



Recovery Roundup | April 2026

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



Recovery Partners
of Vermont

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Recovery Is All About Second Chances!



a message from

Suzie Walker



*I needed a home, and you rented to me.
I needed to support my family, and you hired me.
I needed a ride to work, and you picked me up.
I needed a church family, and you welcomed me.
I needed a second chance, and you believed in me.*

— Prison Fellowship website
Prison Fellowship, 1976 to 2026

Some days, I need second chances, and some days, I need reasons to be cheerful. When I go looking, I always find plenty!

New Beginnings

The article 'Formerly Incarcerated Mentors Are Changing Lives in California' on the Reasons to be Cheerful website tells the story of Allen Burnett, who found his purpose in prison after entering California's prison system as a teenager due to his part in a fatal carjacking. He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole and believed he would die behind bars. Instead, he earned a college degree with honors through an in-prison education program and mentorship with other prisoners. The parole board determined that he was no longer a threat to society in 2019.

Today, the article says, "Burnett is the co-founder and executive director of Prism Way, a Los Angeles nonprofit that trains formerly incarcerated people to become peer support specialists—mentors who help others navigate trauma, addiction, and life after prison. The work draws directly on the peer-counseling culture Burnett experienced during his own incarceration."

The mission is clear: turn lived experience into healing.

Vermont knows about the power of lived experience. Our recovery coaches carry hope into prisons and parole offices to share their experience. The coaches who support incarcerated or formerly incarcerated Vermonters have lived with the devastation of substances and incarceration, and found purpose and healing. Vermont's correctional system also has an in-house program, Open Ears Inmate-Coaching, which trains select inmates to serve as peer coaches for others in prison. Those who have walked the road can show the way to healing no matter where they are.

Continuing Reading....

Continue Reading

Conference 2026 Awards Nominations Are Open!

- **NEW - The Rising Phoenix Award**
 - *This award honors a RPV Member Staff who models a healthy life in recovery by leading with authenticity, resilience, and a deep dedication to uplifting others.*
- **Mark Helijas Recovery Pioneer Award**
 - *This award honors an individual who has created an innovative way to provide services and support to people with a substance or alcohol use disorder and their families.*



Recovery Partners
of Vermont

Who Will You Nominate?

Member Events & Triumphs



Turning Point Center of Rutland has launched the premier of a Film Project they've been working on - check it out!

JENNA'S JAM

Chad Hollister Band

The Owl Stars

May 30, 2026

5 - 8 PM
Tickets \$30

Jenna's House
117 St Johns Rd, Johnson



2026
Atwork by Tobias



Vt. man runs ultramarathons to honor late son, fund addiction recovery.

A Salisbury father who lost his son to a fentanyl overdose is turning grief into action, running ultramarathons to raise money for recovery programs in his son's memory.

[Read More](#)

Professional Development



Health Education & Training Institut

HETI Advanced Motivational Interviewing

This training is for learners who have completed the Foundational Motivational Interviewing and want to deepen their skills and understanding of Motivational Interviewing.

This highly experiential workshop will be focused on guiding participants through exercises that will drop them into experiences that ultimately evoke transformative learning. The goal is to have participants - whether they are trainers, educators, group leaders, clinicians, practitioners, or people trying to help others in the community - be even more bold in their caring work. The mind often blocks us from deepening our connections, but to evoke empathy, compassion, and collaboration, we must go beyond our fears, and engage with people through the heart.

[Learn How to Register](#)

Online June 8, 2026 through June 12, 2026

Recovery Coach Academy for Vermonters



Cost is waived for participants sponsored by Recovery Centers or other recovery service providers

Starting June 8, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM, this program runs Monday through Friday.

Sponsored by Fair Chance Alliance

CEU's meet Vermont Recovery Coaching Certification Board Requirement

Contact Mickey@fairchance-alliance.org for additional information

Register at <https://www.fairchance-alliance.org/recovery-coach-academy>



Caring for Clients, Yourself, and Each Other: Practical De-escalation & Communication Tools for Direct Service Staff

Join us for a practical, skills-focused limited series on de-escalation in critical conversations, designed to support direct service staff in safely navigating high-emotion, high-stakes interactions.

