

Rebecca Buck

From: Theresa Utton
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 11:00 AM
To: Rebecca Buck
Subject: FW: VRN Recovery Center Legislative Ask_020718.pdf
Attachments: COD Legislative Ask_020718.pdf

From: Catherine Toll [<mailto:kittytoll@live.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 10:15 PM
To: Theresa Utton
Subject: Fw: VRN Recovery Center Legislative Ask_020718.pdf

Can we add this to public hearing requests

From: Brandon Malshuk <journey2recoveryexec.director@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 7:01 PM
To: kittytoll@live.com; jane45@hotmail.com
Subject: VRN Recovery Center Legislative Ask_020718.pdf

I really appreciate you considering additional funding to support the important work we do at the recovery centers across the state.

Respectfully,

Brandon Malshuk
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Newport, VT 05855
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Vermont Recovery Network Program Report—January 2018

Recovery Centers: Saving Lives and Saving Vermont Money

The Vermont Recovery Network is a national model for an innovative, strength-based approach to healing addictions. Vermont’s system of recovery centers—the country’s only statewide recovery system of its kind—has evolved from a grassroots movement to become integral to Vermont’s system for supporting people in recovery and their families. This growth is thanks to the legislature’s support of our work. We’ve been able to show that recovery supports save lives and give hope. When people heal, learn life skills, and adopt a healthy lifestyle, they no longer engage in unhealthy behaviors. They thrive, and so do our communities.

The growth in peer supports our centers are able to offer is **thanks to the legislature’s support of our work**. In 2012, the legislature tasked the network with developing program standards and core services based on national best practices, and adopting performance measures, in return for an increase in our base funding. Consequently, our funding has increased from \$50,900 per center in FY 2012 to a median budget of \$92,685 since FY 2015. The increase in funding helped us to anchor our volunteer teams with trained supervisors, increase our availability, expand our services, enrich our partnerships, and attract additional funding. The graphs highlight some specifics about how our center supports have increased.

Vermont Recovery Network Successes and Partnerships

Vermont’s position as a national leader in treatment and recovery—our Hub and Spoke and statewide recovery systems—helps us to attract federal funding to pilot programs and develop sophisticated systems.

- SAMHSA, ADAP support for Pathways to Recovery: centers partner with Hubs and Spokes to combat opioid addiction
- CURES Emergency Department pilots (Barre, Burlington, and Bennington): provide coaching to patients with addiction issues.
- SAMHSA support for Telephone Recovery Support pilot program: helps people leaving treatment who are at a risk of relapse. This telephonic solution means a lifeline in a rural state like ours.
- SAMHSA support for governance and infrastructure development.
- Governor Phil Scott’s Opioid Coordination Council.

Innovative Center Partnerships

Vibrant relationships with partners have generated shared programs, sometimes funded, onsite at centers or offsite at partner locations.

- Rutland: A \$100,000 grant funds recovery coaching and SMART groups for inmates at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility.
- Newport and Bennington: Regional Prevention Partnership grants support drug take-back programs and family/youth services.
- Barre: A \$12,000 contract with Washington County Drug Treatment Court Enhancement project provides an evidence-based workshop series and recovery coaching.
- Brattleboro: A \$15,000 Thomson Trust grant funds infrastructure and board development.
- Springfield: A \$10,000 Holt Foundation grant funds satellite recovery services in Bellows Falls. HCRS funds \$10,000 for recovery supports for transitional house residents.

Gratitude and a Request

We’re doing more—expanding our reach and establishing innovative peer-support programs—but we’ve stretched our modest resources to their limit. Centers have been level funded since 2015, although the demand for our supports continues to grow in the face of the opioid epidemic. We provide workforce-development opportunities, but our trained peers go elsewhere because we can’t pay them—not pay them enough, but rather pay them at all. Our volunteer teams struggle to manage demands. More funding would allow us to continue offering Vermonters healing solutions: We help people turn away from the revolving doors of emergency rooms, detoxification programs, treatment, and corrections and reach instead to less costly, life-saving supports, saving Vermont money. To fulfill our promise, we request an additional \$60,000 per center so we can meet the expectations of our communities, our partners, and our funders. Our centers could then retain experienced peers and provide services our capacity won’t currently allow.

