTPS://PRO-A.ORG/CALENDAR](https://pro-a.org/calendar)



National Events 2023

SEPTEMBER 30 | INTERNATIONAL RECOVERY DAY

Until now, recovery communities have been limited to uniting and celebrating recovery by holding local rallies, walks, and other events. Through the use of the Internet, we can now bridge the geographical and time zone barriers, allowing us to join all folks in recovery from all addictions, including all recovery pathways – all around the globe – all on the same day. We invite you to join our International Recovery Day community worldwide by registering on this site today. We will then send you a token by email that will allow you to launch your own virtual fireworks on September 30th, 2023. Later on, we will send you a reminder to go online September 30th and watch for yourself as you launch your firework into the sky – to be joined by countless others in recovery launching their own fireworks from all around the globe. Free, online event to be launched on September 30th. Join International Recovery Day, Inc. and register for this one of a kind historic event! **Registration:** <https://internationalrecoveryday.org/registration/>

For more information: Want to send us photos of Recovery Lights from your city/location or share your Recovery Story? We would love to hear from you. Send us an email to: info@internationalrecoveryday.org

Web Site: <https://internationalrecoveryday.org/>

North Central Events 2023

AUGUST 30 | 6:30PM | CENTRE COUNTY CANDLELIGHT REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Location: Centre County Courthouse Lawn, 420 Holmes Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823

Contact: Jessica Shearer Phone: 814-355-6921 Email: hope@centrecountypa.gov

Web: https://www.facebook.com/events/1452198225533253?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7D

AUGUST 31 | 5PM | OVERDOSE AWARENESS COUDERSPORT, PA

Location: Gazebo on Main Street in the Court House square

Contact: Wendy Holbrook Phone: 814-366-1043 Email: overdoseawarenesspoco@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 9 | 10:30AM CMSU'S 6TH ANNUAL WALK FOR RECOVERY

Location: Bloomsburg Town Park, pavilion closest to the pool and pond

SEPTEMBER 11 | 11:30AM | REGISTRATION FOR THE WALK IS AT 11:00AM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY BHIDS RECOVERY FEST

Location: Shikellamy State Park Marina, 401 Bridge Avenue, pavilion 2, Sunbury, PA

SEPTEMBER 16 | START TIMES: 10K: 9:00AM, 5K: 9:15AM | RUNNING OVER ADDICTION

Location: South Williamsport Park Complex, 545 E Central Ave, South Williamsport, PA

Virtual 5k/10k: Can be completed anytime in September wherever you are. Shirts will be mailed to all virtual participants by 9/20/23.

Contact: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/SouthWilliamsport/RunningOverAddictionHalfMarathon5k>

SEPTEMBER 16 | 1 - 5PM | THE OASIS AMAZING RECOVERY CARNIVAL

Location: Claude Kehler Park, 578 West Arch St, Shamokin, PA 17872

North West Events 2023

AUGUST 31 | 6PM | LAWRENCE COUNTY INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Location: Riverwalk Park, 525 N Croton Ave, New Castle, PA 16101

Contact: Brittany Fair Phone: 724-714-1167

AUGUST 31 | 7PM | BUTLER COUNTY REMEMBERS

Location: Grace Community Wellness Center 123 East Diamond St. Butler, PA

Contact: Lisa Gill, Phone: 724-284-5114 Email: L.Gill@co.butler.pa.us

SEPTEMBER 8 | 1 - 3PM | 4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY RESPECTS FIRST RESPONDERS

Armstrong Indiana – Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission

Location: Veteran's Memorial Park, across from the Courthouse, Clarion, PA

Contact: Shasta at SWilkinson@aicdac.org

SEPTEMBER 14 | 3 - 5PM | SAVE A LIFE DAY

Armstrong, Indiana and Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission (Naloxone and Fentanyl Test Strips will be available)

Locations: Veterans Memorial Park, 421 Main Street, Clarion, PA and Indiana Memorial Park, 630 Washington Street, Indiana, PA

Contact: Shasta at SWilkinson@aicdac.org

SEPTEMBER 15 | 11AM - 1PM | ERIE COUNTY RECOVERY CELEBRATION

Location: St. Paul's Social Hall, 453 W 16th St, Erie, PA 16502

Contact: Amanda Milliren, White Deer Run Treatment Network Phone: 814-731-8335

SEPTEMBER 15 | 2 - 6PM | VENANGO COUNTY RECOVERY EVENT

Location: Bandstand Park, 1160 Liberty St., Franklin PA 16323

SEPTEMBER 16 | 9 - 11AM | GAUDENZIA RACE FOR RECOVERY 2023

Location: Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA 16507

Contact: Call: 833-976-4357 for more information

Registration: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=62224&eventId=715195>. Registration ends September 15, 2023, at 12:00pm

