

Maine Recovery Communities Coalition

Members of this Coalition are people in addiction recovery, treatment and prevention providers, and community members. We began in December 2007, as a catalyst for Recovery Oriented System of Care development in Maine. We have been learning about peer recovery support programs operating in other states, as well as the national recovery advocacy efforts and recovery-focused research & literature. In addition to this, we review the current treatment & service delivery systems in Maine to identify what is missing in our state. This group relies on the leadership and feedback from recovering people to understand what is needed to support recovery achievement & maintenance; and works strategically toward implementation of these recovery support programs in Maine communities.

We were proud to host a day-long Recovery Forum on October 3, 2008 titled:

A New Beginning to Support Addiction Recovery within our Communities: Drums along the Kennebec

We were delighted that Phil Valentine, Executive Director of CCAR, was our keynote speaker, and that he joined us during afternoon break-out discussion groups. This Connecticut Recovery Community Organization that Phil heads up is the national leader in the development of peer recovery support projects, and statewide recovery advocacy. Connecticut's state service delivery system continues to be the national leader in development of a 'recovery-oriented system of care'. We continue to learn much from the success of their initiatives. This Forum brought together community members to learn about CCAR's pioneering efforts and to consider peer support elements that would strengthen recovery in Maine communities. The Coalition left this event with strategic planning steps that have since been implemented.

One initiative is the piloting of weekly **All-Recovery Support Meetings** that began in May 2010 in both Portland and Augusta. This new format is a one hour meeting in which participants share about recovery topics; anyone struggling with addiction is welcomed and encouraged to attend. All-Recovery Support Meetings serve as additional community forums that help people maintain recovery in their daily lives.

Maine Recovery Communities Coalition supports the diverse recovery pathways taken by individuals and families and works on behalf of all recovering people. We welcome new members to our monthly Coalition meetings in Augusta and have telephone call-in available for these. Call MAAR for more information at (207)621-8118.