Session 1: De-escalation in Critical Conversations: Staying Safe in High-Emotion Situations

Register [HERE](#).

Board's Guide to Money 201

What do board members need to know and do to fulfill their fiduciary responsibility for overseeing an organization's budget? This two-part series is designed for board members seeking a strong foundation in nonprofit finance to better support their mission and financial oversight responsibilities.

Whether you are a first-time board member or a seasoned treasurer, this series provides practical guidance and clarity on how to focus on what matters most.

Register [HERE](#).

Basic Motivational Interviewing

an interactive live webinar experience with
Roberta Enright, MS, MA, Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) Certified Trainer

Part 1

Tuesday, May 12
9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Part 2

Friday, May 15
9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Motivational interviewing (MI) is a client-centered, evidence-based, goal-oriented method for enhancing intrinsic motivation to change by exploring and resolving ambivalence with the individual. This active, skill-building workshop provides participants with knowledge of the spirit and micro skills of the model, and provides opportunities to practice the approach. Participants will complete the workshop with a good understanding of MI and are encouraged to take the Intermediate and Advanced MI workshops to develop proficiency in this method.

[Register Here](#)



The New England School of Addiction and Prevention Studies, commonly called Summer School, is an intensive 5-day learning event to further knowledge, skills, and experience in the field of substance use disorder services. For over 55 years, participants from many disciplines have come together to form a unique, diverse learning community.

This year's program theme recognizes the addiction, prevention and recovery field's expertise and connections as we work together toward strong, resilient communities.

[Register Today](#)

Resources



Trauma Types

When a child feels intensely threatened by an event they are involved in or witnesses, we call that event a trauma. There is a range of traumatic events or trauma types to which children and adolescents can be exposed.

[Read More](#)

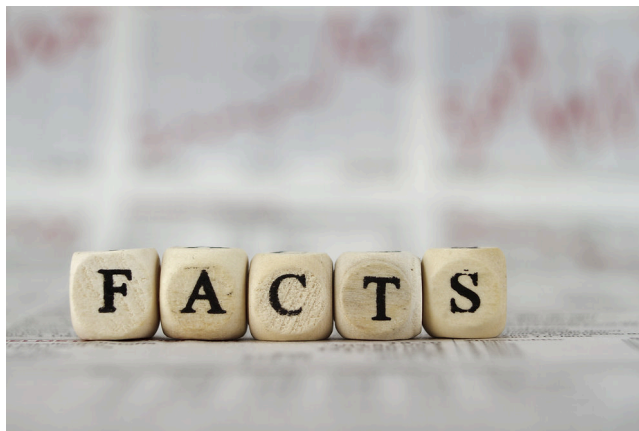


Elephant in the Room: Alcohol, Addiction and Recovery

Alcohol is deeply woven into American culture and its health risks often go unrecognized or minimized. Join us as we explore alcohol use disorder as a major public health issue impacting our region.

You'll hear from clinicians, public health experts, recovery professionals and a Vermonter who shares his lived experience on how alcohol affects individuals, families and communities across Vermont and northern New York.

Listen In



Alcohol Use Disorder & Health Impact

Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is a common but serious medical condition that affects millions of people in the United States. It can have wide-ranging effects on physical health, mental well-being, and overall quality of life.

Read More




America must not learn to live with 72,000 overdose deaths a year

In May 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that drug overdose deaths had fallen 27%, from roughly 110,000 in 2023 to about 80,000 in 2024. Provisional data through late 2025 projects a further drop to around 72,000.

As an addiction researcher at Stanford, and someone in long-term recovery, I felt the relief of that news personally. I also watched as my colleagues exhaled for the

first time in years.

[Read More](#)



**LEGAL
SERVICES
VERMONT**

You're invited to our inaugural
OPEN HOUSE!

DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026

TIME: Stop by anytime between 4-7:00pm

PLACE: Our office at 274 N Winooski Ave in Burlington

Learn what we do & why we do it!

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...



Give for Recovery!



You could save someone's life.

Find the nearest
Vermont Narcan Distributor

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