SEPTEMBER 21 | 5 - 8PM, EVENT BEGINS AT 6PM | MERCER COUNTY RECOVERY CELEBRATION

Location: Buhl Casino, 715 Hazen Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148

Contact: Courtney Beachy at 724-662-4150 Ext. 113

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recovery-celebration-2023-tickets-658406239787>

North West Events 2023

SEPTEMBER 28 | 2 - 5PM | RECOVERY IS COMMUNITY NWPA

Location: Oil City, 106 Walnut Street Oil City, PA 16301 / Franklin, 701 Grant Street, Franklin, PA 16323

For more information: https://www.recoverydayofservice.org/recovery_is_community_event_nwpa

SEPTEMBER 30 | 2 - 5PM | BACKWARDS BIRTHDAY BASH: THE GIFTS ARE GIVING TO YOU!

Location: The Christian Food Bank, 817 South Michael Rd., St. Mary's, PA 15857

Contact: DeAnna at demann2002@gmail.com

For more information: https://www.recoverydayofservice.org/recovery_is_community_event_nwpa

North East Events 2023

AUGUST 30 | 5:30PM | CARBON COUNTY OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Location: Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church, 915 N. 5th St. Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Contact: raysofhopeforaddiction@gmail.com

AUGUST 30 | 6 - 8PM | LEHIGH VALLEY FED UP RALLY

Location: Arts Quest, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Contact: 610-657-2978 or voicesforchange@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 2 | 12 - 6PM | NORTHBOUND CO JUST THE TIP TATTOO EVENT

Location: Northbound CO Community Center, 6258 Route 209, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Contact: 570-800-2466

SEPTEMBER 6 | 6 - 7PM | A CLEAN SLATE BANGOR RECOVERY YOGA

Location: 118 S. 1st St. Bangor, PA

Contact: Dale Harris Phone: 610-599-7700 Email: Dale@Thrivebangor.org

SEPTEMBER 9 | 10AM | 2ND ANNUAL WILSON'S WARRIORS 5K RUCK

Location: Fairview Park, Fairview Avenue, Easton, PA

Contact: If you would like us to honor your loved one, please submit a photograph and end of watch date to gina.battleborne@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 9 | 1 - 3PM | 3RD ANNUAL BUTTERFLY RELEASE IN MEMORY OF LIVES LOST IN THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Location: OASIS Community Center 3410 Bath Pike Bethlehem, PA 18017

Contact: OASIS Community Center Phone: 484-747-6825

Purchase Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-remembrance-butterfly-release-tickets-671002144477?aff=oddtcreator>

SEPTEMBER 10 | 10AM | GEISINGER MARWORTH RECOVERY FUN RUN

Location: Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, Olive Street trailhead. 3 W Olive St, Scranton, PA

Contact: www.marworth.org

SEPTEMBER 14 | 10AM - 3PM | NEW ROOTS 3RD ANNUAL THE STOP THE STIGMA WELLNESS FESTIVAL

Location: Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center, 116 N Main St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Contact: Hollie Browning 570-899-0942

SEPTEMBER 16 | 4 - 9PM | CARBON MONROE PIKE DRUG & ALCOHOL COMMISSION ROCKIN' FOR RECOVERY DANCE

Location: Aquashicola Fire Company 270 Little Gap Road, Palmerton, PA 18071

Contact: Phone: 570-421-1960 or <https://www.cmpda.cog.pa.us/>

SEPTEMBER 23 | DOORS 6 - 8PM | A CLEAN SLATE OPEN MIC

Location: 118 S. 1st Street Bangor, PA

Contact: Phone: 610-452-9348

SEPTEMBER 30 | 10AM - 3PM | LIVE BE WELL A COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT EVENT

Location: Easton Area Middle School 1010 Echo Trail, Easton, PA 18040

Contact: Gretchen Hill: gill@norcopa.gov, or Lisa Wolff: lwoff@thechc.org

OCTOBER 7 | REGISTRATION 9AM EVENT 11AM - 1PM | COREY & KIMBERLEY'S RIDE

Location: Alburtis Fire Co 328 S. 328 S. Main St. Alburtis, PA 18011

Contact: Donna Jacobsen: Phone: 917-763-8978 or donnajacobsen1657@gmail.com

South West Events 2023

AUGUST 25 | 11:15AM | RINGING OF THE BELLS | 12 NOON PRAYER SERVICE | OVERDOSE PRAYER SERVICE

Location: Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 325 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA Contact: SWilkinson@aicdac.org

