



**THIS IS WHO WE ARE.**



# **FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY**

**ADVOCATE. ACT. ADVANCE.**

# **The Future of the Recovery Movement**

20th Anniversary Recovery Leadership  
Summit

Focus Groups - Highlights

October 5th, 2021

**ADVOCATE. ACT. ADVANCE.**

# Question #1:

## What is your vision of building power in the recovery community?

### Messaging

- We envision the day when it's okay for everyone to share their story—especially in places of power and influence.
  - You can recover and it is possible and expected! Numbers grow as it becomes more “okay” to recover.
- We cannot deny the power of hope. Hope is catalyst of recovery. The more we can share a message of hope in recovery, the more difference we can make.
- A unified recovery message!
- Recovery is at the forefront of public health. End the silos.

# Question #1:

## What is your vision of building power in the recovery community?

### **Leadership Development**

- Cultivate new leaders! Look to those coming after us and support them with leadership development, mentorship, and inclusion of their voices now.
- Create a strategic framework for a network of people to organize around the country.

### **Inclusivity & Equity**

- More inclusive spaces with a focus on BIPOC, women, LGBTQIA+, and other historically marginalized communities.
- Harmony, collectivism, connection, communication.

# Question #1:

## What is your vision of building power in the recovery community?

### Systems Change

- Actively organizing and mobilizing while being unafraid of conflict and challenging systems.
- Building local infrastructure by connecting communities to then build a state infrastructure.
- Having an influence beyond our community that impacts other systems so they support recovery & have our interests in mind.
- More people in recovery inside of medical settings, criminal system, helping with advocacy and change from within those systems.



# Question #1:

## What is your vision of building power in the recovery community?

### Recovery Support within Systems

- Issue of Mass Incarceration is addressed.
- Decriminalization of Substance Use and change the justice system. Treatment and recovery support, not jail.
- Include engagement of people who are in or who have been involved in various systems, including the child welfare system. Also include engagement with all entities that touch these systems (public defenders, judges, etc.).

# Question #2: What strategies are needed to build power, leadership and voice of the recovery community?

## Power

- Build our numbers by encouraging people to voice their recovery stories. Encourage and nurture growth within the recovery community giving individuals not only purpose but teaching them skills that will carry them forward.
- Learn about other pathways. Talk openly about all pathways to understand what they are. Celebrating all the pathways to teach more about them.
- Partnerships with the media, criminal justice, educational institutions, etc.
- Challenge current thinking, identify barriers and address them

# Question #2: What strategies are needed to build power, leadership and voice of the recovery community?

## Leadership Development

- Intentional leadership development and training. It's an element that is very effective and meaningful. It develops power for those in recovery.
- Walk the walk, leaders should practice self-care.
- Open the door to all who want to be here. Diversity and Inclusion in leadership positions. Create opportunities that reflect recovery is for everyone.
- Deliberate succession planning that creates individual leaders and develops cohorts of leaders through training, mentorship, individual leadership development, and RCO leadership development.



# Question #2: What strategies are needed to build power, leadership and voice of the recovery community?

## Voice

- Improve the language that we use so that we avoid self-stigmatizing ourselves.
- Establish an accepted universal definition of recovery that isn't necessarily abstinence-based for use (especially in the lay community).
- Normalize harm reduction by creating more safe injection sites, clean needle exchanges, MAT – and have these be more accepted.
- Revisit recovery messaging to make sure it is as inclusive as possible.

# Question #2: What strategies are needed to build power, leadership and voice of the recovery community?

- Holding ourselves and each other accountable as leaders.
- Building recovery research and a national research agenda.
- Finding, seeking and mining other pathways.
- Think bigger and beyond our own movement.
- Infuse peer support at all levels (health, social, wellness).



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