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One Year In: Steady Work, Shared Hope



a message from
Suzie Walker



When I look back on my first year as Executive Director of Recovery Partners of Vermont, the word that keeps coming to mind is steadiness.

This year has been marked by uncertainty far beyond our borders nationally, federally, and culturally. Many of us are carrying concerns about what lies ahead, for both the people we serve and the systems that support recovery work. Our communities are facing housing shortages, harms of addiction, and safety issues, and our friends and neighbors have lost, or risk losing, healthcare, nutritional support, or other vital aid. And yet, here in Vermont, something steady and enduring continues to unfold.

Recovery.

This past year, I have had the privilege of witnessing the strength of our recovery community up close. Our member organizations have shown up day after day, with compassion, creativity, and determination to support people through crises, celebrate milestones, and hold space for healing, even when the broader landscape feels daunting. Our members provide lifesaving services despite funding challenges and the loss of other essential community programs. They come together to create innovative solutions and collaborate with valued partners to fill in service gaps so no one falls behind.

One moment that stands out for me this year is seeing several of our member organizations take the significant step of becoming certified recovery organizations. Certification is not an easy process. It requires reflection, accountability, and a deep commitment to best practices rooted in lived experience. Watching organizations lean into that work because they want to strengthen the quality, integrity, and sustainability of recovery support has been deeply affirming. It is a powerful reminder that recovery is not static. It is always growing, learning, and evolving.

Recovery residence leaders continued to open new residences where people can gain stability in their recovery process as they adjust to a new lifestyle, finding employment and community connections that help them preserve the wellness and purpose they fought so hard to gain. Communities that are home to both recovery centers and recovery residences create spaces where transformation can happen and take root, and people who embrace the process of healing can contribute to their community in myriad meaningful ways.

Continuing Reading....

[Continue Reading](#)

Community & Connection

By: Liza Ryan, LICSW, CRC



Recovery from substance use disorder is not a journey meant to be taken alone. We know that healing is built on community and connection. This means the shared understanding, mutual support, and sense of belonging that help people us all move from isolation toward hope. For employees, individuals and families affected by substance use, peer support and recovery housing play a vital role in building and fostering these connections.

Recovery coaches and Peer support specialists bring empathy that cannot be taught, they have “been there” and understand the challenges of recovery firsthand. There is so much power behind this shared lived experience and it builds trust, reduces stigma, and reminds individuals that recovery is possible. Through 1:1 support and coaching sessions, group meetings, and everyday conversations, peers help each other navigate setbacks, celebrate progress, and stay connected to their goals.

Continue reading.....

[Continue Reading Liza's Column](#)

Member Staff Achievements

Turning Point Center of Rutland - We're excited to announce Tim Farr is now a Peer Recovery Support Specialist and working toward certification!

Turning Point Center of Central VT - We're proud to announce we are now a Certified Recovery Service Organization! Mallory Richardson, Katie Jones and Fran Spaulding have earned their Peer Recovery Support Specialist's license and are working toward certification!

Upper Valley Turning Point - Congratulations Karl Coleman on 7 years of recovery!

Recovery Coaches are stepping into a new phase, join us in celebrating their certifications!

- Turning Point Center of Central VT - Moriah Haggett and Kristen Moro
- Turning Point Recovery Center of Bennington - Sam Urbon and Laurie Jesseman
- North Central VT Recovery Center - Liza Ryan
- Turning Point of Windham County - Nanci Bern

Career Opportunities

Vermont Foundation of Recovery - Peer Support & Recovery House Coordinator and Member Coordinator, learn more about these positions [here](#).

Turning Point Center of Central VT - Recovery Coach, learn how to apply [here](#).

Member Events & Triumphs



Upper Valley Turning Point

In this photo are **20 adult women** with a total of **129 years and 10 months** in successful recovery from substance use disorder. (More were present but not in the photo)

- 4 current residents with a total of 2 years and 9 months in recovery.
- 7 former residents with 35 years and 1 month in recovery

- 9 supporters with 92 years in recovery
- 8 children having a great time with their parents in recovery!

Together we can!

△ District 10 presents

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve **ALCATHON 2025**

December 24th & December 31st

Meetings: 7 PM, 9 PM & 11 PM

Potluck Dinner: 6 PM (Both nights)

● Bring a dish to share!

Dec. 24th & 31st, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Turning Point Recovery Center

7 Morgan Street,

Springfield, VT 05156



Questions? Max (917) 480-6137



Sober NYE Party Resolution Revolution



Together we'll ring in the New Year with a focus on embracing what we love about ourselves, instead of changing ourselves.

You are already perfect the way you are!

Bring your tastiest dish to share!

Get your top 5 songs ready to play!

Bring along your favorite board game!

Grab your dancing shoes and have some good sober fun!

Wednesday, December 31
6-830PM

TURNING POINT
RECOVERY CENTER of BENNINGTON, VT

601 Main Street
802.442.9700



Holiday

Dinner



Thursday
December 25
1:00-3:00 pm

UPPER VALLEY TURNING POINT
200 Olcott Drive White River Jct., 802-295-5206



Casseroles, salads, and side dishes are appreciated.

