

RPV DSU Prevention  
February 11, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today. My name is Jon Hoyt. I'm a person in long-term recovery and the Program Lead of our Justice Involved Programs of Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield.

I'm here to ask for your support of VDH's recommendation to appropriate \$1.25 million in FY27 opioid abatement funds to continue the successful Peer Recovery Coaching Program within our correctional facilities in your budget memo to appropriations.

Your support has made significant impact in the lives of the men we serve, as we walk with them in their recovery journey. I'm 23 years sober. I know from experience what's it's like to navigate early recovery.

Started in 2023 at Southern State Correctional Facility, we've expanded services from a few group offerings a couple of days a week to coaching 5 days a week, by 3 coaches. In the last quarter alone, we had 441 interactions, between 1:1 coaching and group offerings.

The men we serve report beginning to see the power of choice around their behavior, a significant change for those of us who felt like victims of the world.

Men like D, who started with Coaching in the prison, were released with few tangible resources and many barriers. Through hard work and determination and continuing with recovery coaching, he has stable employment, safe housing and a strong foundation for his recovery. He even worked to renew a connection with his adult children to whom he was estranged. 'my life would look very different if I hadn't met you in jail.'

And, men like S. despite a long incarceration allowed us to become a part of his life & recovery, whose involvement with recovery coaching at SSCF and through reentry services has navigated and celebrated a 'year clean' and a positive mindset. He stated 'you guys have always been there when I needed you. And, I make different choices today about how I react.'

Men like C who's engaged with us since the beginning of the program, is now a peer in recovery to other incarcerated men who others look to to model behavior and navigate their own recovery journey.

And to SSCF staff, who report seeing the same men returning less often. SSCF staff support is tremendous- what we do is because of them, and DOC and approved funding.

We work with folks across the justice system, encompassing a broad system of care. We get to meet folks before, during, and after, without judgment, with support. We have the opportunity to walk alongside people as they rebuild their lives, reconnect with family, be parents, brothers, sisters, husbands, and wives. With integrity and hope.

Please support the VDH recommendation to appropriate 1.25 million an FYI 27 opioid abatement funds to continue the successful peer recovery coaching program within our correctional facilities. This is a joint request from RPV and DOC. It reflects our values, accountability, and belief in people's capacity to change.

Thank you for your time and your commitment.