AUGUST 31 | 5PM | RECOVERY CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Location: Hosted on the North Pavilion at Kittanning Riverfront Park in Kittanning PA

Contact: Ashley Phone: 724-548-8334 Email: awaterloo@icdac.org

AUGUST 31 | 5 - 7PM | INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY SPONSORED BY RECOVERY CAPITAL, ARMSTRONG, INDIANA, CLARION DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMISSION

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Vigil and Promenade to Recovery Capital – 281. N. McKean St., Kittanning)

Location: North Park Gazebo, North Water Street, Kittanning (along the river across from Arch St.) If you have lost someone to substance use and would like to honor them by name, follow the link so we can pay tribute at the event. (requestors are anonymous)

<https://surveymonkey.com/r/DG25KL3> You can also leave their name by contacting Recovery Capital at Phone: 724-548-8334.

AUGUST 31 | 5 - 9PM | OVERDOSE AWARENESS EVENT UPMC SOMERSET DRUG AND ALCOHOL

Location: FOE Fields 824 Madison Ave off Stadium Drive Somerset, PA Contact: Somerset Drug and Alcohol Phone: 814-445-1530

SEPTEMBER 1 | DOORS 4PM EVENT IS FROM 5 - 9PM | BREAKING DOWN THE BOARDERS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Accepting band demos to audition for the 'Battle of the Bands' for Recovery! First prize \$500 Please send demos to Mike@favorwesternpa.org

Location: United Area Little League Fields, 14393 Route 56 Hwy E, Seward, PA 15954

Contact: Kim Botteicher Center: Phone: 724-676-2111 Cell: 724-840-9160

SEPTEMBER 2 | REGISTRATION 7AM (EVENT 9AM - 12PM) | LIVE 4 TOMORROW TODAY 5K

Location: 110 Chaintown Rd. Dawson, PA US 15428

Contact: Phone: Malory Spring 724-970-4492 Email: live4tt@gmail.com

For more information: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Dawson/Live4Tomorrow5k>

SEPTEMBER 14 | 3 - 5PM | SAVE A LIFE DAY

Armstrong, Indiana and Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission (Naloxone and Fentanyl Test Strips will be available)

Location: Riverfront Park, South End Pavilion, Kittanning, PA Contact: SWilkinson@aicdac.org

SEPTEMBER 16 | 9AM - 1PM | 2023 PITTSBURGH RECOVERY WALK

Location: 1201 Waterfront Place (near the Heinz History Center) Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Contact: info@pghrecoverywalk.org or visit <https://allevents.in/york/recovery-day-2023-at-wellspan-park-home-of-the-york-revolution/200024622448608>

SEPTEMBER 16 | 3:30PM | UPMC & SOMERSET COUNTY D&A PRESENT BRANDON NOVAK

Location: Meyersdale Area High School Auditorium 1349 Shaw Mines Road, Meyersdale, PA 1552

Contact: Somerset Drug and Alcohol Phone: 814-445-1530

SEPTEMBER 22 | 3 - 5PM | 4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY RESPECTS FIRST RESPONDERS

Armstrong Indiana – Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission

Location: Indiana Courthouse, 825 Philadelphia St., Indiana, PA Contact: SWilkinson@aicdac.org

SEPTEMBER 23 | 11AM - 5PM | SOMERSET COUNTY RECOVERY WALK

Location: 651 S. Center Ave. Somerset, PA 15501 Contact: Somerset Drug and Alcohol Phone: 814-445-1530

SEPTEMBER 26 | 9AM - 5PM | LOST DREAMS AWAKEN EDUCATION SERIES: SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING

Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Communities, Families and Providers in the SUD/MH Ecosystems of Recovery

Location: August Wilson Center – 980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15222 Contact: awakeninglostdreams@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 29 | 9AM - 3:30PM | COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE & YOUTH PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Location: West Moreland County Community College 141 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697 Contact: WMCDCA Phone: 724-243-2220

