

Intro Good Morning, I'm Shannon Carchidi, the Executive Director of the North Central Vermont Recovery Center (NCVRC) located in Morrisville. I'm representing one of the twelve recovery centers in our beautiful state. I'm here today as a member of the Recovery Partners of Vermont. Recovery Partners of Vermont is member driven organization striving to support recovery organizations serving Vermonters and their families struggling with alcohol and substance use disorder.

- I'm here today to seek your support and request that you please increase funding for Vermont's recovery centers by \$1.6 million for FY26. It is important to know that this request was developed and supported by all RPV members, it is different from the Governor's Recovery Campus proposal, and this funding is currently not in the budget as it came over from the House.

Recovery centers are NOT preferred providers, so we do not get automatic increases for our services. And, last year, we did not get an increase.

- As peer run, non-profit organizations this funding allows us to continue the heartfelt, skilled and essential work that our communities need and ask for. While each recovery center operates independently it's consistent amongst our membership the amount of effort that goes into collaboration which transpires across our state to meet people where they are and to ensure the doors to recovery are open

Recovery centers partner with local law enforcement, EMS, restorative justice programs, the Dept. of Corrections, hospitals, faith community partners, schools, shelters, domestic violence agencies, the Hub and Spoke system, and this is just a partial list of our collaborations.

This is an ever-changing landscape with newer, stronger substances being introduced at faster pace than we've seen in previous years. The effects of these substances are stronger, longer lasting, and the substances are easy to obtain, and more addictive This additional funding will help us respond to the changes within our community and meet their needs

Increased funding for our recovery centers means we not only maintain our peer support services, but also continue to knock on additional doors and create even more support for our community members. There are strengths in numbers and our peers working in this recovery field are ready. As our field continues to receive recognition for our expertise and professionalism, and lived experience the demand for our services is also growing.

Programs such as; Peer Recovery Coaching, Parents in Recovery Program, volunteer programs, support groups, health and wellness offerings. Increased funding means we will meet the needs of those we serve by making our recovery centers available for support groups, resource navigation, access to a safe and supportive environment and most importantly HOPE.

Last weekend I opened the center from 12pm to 4pm and I had two guests at our door at 12pm. One guest shared with me that she was so grateful for the center to be open because it was 4 hours where she didn't have to be alone, or be presented with any temptations to use. We talked, colored, and the highlight of my day was hearing her laugh, belly laugh. I've thought about that sound all week.

Ever changing landscape of substances and their potency (more addictive) requires additional time and resources to stay current with relevant services and treat to everyone staff to stay about

- Please we ask for your support to increase funding for Vermont's recovery centers by \$1.6million
- Recovery Centers received a lot of support in the House and it was suggested that this funding could come from Department of Health prevention funds. We are not recommending that strongly, we are just offering it as a suggestion.
- I want to thank you for your time, attention and consideration today.

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