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Good evening, my name is Shannon Carchidi, I am the Executive Director with the North Central Vermont Recovery Center aka NCVRC. We are located in Morrisville and serve the Lamoille Valley. NCVRC has been a member of the Recovery Partners of Vermont since 2023.

I'm here tonight to ask for your support of **a base increase of \$1.6 million** for Vermont's local recovery centers in the Department of Health's budget. We are also asking for you to direct \$500,000 in Opioid Abatement special funds to establish an Oral Health Fund for people in early recovery.

Recovery centers are a vital resource within our system of care and offer a safe, grounding space for individuals and families seeking support with substance use disorder. Our peer recovery coaching, volunteer programs, support groups and health and wellness offerings are tailored to meet people where they are on their recovery journey. In 2024 in Morrisville alone we recorded over 8000 visits to our recovery center for all of the reasons and variety of services I just shared. The need is apparent and our impact is powerful.

Access to an Oral Health fund would greatly impact those we serve by increasing health awareness, building self confidence and empowering folks to rebuild their lives.

Please support **a base increase of \$1.6 million** for Vermont's local recovery centers in the Department of Health's budget, as well as \$500,000 in Opioid Abatement special funds to establish an Oral Health Fund for people in early recovery.

Respectfully,
Shannon Carchidi