SEPTEMBER 29 | 1 - 3PM | 4TH ANNUAL RECOVERY RESPECTS FIRST RESPONDERS

Armstrong Indiana – Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission

Location: North End Gazebo, Freedom Pavilion, North Water Street, Kittanning, PA Contact: SWilkinson@aicdac.org

OCTOBER 7 | 11AM - 3PM | RECOVERY IN THE VALLEY — CAMBRIA COUNTY DRUG COALITION

Location: Central Park - 507 Main S., Johnstown, PA 15901 Contact: <http://www.cambriacountydrugcoalition.org>

South Central Events 2023

AUGUST 26 | 5 – 9PM | BLAIR COUNTY INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Location: Transformation Church 1001 S 1st St, Altoona, PA 16602

Contact: bcoverdoseawareness@gmail.com

AUGUST 31 | 10AM – 2PM | INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS & MEMORIAL DAY

Location: Pennsylvania State Capitol Rotunda, 501 N. 3rd St. Harrisburg, PA

Contact:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/pennsylvania-state-capitol-complex-main-rotunda/international-overdose-awareness-memorial-day/593418032123417/>

AUGUST 31 | 6PM | HEALING & HOPE OVERDOSE AWARENESS EVENT

Location: Downtown Bedford Square

Contact: Melissa Jacobs Phone: 814-262-8711 Email: treasurer@bedfordmc.org

SEPTEMBER 09 | 8AM – 3PM | HOME RUN DERBY TO FIGHT DRUG ADDICTION

Location: 3050 Lincoln Way E, Fayetteville, PA 17222

Contact: John Lloyd, Noah's House Inc., Founder / CEO Phone: 717-372-4497

SEPTEMBER 11 | 10AM – 1PM | HAMILTON HEALTH COE AND PRO.A NARCAN DRIVE

Location: 110S.17th St. Harrisburg, PA 17104

Contact: Jillian London jlondon@hamiltonhealthcenter.com

SEPTEMBER 13 | 11AM – 2PM | DAUPHIN COUNTY RECOVERY WALK

Location: City Island, Harrisburg PA (By the Volleyball Courts)

Contact: Angela Blair ablair@hamiltonhealth.com

SEPTEMBER 15 | GATES OPEN: 6PM, GAME STARTS: 7PM | DAUPHIN COUNTY RECOVERY MONTH KICKOFF AT FNB FIELD PRESENTED BY DAUPHIN COUNTY AND HERO IN THE FIGHT

Location: 245 Championship Way, Harrisburg, PA

Contact: (Phone: 717-231-4444)

SEPTEMBER 16 | 2 – 5PM | PYRAMID ROCK FOR RECOVERY

Location: 25 East Main Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268

Contact: Tracey Clark Phone: 717-809-2088

SEPTEMBER 17 | 1PM | RECOVERY DAY 2023 AT WELLSPAN PARK— HOME OF THE YORK REVOLUTION

Location: Wellspan Park, 5 Brooks Robinson Way, York, PA

Contact: <https://allevents.in/york/recovery-day-2023-at-wellspan-park-home-of-the-york-revolution/200024622448608>

SEPTEMBER 19 | 12 – 2PM | RECOVERY ADVOCACY DAY

Location: PA State Capitol, 501 N 3rd St., Room: Front Steps, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Contact: Phone: 717-526-1010

For more information link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recovery-advocacy-day-tickets-667004708037>

SEPTEMBER 23 | 11AM – 5PM | SOMERSET COUNTY RECOVERY WALK

Location: 651 South Center Avenue, Somerset, PA 15501

Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/somerset-county-recovery-walk-2023-tickets-652268722307>

SEPTEMBER 23 | 6 – 9 PM | RASE PROJECT – 11TH ANNUAL RECOVERY COMEDY SHOW

Location: Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, 25 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

Contact: Collin Suber Phone: 717-232-8535

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-rase-project-comedy-show-featuring-adam-ferrera-tickets-549404071367>

Tickets \$35-37. Join us on September 23rd for our 11th Annual Comedy Show. Headlining our show is Adam Ferrera from Rescue Me, Nurse Jackie, & Top Gear!

