



# Recovery Roundup | September 2025

Promoting wellness for all who are affected  
by Substance & Alcohol Use Disorders

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## Putting the *P* in Professional: Celebrating Our Recovery Leaders!



a message from

*Suzie Walker*



*The language providers use to describe individuals they work with matters. Language not only describes our reality, but also designs it. In our daily lives as well as in our professional roles, our word choices alter moods, self-perception, cognitive processing and affects our physical and mental well-being. [[W]]ords can be harmful, or healing and we need to pay attention to what we say.*

—Kathryn Hyams, Natalie Prater, Julie Rohovit, Piper Meyer-Kalos,  
Center for Practice Transformation

*Person-first language is a strength-based approach that is core to peer-recovery work—and many other forms of one-on-one support for people living with physical or mental health conditions, transitioning back to the community after incarceration, seeking stable housing and safe food, and more. The opposite is a deficits-based system—and words like addict, drunk, jailbird—that opens the door to bias, discrimination, and stigma. Respecting a person's strength, dignity, worth, and unique qualities helps convey hope, empowering them to seek support and adopt the new lifestyle choices that lead to wellness, stability, purpose, and fulfillment. Our world is complex, and treating people with human dignity helps them feel seen and heard. When our words and actions put people first, role models and hope attract others to follow.*

*Vermont's professional peer-recovery specialists understand that person-first language shifts the focus from defining a person by their condition to recognizing them as a whole human being. Peers are people who have lived experience with substance use, family separation, incarceration, justice involvement, and more. They have often been harmed by stigmatizing language and practices on their recovery journey. Recovery peers share their lived experience in a way that connects them with others seeking a new way of life. Peer-recovery roles have become increasingly specialized, requiring a balance of lived experience and professional training.*

*Professionalism in recovery is as important as lived experience. As Vermont's recovery system has evolved, peer recovery centers and certified recovery residences have become essential resources in our communities. Our world has become more complex, with friends and neighbors struggling with increasing barriers. Peers with lived experience are core to providing and sustaining services to meet community needs. Recovery peers venture from centers and residences to offer support in emergency departments, community-policing programs, correctional facilities, probation departments, schools and colleges, and more!*

[Continuing Reading....](#)

[Continue Reading](#)

# National Recovery Month

By: Liza Ryan, LICSW, CRC



*September is National Recovery Month, a time to honor the power of recovery, uplift the voices of those who live it every day, and recognize the essential work you do in helping others find healing.*

*As peer recovery workers, and frontline staff, your role in the recovery journey of others cannot be measured. We all walk alongside people through some of their most vulnerable moments, offering empathy, hope, and lived experience. In doing so, you're not only supporting individuals, their families and communities—you're helping to change the culture of how everyone understands addiction and recovery.*

*This month, we celebrate you all! And remind you: your wellness matters, too.*

*Continue reading.....*

*\*\*As a reminder for all members of Recovery Partners of Vermont, the EAP services are free and have immediate openings for individual 1:1 therapy where brief reprocessing utilizing EMDR can be done!*

[Continue Reading Liza's Column](#)

Conference & Dinner registration is closing early this year on October 10 at 5PM!

# 4th Annual Recovery is the Answer!

Peer Support is the Way Conference

October  
21-22,  
2025

## 3rd Annual Recovery Stars

Benefit Dinner & Auction



Killington Grand Hotel | Killington, VT

### Keynote Speaker



Wendy Jones  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Alliance of  
Recovery Community  
Organizations

### Lifetime Achievement Award



Michael Johnson  
Asst. Chief Executive Officer  
Turning Point Recovery  
Center of Springfield, VT

### Mark Heljas Recovery Pioneer Award



Margae Diamond  
Executive Director  
Turning Point Center of  
Bennington, VT

### Recovery Stars Award



Astrid Bradish-Hoyt  
Chief Executive Officer  
Turning Point Recovery  
Center of Springfield, VT

Thank you to ALL our Sponsors! Registration  
Closes October  
10 at 5PM!

### Lead Sponsors



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Elizabeth Skarie  
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## Member Staff Achievements

**Vermont Foundation of Recovery** - Celebrating a Milestone - Please join us in congratulating *Stephanie Holland* on her one-year anniversary as House Coordinator at The Squire House, VFOR's Bennington Recovery Residence!

**Turning Point Recovery Center of Rutland** - is excited to announce that *Jenn Loso* has been promoted to Assistant Director! Please join us in congratulating her!

Recovery Coaches are stepping into a new phase, join us in celebrating our member's staff who are now **Licensed Peer Recovery Support Specialist!**

- **Turning Point Center of Chittenden County** - Emily Korkosz and Olivia Watson
- **Journey to Recovery Community Center** - Lila Bennett and Melissa Mosley
- **Turning Point Center of Central VT** - Rosemary Rosa

## Career Opportunities

**Vermont Foundation of Recovery** - House Coordinator  
Supporting Essex Men's Recovery Home, House Coordinator  
Supporting St. Albans Men's Recovery Home, House Coordinator  
Supporting Barre Women & Women with Children Home, learn more about these positions [here](#).