And we are very grateful to ROSE  who has offered to help organize this special event for those who want to be together on the holiday.

Thank you Rose and all those who help out.



Turning Point Center
OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY

JOIN US FOR A **HOLIDAY MEAL**

DECEMBER 25

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Celebrate the gift of recovery over a
delicious meal in a safe and sober
environment.

Location: Turning Point Center of Chittenden County
179 S. Winooski Ave, Burlington

THANK YOU SUGARSNAP CATERING
FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!

Sugarsnap
farm to table fresh since 2003





Professional Development

Vermont Association for
Mental Health &
Addiction Recovery

Trainings - VAMHAR

The Recovery Coach Learning Paths offered through CLI-VT have been officially approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by the Vermont Recovery Education Committee (VREC).

[Learn How to Register](#)



Teen Substance Use Webinar: A Developmentally-Matched Approach for Treatment, Services, and Support

with Mitchell Barron, LICSW, LADC

Most individuals accessing Vermont's substance use treatment and recovery services identify their teen years as a time when problematic substance use first began. This webinar will address novel considerations for treatment and support at this state of development. A focus on the functional significance of substance use in the lives of teens and young adults is the foundation for developmentally-matched services that are meaningful, relevant, and relationally-corrective. The workshop will also address collaboration and support for parents, families, and other caregivers, as well as active engagement with the systems and social drivers that both nurture and compromise a young person's health and well-being.

This course has been **pre-approved** for **1.5 CEUs** by the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation for the following professions:

- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors
- Allied Mental Health Practitioners
- Social Work

Register Now!



Wednesday, January 14, 2026

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

<https://cvent.me/mWDYnX>



Winter Roots: The Way We Work

Nonprofits have been stretched thin for too long. When capacity feels scarce, genuine learning and connection are often the first things to go. Winter Roots is a three-month virtual learning experience for nonprofit staff, board members, and volunteers who want to reimagine how we work, lead, and care together. Every Tuesday from mid-January through the end of March, we'll gather as a community to explore how we can work with more intention, inclusion, and depth.

Register [HERE](#).



CAREERS OF SUBSTANCE

Facilitating Recovery: Integrating Recovery Principles in Groups to Enhance Learning

Bringing a recovery-oriented approach to group facilitation fosters a group culture where the guiding principles of recovery actively support participants in

developing key recovery skills. This eight-hour, two-day training is designed for both new and experienced group leaders, providing an opportunity to explore the connection between recovery principles and group facilitation. Attendees will gain new skills to enhance client growth and strengthen recovery-focused learning within a group setting. Using SAMHSA's Ten Guiding Principles of Recovery, this session introduces a framework that aligns recovery values with core group facilitation concepts.

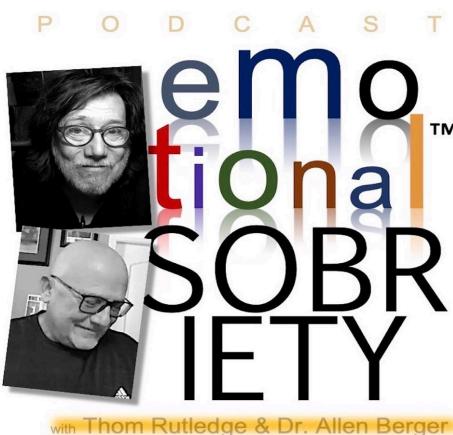
[Register Here](#)

Responding to Racism from Clients

This advanced training provides response and reporting protocols and tools to respectfully respond to clients who express racism at staff, and strategies for effectively supporting staff who've been harmed. Through exercises, role plays and using Human In Common's communication templates, participants develop skills to respond to racism from clients.

[Register Here](#)

Resources



"You're the One You've Been Waiting For" with Melanie Gulde

Melanie Gulde returns to the podcast to talk with Allen and Thom about the progress and promise of Divided Sky in Vermont, which isn't a rehab but a residential recovery retreat, reasonably priced. She discusses meeting Phish's Trey Anastasio, who worked with her in recovery to form the center's curriculum, which lists "Emotional Sobriety 101" as a foundational text.

[Listen In](#)

Recovery Residence Outcomes for State Fiscal Year 2025

October 2025

The Vermont Department of Health provides grants to six recovery residence organizations that manage a total of 118 beds. Ahead of state fiscal year 2025 (FY25), the Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU) developed a new data collection tool with input from Department-funded organizations. This report summarizes data received from Department-funded organizations in FY25, which is from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact AHS.VDHDSU@vermont.gov.