SEPTEMBER 27 | 8 – 10AM | A COMMUNITY OF HOPE UPMC

Location: Blair County Convention Center Drive Altoona, PA 16602

Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-of-hope-tickets-62866549441?aff=erellivmlt>

South Central Events 2023

SEPTEMBER 30 | 10AM – 2PM | JFT RECOVERY AND VETERANS SUPPORT SERVICE FALL FESTIVAL

Location: 300 Market St., Lemoyne, PA 17043
Contact: Carly Phone: 717-594-8667

SEPTEMBER 30 | 7PM | SPOKEN WORD SLAM POETRY EVENT (DAUPHIN COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND HERO IN THE FIGHT)

Location: Fort Hunter 5300 N. Front St. Harrisburg, PA 17110
Contact: Danny Albert: Email: herointhefight@gmail.com

South East Events 2023

SEPTEMBER 10 | 9AM | PRO-ACT RECOVERY WALKS

Location: Philadelphia Navy Yard, 4701 Intrepid Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19112
Then Join in Celebrating PRO-ACT's 25th Anniversary on the Parade Grounds until 1:00 pm
Contact: Phone: 215-345-6644

SEPTEMBER 13 | 6:40PM | PRO-ACT RECOVERY DAY AT THE BASEBALL GAME

Location: Citizen's Bank Park, 1 Citizen's Bank Park Way, Philadelphia, PA 19148
Watch the Phillies take on the Mets at Citizen's Bank Park. Tickets are available online at www.biddingforgood.com/councilsepa

SEPTEMBER 16 | 9 – 10AM | RECOVERY IS FOR EVERYONE WALK

Location: 741 N. County Line Road Telford, PA 18969
Contact: <https://www.pennfoundation.org/2023-recovery-is-for-everyone-walk-registration/>

SEPTEMBER 18 | 10AM – 12:30PM | BERKS RECOVERY WALK

Location: Walk will begin at the Berks RISE Center, 702 N. 8th Street, Reading PA
Contact: <https://easydoesitinc.org/events/berks-recovery-walk/>

SEPTEMBER 23 | 10AM | 10TH ANNUAL RECOVERY DAY LANCASTER - LANCASTER COUNTY RECOVERY ALLIANCE

Location: Buchanan Park - 901 Buchanan Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603
Contact: Yvonne Stroman Phone: 610-750-7550

SEPTEMBER. 27 | 6PM – 7PM | PROACT RECOVERY MONTH FINALE

Location: online [@facebook.com/TheCouncilSEPA](https://www.facebook.com/TheCouncilSEPA)

Celebrate the close of Recovery Month, as we partner with the Mayor's Commission on Addiction and Recovery for the Make a Difference Awards which will acknowledge the tireless efforts of organizations and individuals who help address substance use challenges in our city.

SEPTEMBER 30 | 12 – 3PM | SOBERSTOCK 2023

Location: Easy Does It, Inc, 1300 Hilltop Road, Leesport, PA 19533
For more information: <https://easydoesitinc.org/events/soberstock-2023/>

Please Welcome our new PRO•A team member!



Tom Rice, CRS

Hi, my name is Tom Rice. I am a Certified Recovery Specialist and have been actively involved in the recovery field for eight years. On July 1, 2023 I celebrated eight years of continuous recovery. My journey through recovery has taken me down many paths in life, including serving over twenty-six and a half years of incarceration for crimes directly related to my SUD's. I was one of the sufferers that felt totally broken and believed I could never change, that my life was a waste, and that I was destined to die either by overdose or in incarceration.

Through a series of circumstances that I can only attribute to divine intervention, I was introduced to CBT therapy, which changed the course of my life. Not only did I embrace it wholeheartedly, I became a Peer Facilitator within the Department of Corrections and went on to help many other individuals like me.

Upon release, I discovered a passion for helping others and became a CRS. I was employed with PA Counseling Services for over two years. Today my passion is helping others that are reintegrating into society. I feel my position in the Workforce Support Project here at PRO•A gives me a platform to make a difference. I once believed my life was one of waste and now, I see it as one with profound value and purpose.



Please join PRO•A for



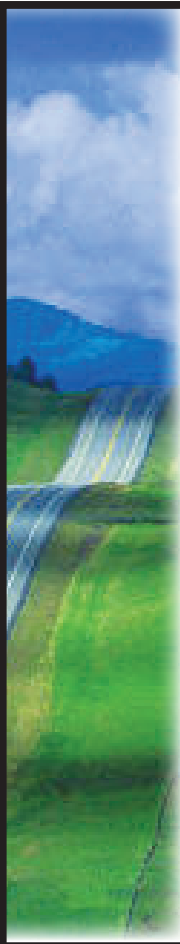
THE CALL

EVERY
TUESDAY
AT 10 AM

[a statewide weekly ZOOM call to support
Recovery Community Organizations and
members of the recovery community]

