

Turning Point Center of Addison County



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February 28, 2023

Vermont Legislator,

My name is Danielle Wallace, I am the Executive Director of Turning Point Center of Addison County. I am also person in recovery from substance use disorder. Our center is a proud member of the Recovery Partners of Vermont, and I am testifying today in support of an increase of \$1.85 million in base funding for the 13 community recovery organizations across the state and a \$1 million dollar increase in base funding for recovery residences.

Vermont is not immune from the overarching reach of substance use disorder, in fact nearly all Vermonters are effected in some way by this disease. In 2021, over 200 Vermonters lost their lives due to opioid related drug overdose. This is the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in our state. The Turning Point Center's coaches work in collaboration with local homeless shelters, emergency department staff, community teen centers, Middlebury college, local high schools, and Valley Vista to support individuals that are seeking change. As the impact of substance use continues to grow, we are regularly asked to coordinate and expand our services to support both people seeking recovery and those affected by their use.

Our center currently employs 8 recovery coaches that have successfully completed the requirements to achieve nationally recognized certification. The level of passion and commitment among peer support is unparalleled, but to retain and continue to grow this professional workforce, we need to provide competitive wages and adequate benefits. Recovery centers across Vermont are providing vital services that save lives and are worth investing in. The purposed increase of \$1.85 million in base funding for recovery organizations and \$1 million in base funding for recovery residences ensure we can employ and retain trained professional recovery supports to develop and deliver high-quality programming for all Vermonters.

Thank You,



Danielle Wallace, MARJ
Executive Director