

Establishing a Recovery Friendly Community (rev.3/6/20)

This document is intended to provide guidance to municipalities that are interested in supporting those residents who are in recovery from a substance use condition by 1) raising awareness of the nature of such conditions, 2) promoting health and recovery by reducing stigma and discrimination and 3) building or improving the environmental factors necessary for "recoverees" to flourish. Expected benefits of a Recovery Friendly community may be reduced substance use, reduced overdoses, reduced crime, an improved community sense of compassion, greater sense of community, social inclusion and connection, improved community health, increased access to resources and positive statewide visibility.

1. Municipal Leadership		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
a.	The mayor, Town Council and/or Board of Directors is in agreement with developing a recovery friendly community.			
b.	The mayor, Town Council and/or Board of Directors has appointed a recovery "champion". The champion is a person who is committed to supporting recovery from substance use and related co-occurring mental and physical health conditions and who is willing and empowered to lead the town/city-wide efforts necessary for becoming "Recovery Friendly" by convening Department heads, other leaders including faith leaders, youth and persons in recovery on a monthly basis to develop and monitor the community enhancements outlined in this document. <i>(The "RFC Planning Group")</i>			
c.	The city/town has a "Local Prevention Council" and if so, this Council is integral to the mission of the Recovery Champion.			
d.	The town website reflects that it is a "Recovery Friendly Community".			
2. Municipal Department "Buy-In"		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
a.	The Parks and Recreation Department hosts recovery-friendly activities and events.			
b.	The Schools offer one or more of the following: substance use, problem gambling, ~~and~~ education about-mental health and wellness, ~~education, including~~ stress reduction and positive coping skills; education on mental health for families, community members, students and educators ; alternative peer groups; identified substance use and possible co-occurring disorders; support for youth, caregivers and families with an identified substance use problem; student recovery groups; recovery promotion and anti-stigma awareness activities. ~~education on mental health for educators, family/community members and students.~~			
c.	~~Police and Fire Department personnel encourage treatment and other recovery approaches and are knowledgeable about~~ have knowledge of local addiction and mental health recovery resources and encourage treatment and harm reduction options.			
f.	The city/town welcomes safe and stable recovery housing.			

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g.	There are community centers for youth and adults.			
3. Community Attitudes		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
a.	Businesses are open to hiring people in recovery and advertise same.			
b.	Community organizations are open to providing volunteer opportunities to people in recovery.			
c.	The Community supports formerly incarcerated individuals.			
4. Community Resources		Yes	Not yet	Next Steps
a.	Residents know how and where to obtain Narcan.			
b.	Hospital emergency departments are recovery informed and have recovery coaches and information on mental health and peer support resources available.			
c.	Faith-based organizations are promoted as a recovery resource.			
d.	Residents know how to access peer support and mutual aid groups and are aware of other pathways of recovery.			
e.	Local transportation is available to individuals seeking treatment or a support group.			
f.	Residents know how and where to access treatment and other recovery resources, including recovery coaches, in the community.			
g.	Residents know how to access "Telephone Recovery Support".			
h.	Physicians that prescribe medication for substance use disorders are easily identified and available.			
i.	Family education and support groups are available for caregivers and all family members..			
j.	Resources related to grief and loss are known and promoted.			
k.	Food, clothing and other basic supports are readily available.			