 PRO•A is the Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance | PHONE 717.545.8929 or 800.858.6040 | pro-a.org





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PA GET HELP NOW

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Find Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

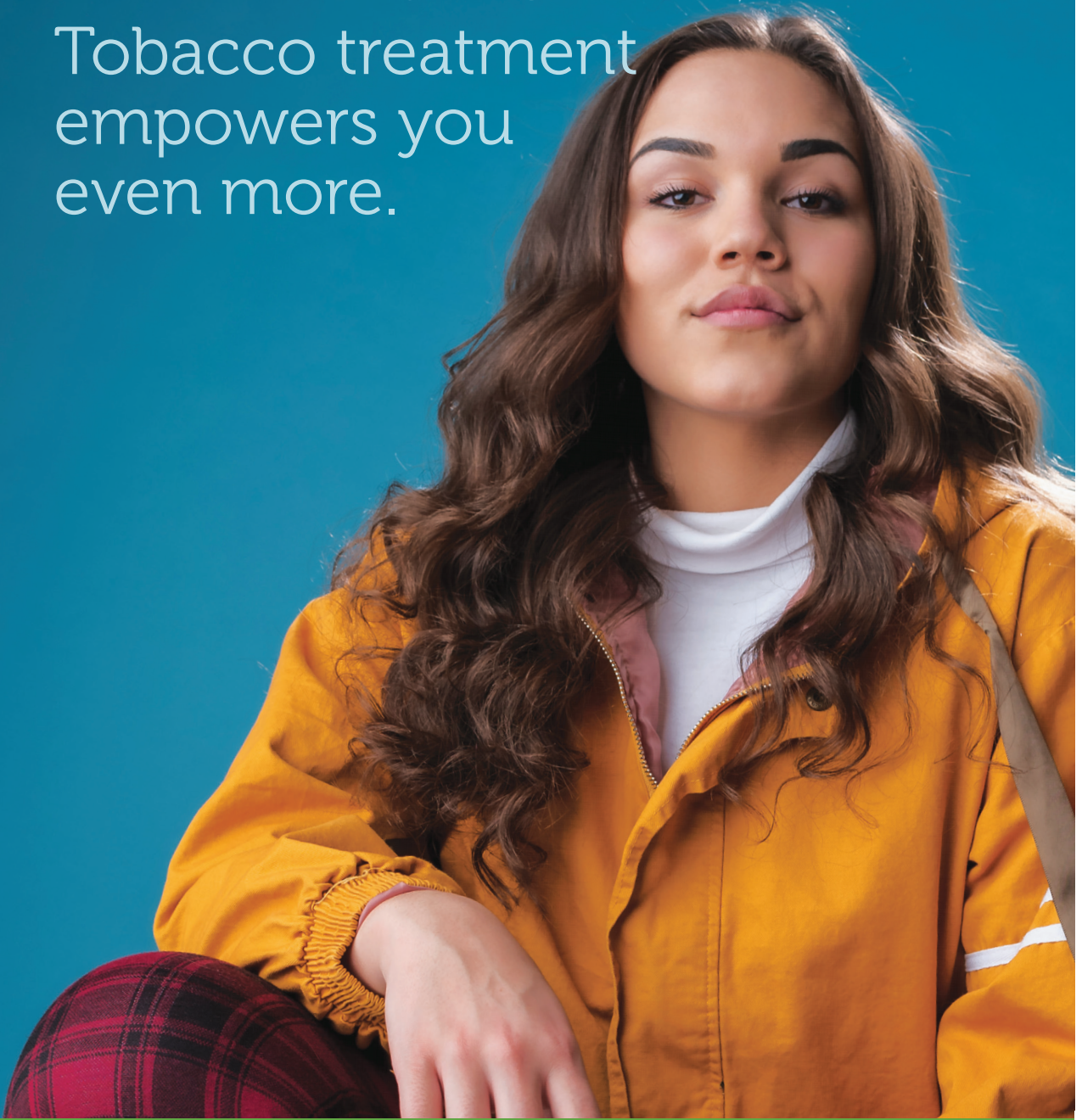


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*Celebrating
25 years
of service
to the
statewide
recovery
community*

2023 REGIONAL STATEWIDE RECOVERY MONTH EVENTS

starting on page 10

pa.performcare.org

PerformCare offers hope and
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Remember: Recovery begins when
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1-800-654-5984 TTY
or 711 PA relay

pa.performcare.org

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