

Statewide Recovery Community Organization

As a result of Phillip Valentines' presentations at the 2012 ICADD Conference, a group of participants came together to begin developing a Statewide Recovery Community Organization in Idaho. Recovery Community Organizations (RCO) has three core principles:

1) Recovery Vision: RCO focus on the reality of long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs for over 20 million Americans and their families. The members have a singular goal: enhancing the quantity and quality of support available to people seeking and experiencing long term recovery from addiction.

The focus is on the solution that involves mobilizing individual and community resources to promote recovery, not a particular service or model of care. One of the founding principles is to embrace all pathways to recovery.

2) Authenticity of Voice: RCO represents the interests of communities of recovery. A guiding principle is self-governance, mutual aid and support. RCO are developed to serve communities, with leadership by and for community members. By developing and nurturing strong grassroots networks, RCO develop leaders, offer opportunities for people to make their voices heard, and provide a forum for community service. Vibrant RCO insure that the voices of people who have the lived experience of recovery, including family members, are heard and embraced and that the RCO's public education, advocacy, and recovery support services respond to the broadest spectrum of local recovery needs.

3) Accountability to the Recovery Community: RCOs' credibility and effectiveness depends on their ability to be accountable and responsive to the community they work in and with. RCO provide an organized way for people to give back to their communities through volunteer and paid services to others seeking recovery and work with allied organizations by offering recovery support services, advocating on common public policy agendas, and broadening public understanding of the reality of recovery while remaining accountable to the recovery community.

Adapted from **Recovery Community Organization Toolkit**: Faces and Voices of Recovery, www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org

Please plan to attend the Statewide Tele-Conference at Regional IDHW Offices, Tuesday, September 25, 2012 from 2:00 to 3:00 MDT and 1:00 to 2:00 PDT.

For more information, contact Melanie Curtis via email at mcurtis@shipinc.org.