Department-funded recovery residence organizations include:

- Good Samaritan Haven
- Jenna's Promise
- Second Wind
- Shires Housing
- Springfield Supported Housing
- Vermont Foundation of Recovery

FY25 Data Collection

DSU worked directly with Department-funded organizations to coordinate quarterly data collection that balances state priorities and administrative burden on the organization. The information collected in FY25 shows program outcomes, changes between intake and departure and provides information about the types of services people received during their stay at a recovery residence. The following FY25 data is included in this report:

Numbers Served in FY25



- [Number of People Who Received Recovery Residence Service](#)
- [Number of Departures](#)
- [Demographics of People Who Left a Recovery Residence](#)
 - [Age and Self-Reported Gender](#)
 - [Primary Substance of Use](#)
 - [Number of Children Housed at the Recovery Residence](#)
 - [Justice Involvement](#)
 - [Referral Source](#)

Client Outcomes in FY25



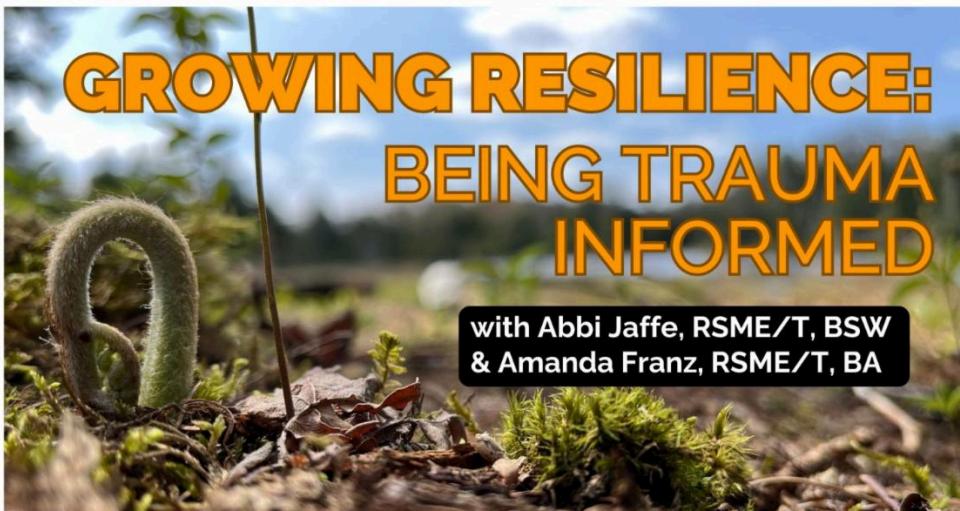
- [Length of Stay \(LOS\)](#)
- [Departure Reason](#)
- [Employment Status](#)
- [Housing Type at Departure](#)
- [Connections to Employment, Recovery, Clinical, Social Supports](#)



HealthVermont.gov
802-863-7200



[Read Report](#)



GROWING RESILIENCE: BEING TRAUMA INFORMED

with Abbi Jaffe, RSME/T, BSW
& Amanda Franz, RSME/T, BA

13
Weeks

Saturdays
10:30 am-
2pm

Feb 7-
May 9,
2026

DEADLINE
to register:
January 13,
2026



Get support in creating trauma-informed spaces and private practices.

OUR EMBODIED CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

- Somatic skills for growing resilience
- Applied physiology of the nervous system
- Intersectional analysis of personal and systemic power
- Personal embodiment practice
- Creation of your own trauma-informed principles

45 hours
of training and support

Eligible for VSAC Advancement
Grants & Sliding Scale &
5 BIPOC
Pay What You Wish Spots

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unleashing the body's intelligence to co-create a more resilient world

15 State St, 3rd floor, Montpelier, VT (unceded homeland of the Abenaki People)
theeverythingspace@gmail.com | theeverythingspace.com



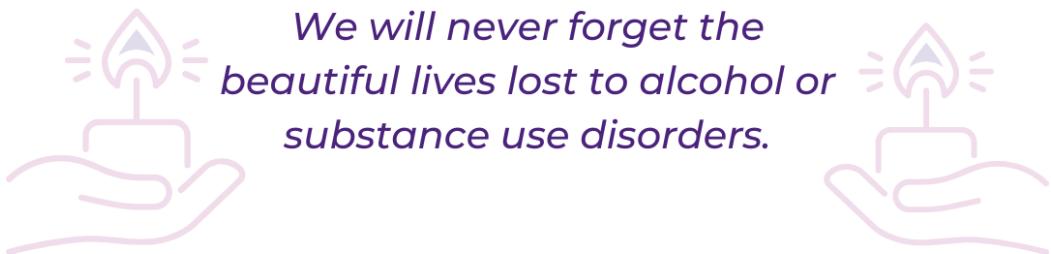
Successful follow-up with a peer-based intervention associated with reduced overdose

Peer interventions after an opioid overdose may help reduce subsequent overdose. In this study, patients with higher risk substance use behaviors were

more likely to consent to follow-up peer services, but less likely to actually receive them. Results suggest these high-risk patients may face barriers to engaging with peer services after an overdose.

[Read More](#)

Have you visited our Memory Wall?



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



[Give for Recovery!](#)



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Vermont Narcan Distributor

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