**Turning Point of Windham County** - Operations & Development Manager, learn how to apply [here](#).

## CEU Approved Professional Development



Health Education & Training Institut

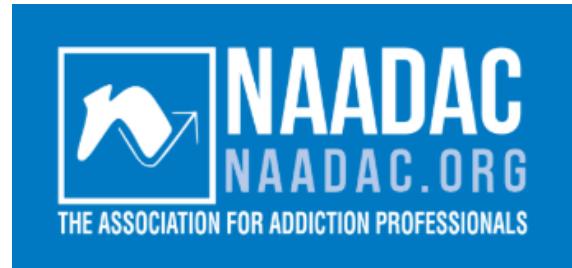
### HETI Ethics, Law & Substance Use

Ethical decisions are often complex and multifaceted, as well as lacking simple solutions. There are many 'gray areas' that demand both reflection and the use of decision making skills. This class will provide you with the opportunity to evaluate boundaries when working with people, and to learn models of ethical decision making. We will explore exercises that help define and resolve ethical problems at work. We will also discuss the link between the quality of ethics and the quality of care.

[Learn How to Register](#)

### Foundational Motivational Interviewing

Realizing that attention spans are not the same on a screen as they are in person, we have adapted our trainings to allow for a highly interactive, effective learning to our current logistical circumstances. This training will consist of four three-hour sessions to learn the fundamental spirit, structure, and skills of Motivational Interviewing. Time will be given to practice and bring questions and issues that arise as you begin implementing Motivational Interviewing in your practice and life.



### The Peer Model: The Ethics in Efficacy

Statistics show that when peer services are delivered with adherence to the peer model and within recovery-oriented systems, they are highly effective for the participants and the systems employing them (SAMHSA). While the knowledge and experience brought into organizations and their systems by peers are extremely important, there are also great challenges as most of these systems operate in paradigms that differ greatly from the recovery-oriented environments peers are most effective in, leading to poor outcomes when appropriate support is lacking. We must ask: What are the ethical considerations in hiring, training, supervising, and retaining people with lived-living experience in existing organizations? This workshop provides ethically informed, policy-driven, equitable, and inclusive approaches that can be intentionally implemented within organizations of all kinds.

[Register Here](#)

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### Pronouns Explained: The What, How, and Why of Inclusive Language

This workshop offers a comprehensive introduction to the role of pronouns and honorifics in affirming transgender and nonbinary individuals in professional and community settings. Participants will engage in collaborative learning, explore culturally relevant terminology, and participate in open discussions to build a deeper understanding of pronouns as a part of inclusion and respect.

[Register Here](#)

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# CCAR TRAINING

Full Training Schedule

## Member Events & Triumphs



### *Exciting News from TPCAC!*

We've officially begun renovations at our home at 79 Court Street in Middlebury, VT! While we transform the space to better serve our community, **we've temporarily relocated to:**

**1590 Route 7 South, Suite 3, Middlebury, VT**

Our services and support continue uninterrupted—we're just in a new spot for now! Thank you for your patience and ongoing encouragement as we take this next step forward. We can't wait to welcome you back to our refreshed space soon!



Join us for a

# Community Conversation



## **Topic of Discussion:**

### **Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield, VT**

Who are we? What do we do? What programs/services do we offer? How can you get involved?

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Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

1:00 PM

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**Springfield Town Library**  
43 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156

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**Questions? (802) 885-4668**

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# Recovery Boards

A **free** woodworking class for individuals in active recovery.

Taught by **Tom Bodett**, founder of HatchSpace and in long-term recovery himself. Offered in collaboration with **Turning Point**.

Join us for a fun and rewarding class taught in a supportive environment, and make several finished cutting boards.



**Tues. Sept 16 - Tues. Oct 28**  
**5:30pm - 8:00pm**

Meets every Tuesday night for seven weeks in downtown Brattleboro.

**Learn more & apply to join:**



**JKAdams**

**[hatchspace.org/recoveryboards](http://hatchspace.org/recoveryboards)**

 HatchSpace, 22 High Street, Third Floor, Brattleboro Vermont 802-490-5244

**ONE**  
man.

**ONE**  
motorcycle.



## RIDING FOR RECOVERY

A MOTOCYCLE ODYSSEY

**On a mission  
to raise  
awareness**

**for addiction  
and funds  
for recovery.**



[Learn More](#)

## Other Professional Development



### Strengthening Board Leadership for Organizational Resiliency

In an era of rapid changes and uncertainty, how should board members respond? What's the board's role prioritizing and realigning programs, building strategic partnerships, and re-thinking your organization's revenue model? How can the board help to ensure success and sustainability?

Register [HERE](#).

