



*"What pulls a person toward
the bright side versus the dark
side?" – Rep. Peter Fagan*

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Hello, My name is Sarah Munro I am the Executive Director for the, VT Recovery Network which is a national model for a creative, community based, approach to Substance Use Disorders. We have twelve Recovery Centers across the State.

The Recovery Centers offer so much to so many. The centers are warm, safe and dry places to rebuild and save lives, guiding people with Substance Use Disorders toward wellness. They offer peer-to-peer supports, helping people decide to recover from the crippling disease of addiction. Lives are mended and basic needs are met. Recovery Centers are there to serve some of the most vulnerable populations across Vermont.

But our challenges in the addiction crisis have grown. Though the state has been supportive, the fact is that the recovery center's appropriation has been level funded for the last four years. It is our hope that the appropriation can grow so the centers and the network can meet increasing demands. There is no question that ADAP has been a great support to VRN. We believe that they see us as an integral part of the solution for all those suffering from Substance Use Disorder. But the essential recovery support services that we offer have expanded to the point where our Center Directors are struggling and stretch themselves to the point of exhaustion. They need supervisory support staff.

We have examined and assessed the needs of the twelve centers. Here are the basics. For staffing and programming we see a need for \$60,000 in new money for each center. That translates to a \$720,000 ask for all of the centers. The VT Recovery Network — which coordinates the efforts of the centers — needs a smaller amount of funding — \$50,000 mostly for necessary increases in staffing to support network needs and growth. That would bring the total to \$770,000.

With \$60,000 centers would be able to expand our supervisory hours and operation hours, by an additional 40-60 hours per week. Some centers would be able to stay open later. Some centers would be able to stay open on the weekends. Directors would be able to attend more community meetings and spend more time fundraising instead of putting out fires. It also improves the safety and oversight that each center must have. The programs that would be supported are Vermont Telephone Recovery Support Services, Recovery Coaches, Volunteers and other Peer Recovery Support Services, including families in need of their own recovery coaching and supports.

We have been an important voice and partner with Governor Phil Scott's Opioid Coordination Council (OCC). Together we have come up with some additional possible solutions to our crises/needs. All recovery centers need fundraising expertise. The OCC recommends we share a statewide professional at ¾ to full time. But we are unsure where that funding could come from at this time. There is a big need to braid our funding sources. The OCC has suggested conducting a meeting with AHS Departments who we provide recovery services to such as Corrections, the Judiciary, DCF and more.

Thank you for listening to our needs.

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