

Annual Lisa Mojer-Torres Recovery Advocacy Award

This Award was developed and presented for the first time in April 2011 through partnership between the Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery and Maine Recovery Communities Coalition. We believe it is vital to uphold and celebrate the new recovery advocacy movement and the pioneers who are part of the groundswell. Recovery advocacy is the central ingredient necessary to lead the charge in creating treatment and recovery support services that center on recovery and that provide the larger networks called Recovery Oriented Systems of Care. Without these leaders and those who are growing into these leadership roles, system transformation cannot occur.

Recovery advocates are also needed to serve as the visible faces and voices of recovery demonstrating that recovery is a living reality within Maine communities. Their presence reflects that hope and healing from alcohol and drug addiction is possible, which increases public understanding and reduces stigma and discrimination faced by people in recovery.

We are heartened by the power of the growing movement within our state and by the fact that more individuals are joining our ranks every year. It is time to uphold and recognize the courage and commitment of these advocates and to celebrate the work that is being accomplished through recovery advocacy.

This award will be presented each year to a Maine Recovery Advocate who works to reduce the stigma related to alcohol and drug addiction recovery; and who actively supports the development of a statewide recovery movement that includes all recovery pathways.

Advocates who are nominated must:

Work to reduce the stigma related to alcohol and drug addiction recovery

Work to promote development of an inclusive recovery community

Be in recovery themselves or be a recovery ally

Be engaged in specific recovery support efforts: for example by educating about recovery and /or advocating on behalf of recovering people; promoting concepts related to 'many pathways of recovery'; involvement in peer recovery models and initiatives

Be collaborators who are engaged in community partnerships to facilitate change

Contribute to these pioneering efforts through a variety of means

Be willing to be a public face for recovery advocacy by accepting this award if selected

This award was named after **Lisa Mojer-Torres, JD** who was a civil rights attorney and the Consumer and Recovery Advocate for the State of New Jersey. Lisa was also the leading national representative / advocate for people in medication assisted recovery, teaching that

medications are an underused tool with which to combat active addiction. Her efforts challenged the national recovery advocacy movement to widen its doorways to include medication assisted recovery as a viable pathway. Lisa's work with us in Maine served as a catalyst for us to bring together providers and recovering people from traditional pathways and from medication assisted pathways to build inclusive recovery networks. Her bravery in sharing her story opened hearts and minds, changing attitudes and inspiring hope. We are grateful for the work she has helped us begin in our state and for serving as a role model for recovery advocacy. We are proud to uphold her work and carry on her legacy through this yearly award presentation.



1st Annual Recovery Advocacy Award Winner, April 2011

PETER WOHL

Peter Wohl is a steadfast leader in many areas of his life. A committed advocate in promoting recovery, Peter teamed with Deb Dettor to create the Maine Recovery Communities Coalition in December 2007. This group has served as the catalyst to advance development of recovery-focused treatment and support services in our state. He has helped facilitate a strong recovery community within this Coalition that strengthens its efforts in creating an inclusive statewide recovery network.

Peter was featured in a Faces of Recovery video sharing his personal recovery story that was available on Time Warner Cable on-demand, and he has spoken at MAAR Recovery Month events over the past several years. Peter is a facilitator for the weekly All Recovery Support Meetings in Augusta and was one of the planners who created this new recovery support forum. He has volunteered many hours to support MAAR activities as well as other statewide recovery community groups. Peter is a skilled trainer who has presented on a multitude of recovery-specific topics with both professional and recovering groups. He has continued to explore recovery support initiatives and to serve as an outspoken proponent to develop these models and to outline their benefits in facilitating long-term recovery. Peter continues to lean into this recovery advocacy role with contagious humor, devotion and wisdom, inspiring others with his commitment.

Although Peter was awarded this recognition based on his efforts in the recovery community, as a licensed treatment provider Peter supervises staff providing addiction treatment services and also serves as a counselor at Crisis and Counseling. In his work setting, he has created bridges between that treatment setting and community based recovery supports that help people sustain their recovery efforts. In addition, Peter recently opened a private practice in Hallowell called Innovations in Recovery.

We are pleased to award Peter this 1st Annual Lisa Mojer-Torres Recovery Advocacy Award. We thank Peter for his steadfast and courageous service and are honored to work alongside him.