## Operational Security for Nonprofits

Growing uncertainty has many nonprofits now asking themselves about digital privacy and security. Should we be taking extra precautions online? This question can feel overwhelming, especially to small organizations without a dedicated IT department.

This webinar is intended as an introduction to “operational security.” It will cover the first steps individuals and nonprofits can take to enhance the privacy and security of their daily digital presence. We’ll cover ways to improve the physical security of devices, options for encrypted communication, and tools to enhance privacy. It will also introduce the concepts of “threat modeling” and “risk management,” or how to best prioritize what steps to take first.

Register [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

## What Nonprofits Need to Know About the Current Federal Grant Landscape

Many nonprofits are struggling to understand how to best navigate recent changes to federal grants. New executive orders, agency memoranda, and grant agreements have caused confusion and concern from nonprofits that regularly partner with the federal government to provide essential services in their communities.

Register for a free national webinar hosted by the National Council of Nonprofits on what nonprofits need to consider as they plan for future federal grants – from what to think about in the application process, how to navigate new grant certifications, and how to plan for new processes.

Register [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

## Resources



## Let's Talk About Opioids: For far too many in Essex, this issue is personal

ESSEX JUNCTION — Yesterday evening, the Town of Essex hosted a free event to discuss the opioid crisis and inform folks of existing dangers and resources.

The event at Essex High School offered a community barbecue dinner for attendees in the first hour of the event, while they browsed various

tables from local organizations and chatted with area service providers like EMTs and social workers. Later, a panel discussion, naloxone demonstration and a Q&A forum on opioid misuse prevention took place in the auditorium.

[Read More](#)

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### [Vermont towns try new model to tackle overlapping issues of crime, addiction and homelessness](#)

Eight municipalities in Vermont have adopted "situation tables" - regular meetings of law enforcement and social services agencies that are meant to coordinate responses to intertwined social challenges, like poverty and addiction, that can sometimes lead to crime.

[Read More](#)

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### [Data and Reports](#)

The Vermont 2025 Social Autopsy Report is available.

#### **Key points:**

Of the 491 Vermonters who died of an overdose in 2022 and 2023:

- Fentanyl was the most frequently involved drug (84% in 2022 and 85% in 2023).
- More than a third (35%) did not have a potential bystander present at the time of overdose
- Nearly one in five people (18-19%) had not been seen or heard from for two or more days before their overdose



### The War on Drugs, Racism, and the Rise of Mass Incarceration

This article explores the driving force behind mass incarceration in the United States and its disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.

[Read More](#)

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## JAMA® | JAMA Network®

### More Than Half of US Overdose Deaths Now Involve Stimulants

Overdose deaths involving stimulants—particularly cocaine and methamphetamine—have increased in the US since 2011, accounting for 59% of the nearly 309 300 reported deaths from January 2021 to June 2024. About 1 in 4 overdose deaths involved the simultaneous use of stimulants and opioids.

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data indicate that 73% of stimulant-related overdose deaths also involved opioids. People who died from stimulant use alone were older and more likely to have had a history of cardiovascular disease compared with people who died from combined use, the CDC stated.

Combined use of stimulants and opioids heightens overdose risk, and medications used to reverse opioid overdose do not counteract stimulant effects, such as cardiovascular complications, impaired thermoregulation, and emotional distress. The CDC said the findings highlight a need for improved treatments for stimulant use disorder, including consideration for co-occurring substance use disorders.

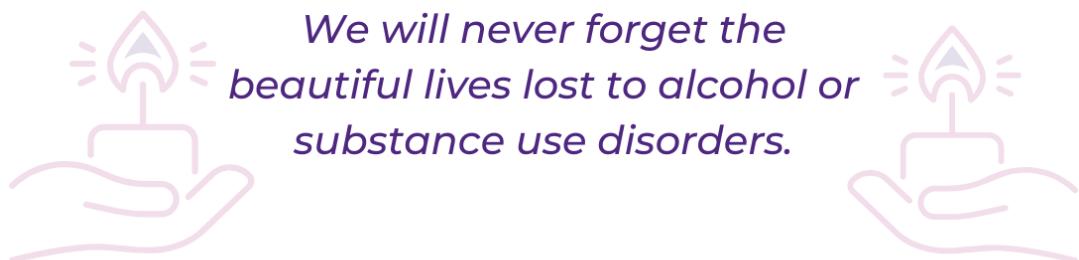
[Read More](#)

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Thank you, Senator Rocket &  
EAT Vermont!



## Have you visited our Memory Wall?



*We will never forget the  
beautiful lives lost to alcohol or  
substance use disorders.*

When you donate to Recovery Partners of Vermont, you help us support Vermonters working tirelessly with those affected by an alcohol or substance use disorder such as...

- Advocating Healthcare & Wages
- Training Board Development
- Fundraising Conference
- Wellness Employee Assistance Program
- Increasing access to Recovery Services for all Vermonters!

*Give for  
Recovery!*



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