

Astrid Bradish-Hoyt, CEO, Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield, VT
RPV Member
Request: Opioid Abatement Funding for Recovery Coaching in Correctional Facilities
February 18, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Governor's Recommended Fiscal Year 2027 State Budget.

My name is Astrid Bradish-Hoyt, and I serve as CEO of Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield, a member organization of Recovery Partners of Vermont (RPV). I am writing today to respectfully urge your support of the Vermont Department of Health's recommendation to appropriate \$1.25 million from the Opioid Abatement Fund to sustain recovery coaching services within Vermont correctional facilities.

Through this investment, certified peer Recovery Coaches provide critical, life-saving support to incarcerated Vermonters living with substance use disorder. These services create a bridge between incarceration and community reentry — a time that we know carries extraordinarily high risk for overdose and relapse.

At Southern State Correctional Facility (SSCF) in Springfield, three certified peer Recovery Coaches deliver recovery programming five days per week. Their work includes group facilitation, 1:1 Coaching, reentry planning, connection to treatment and recovery housing, and linkages to community-based Recovery Centers upon release. This continuity of care ensures individuals do not leave incarceration without support, resources, or *hope*.

I ask for your support because I've personally witnessed the transformational impact of Recovery Coaching inside the facility. I've sat with individuals who entered programming feeling hopeless, worked with our Coaches, and left with a Recovery plan, community connections, and a renewed sense of purpose. I've watched people who once cycled repeatedly through incarceration return home stable, employed, and reunited with their families because someone walked beside them in Recovery from the very beginning. Some of our most dynamic Coaches have spent time incarcerated.

People who receive strong wraparound Recovery supports are significantly less likely to experience return to use (RTU). Every RTU prevented correlates to cost savings across systems, including emergency services, hospitalizations, and inpatient treatment, which we know represent the most expensive and least preventative components of Vermont's substance use system of care.

Recovery Coaching is not a luxury service; it is a proven, cost-effective intervention that reduces recidivism, improves health outcomes, and strengthens communities. Investing Opioid Abatement funds in this work directly aligns with the purpose of those dollars: mitigating the long-term harms of the opioid crisis through prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction.

Sustaining this funding ensures that Recovery support begins prior to release, not after someone has already returned to the same environments and stressors without a safety net. It allows Recovery Partners of Vermont member organizations to continue coordinated, statewide reentry support that saves lives.

For these reasons, I respectfully restate my request that the Committee support the Vermont Department of Health's recommendation to appropriate \$1.25 million from the Opioid Abatement Fund to continue recovery coaching services within Vermont correctional facilities.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued commitment to building a recovery-oriented system of care in our state. I am grateful for your consideration of this request & for your dedication to the health and well-being of Vermonters.