Recovery is a Reality

December 1 & 2, 2008
Phoenix, AZ

John de Miranda
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Board of Directors
Pacific Southwest Region Representative
National Recovery Summit

A Call to Action

In 2001, recovery advocates came together with national allies to establish Faces & Voices of Recovery, a nationwide advocacy campaign.
Governance Structure

A Grassroots Campaign

We are organized regionally and governed by recovery advocates from around the country.
Faces & Voices of Recovery

- Changing public perceptions of recovery
- Promoting effective public policy
- Demonstrating that recovery is working for millions of Americans
It is our collective strength that will ensure our success, and it is our mission to bring the power and proof of recovery to everyone in America.
Recovery Community

Who is the Recovery Community?

- People in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, their families, friends and allies
Paths to Recovery

There are many paths:

- Mutual Support groups
- Professional treatment
- Nontraditional methods
- Medical interventions
- Faith
- on your own
- and more
A Shared Vision

Across the country, family members, friends and allies are rallying in support of recovery – creating a new recovery movement!!!
The Recovery Community

Organized in state, regional and local recovery community organizations
Recovery Community Organizations

- Independent, non-profit organizations that are led and run by representatives of local communities of recovery on behalf of the recovery community.
  - Public education – putting a face and a voice on recovery
  - Advocacy
  - Peer-based and other recovery support services.
Recovery Community Organizations

- Over 200 recovery community organizations around the country

- Ranging in size/budget/scope:
  - 3-5 members to 1,000s of members
  - All volunteer to 20+ staff members
  - $0 budget to over $1 million/year
  - Local, regional, state
“Many of us have carried a message of hope on a one-to-one basis; this new recovery movement calls upon us to carry that message of hope to whole communities and the whole culture. We will shape the future of recovery with a detached silence or with a passionate voice. It is time we stepped forward to shape this history with our stories, our time and our talents.”

William White
Author & Recovery Advocate
Faces & Voices of Recovery

Many Voices, A Common Message

By speaking, writing or supporting advocacy efforts, members of the recovery community can make a profound difference in public understanding of addiction and recovery and change discriminatory policies that put up barriers to recovery.
Faces & Voices of Recovery

Supports local recovery advocacy...

- Conducts workshops and trainings
- Provides technical assistance
- Offers programming opportunities
- Communicates regularly (bi-monthly enews, Rising)
- Provides information from Washington and around the country on recovery related topics and much much more!
Faces & Voices of Recovery

Raises national profile...

- September 2005 Summit in Washington, DC
- Restored rights to students with drug convictions
- Restored federal funding to organizations providing peer recovery support services
- Helped to pass the Second Chance Act
- Working to change name of NIDA & NIAAA
- Promoted long-term recovery through projects like HBO’s Addiction, Rally for Recovery & Recovery Voices Count
Communicating

- eNewsletter
- *Rising!* Recovery in Action quarterly
- Regional Listservs
- Speakers Bureau
- Website
Campaigns & Issues

- Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act
- Funding / Budget Priorities
- SAMHSA Reauthorization

May 2008 Rally
Training & Organizing

- 2007 Teleconference Series:
  - Editorial Board meetings
  - Restoration of Voting Rights
  - Peer Recovery Support Services
- 2008 Teleconference Series
  - Recovery Voices Count
  - Recovery Community Centers
- Message and Media Trainings
- Science of Addiction and Recovery Training
- Organizing Network
HBO Communities Take Action

- 30 Premieres in Major Cities
- Over 500 House Parties
- More than 70 town hall meetings and/or public events
Opportunities to advocate...

- Intervention
- Celebrity Rehab
- Christian Dior Addict

All these campaigns provided important opportunities to speak out and advocate.
We will improve the lives of millions of Americans, their families and communities if we treat addiction to alcohol and other drugs as a public health crisis. To overcome this crisis, we must accord dignity to people with addiction and recognize that there is no one path to recovery.
Rally for Recovery

www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org
A step by step guide teaches advocates how to engage people in civic life and organize events.
A Constituency of Consequence

Recovery Wellness Room

Room 405
Open Monday thru Thursday
9:00am – 5:00pm

12-Step Meetings:
10am, 12pm, 3pm, & 4pm – every day

Connections Meeting:
2:30pm – every day
Talking about Recovery...

Our Stories Have Power – A Media Workshop for Recovery Advocates

- Training Developed in 2006
- Research-based
- Over 1,000 Advocates Trained
- Adapted for many different purposes
- Used successfully all over the country
Public Opinion Research

Broad/Deep Support for a Campaign to Put a Face on Recovery

- 88% believe it is very important for the American public to see that thousands get well each year.

- 87% believe it is very important for the American public to know the basic facts about addiction and recovery.

- 50% would be very (31%) or fairly (19%) likely to take part actively in a public campaign.

2001 Survey of the Recovery Community; Peter D. Hart Associates
Talking About Recovery

There are some important things that we’ve learned from our research about how to talk with people about recovery:

- Making it personal, so that we have credibility.
- Keeping it simple and in the present tense, so that it’s real and understandable.
- Helping people understand that recovery means that you or the person that you care about is no longer using alcohol or other drugs. We do this by moving away from saying “in recovery” to saying “in long-term recovery,” talking about stability and mentioning the length of time that the person is in recovery.
- Talking about your recovery…not your addiction.
I’m (your name) and I am in long-term recovery, which means that I have not used (insert alcohol or drugs or the name of the drugs that you used) for more than (insert the number of years that you are in recovery) years. I am committed to recovery because it has given me and my family new purpose and hope for the future, while helping me gain stability in my life. I am now speaking out because long-term recovery has helped me change my life for the better, and I want to make it possible for others to do the same.
Talking About Recovery

MESSAGING OR LANGUAGE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND OF A PERSON IN RECOVERY

I’m (your name). My (insert son, daughter, mom, dad, friend) is in long-term recovery, which means that (insert he/she) has not used (insert alcohol or drugs or the name of the drugs that he or she used) for more than (insert the number of years) years. I am committed to recovery because it has given me and my family new purpose and hope for the future. I am now speaking out because long-term recovery helped us change our lives for the better, and I want to make it possible for others to do the same.
When can I use the message?

- When speaking in public
- When talking to public policy makers and colleagues in government
- When writing for your job or casually (articles, newsletters, web blog posts, etc.)
- When talking to your family, friends & neighbors
- ALWAYS!
Training Materials Available

- Talking about Recovery Messaging Memo
- Advocacy with Anonymity
- Sample Questions & Answers
- Tips of the Trade
- Excerpts from Bill White’s book: “Let’s Go Make Some History”

* materials available at www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org
New training materials

Recovery Advocacy Toolkit
MAKING OUR VOICES COUNT

- Recovery Bill of Rights
- Recovery Voices Count
- Event Planning Guides
- Media Outreach
- Pathways to Recovery
- Resources
Want to get more active?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Speak out as an individual
   Use your story to fight stigma to end discrimination!
Want to get more active?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

2. Join or start a recovery community organization in your area.

A list of recovery community organizations around the country is online at:

www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org
Want to get more active?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

3. Join the Faces & Voices of Recovery Campaign!

Join with others to raise our unified voices at the national level.
Linking Advocates

Faces & Voices helps build relationships among local and regional groups – sharing resources.

- Bi-monthly eNewsletter
- Regional listservs
- *Rising!* Recovery in Action

[www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)
Recovery is a reality

JOIN US!

Raise our unified voices at the national level.

Be living proof that recovery is a reality!

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