

Good morning.

My name is Mark Ames and I serve as the Network Coordinator for the Vermont Recovery Network, which is made up of all eleven of Vermont's community recovery centers. I'm an addiction professional who has worked in this field for the last 27 years in roles across the spectrum of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. I've managed and supervised addictions programs and done extensive program development.

I've come today to do three things.

1. Explain how the recovery centers are supporting the Hub & Spoke opiate treatment system with a grant from SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.
2. Answer any questions you have about how recovery supports improve outcomes for people who have received treatment and have promise for preventing Vermont's multigenerational cycles of addiction.
3. Encourage you to include our statewide recovery system in your considerations of how to improve Vermont's substance abuse services delivery system. In order for Vermont to have the capacity to respond to the chronic nature of addictions we need to strengthening our forming recovery system in order to provide ongoing support for people who receive treatment, not just the acute care response that a short stay in treatment provides. A strong recovery system provides a solution to recidivism and makes access to services at the moment someone wants help a reality.

Vermont is a pioneer in the national recovery movement. We've created a statewide recovery system with standards, accountability, and evidence based recovery support services. Vermont's recovery centers have grown to become a front door to Vermont's treatment system, as well as a destination after treatment. In some cases, centers offer support until treatment is available; in others, our recovery supports provide a direct path to a life in recovery.

Recovery centers provide welcoming, safe places for people seeking recovery. We provide support for families and friends who are trying to help loved ones. Our trained recovery workers provide facilitated groups and recovery coaching. Centers are safe havens where people who are committed to recovery volunteer to support others.

Documents developed by all the recovery centers:

- VRN Report 2014 – explains what we do, our needs and our Pathways to Recovery grant efforts to support the Hub & Spoke system.
- Progress Report: Vermont's Recovery Centers & Vermont Recovery Network – provides historical perspective and progress in developing a recovery system
- Making the Vision of a Recovery System Sustainable – documents the need for additional recovery center funding.