

## Rebecca Buck

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**From:** Mark Ames <vtrecoverynetwork@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 10:00 AM  
**To:** Jane Kitchel; Diane Snelling; Robert Starr; Richard Sears; Rebecca Buck  
**Subject:** Vermont Recovery Network input on FY 16 budget considerations  
**Attachments:** Vermont Recovery Network FY 16 budget considerations .doc

All the recovery centers discussed the attached document during our Network meeting yesterday. Please give this thought while you consider the budget.

Best ~ Mark Ames

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## **Vermont Recovery Network FY 16 Budget Considerations**

**Recovery Center Success Stories & Data** (booklet) – Please consider the data demonstrating statistically significant changes in the lives of visitors at recovery centers, highlighted in the centerfold of this year’s report. The stories of redemption in this report provide equally powerful data on the results of providing recovery supports.

**Changes resulting from increased State funding** (data sheet) – Our 11 recovery centers and central Network have moved closer to our goal of having full time directors with staff present when recovery centers are open. The data sheet shows the increase each center received and the use of the new funding, generally increasing director time and available staff time.

Funding for the Network was used to fund a part time recovery coach coordinator, augment staff support for our Pathway Guides (11 opiate recovery support workers), host a board retreat, host showings of the movie the Anonymous People, and expand data collection/evaluation. The report also highlights our progress with using our SAMHSA grants to provide peer support specifically for people in opiate treatment and to build up our central Network infrastructure to the point that it will be capable of seeking and distributing funding for the benefit of the individual recovery centers.

**The 11 Vermont recovery centers voted in October that funding for a new recovery center in Newport was their top funding priority for FY-16.** In October the Governor’s Opiate Forum community coalition in Newport recommended the creation of a recovery center. At current funding levels, adding the “Journey to Recovery Community Center” in Newport to the group of existing recovery centers would cost \$92,000. We asked about the possible availability of budget adjustment funds to open a Newport center before next July. We were told that the budget situation wouldn’t make that possible. In response, we have collected \$3,600 from centers and have dedicated a \$3665 Network windfall to support Journey to Recovery Community Center in securing space and setting it up in preparation for a July opening.

We have just signed grant forms for an additional \$4300 from the VT Department of Health toward efforts this spring. We solicited and received \$10,000 from Burlington Labs to support a recovery center in Newport.

We understand that there have been recommendations that your committee divide up the current appropriation for recovery centers to include Newport. We still have not succeeded in getting recovery centers sufficient funding to maintain them with full time directors and sufficient staff to have a presence during every hour they are open, even though they have demonstrated that they are the places with no waiting lists where people in trouble can go to find help and initiate their recovery.

**We request** that before considering the allocation of millions of additional dollars for providing opiate medications, that will still not solve waiting list problems, the Senate Appropriations committee build the recovery system. The recovery system is overwhelmed by people with opiate problems, many of whom are candidates for abstinence based peer recovery supports. The medical community is mobilizing to move more people into abstinence based recovery and we need to be ready to meet their needs.