



THIS IS WHO WE ARE.



**FACES & VOICES
OF RECOVERY**

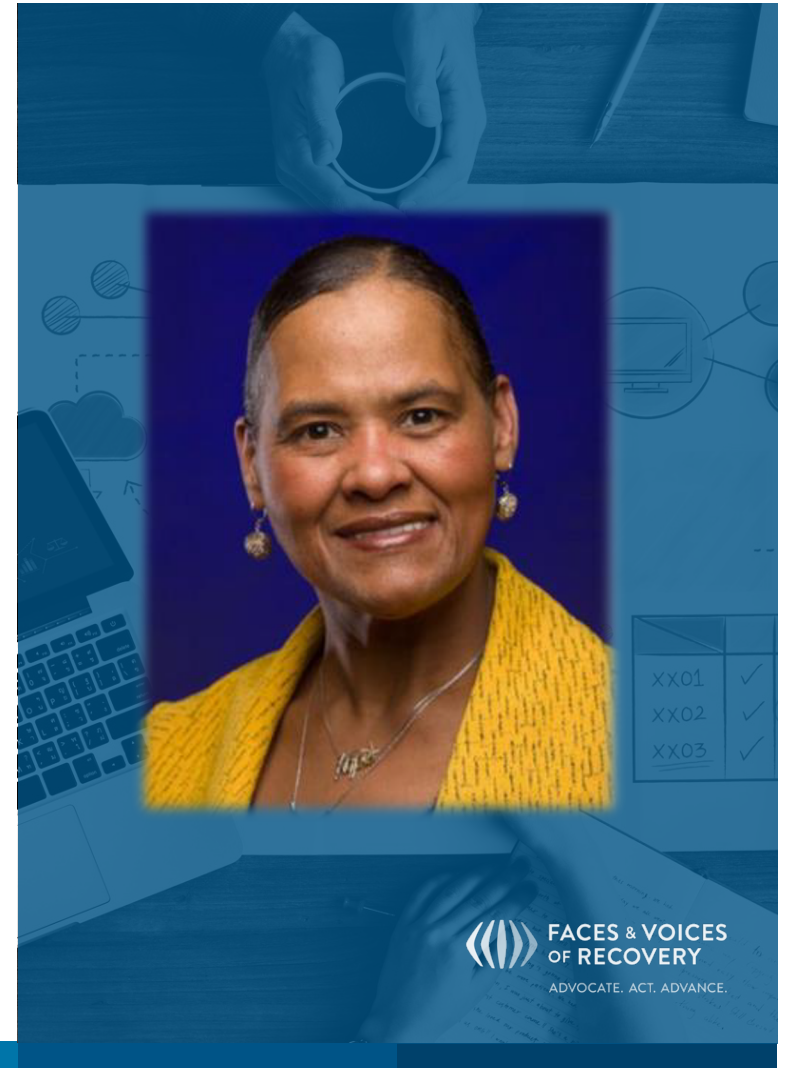
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Protecting the Autonomy of Your RCO in Parent and Fiscal Relationship Agreements 2021

presented by



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Fiduciary Duty **An Obligation of Respect**

Fiduciary duty is one of the highest and most respected obligations.



Fiduciary An Ethical Concept for the Recovery Community

William White outlined conditions that underscore the need for a clear set of ethical values and standards to guide the delivery of peer-based recovery support service:

“At its most primitive level, aspiring to be ethical involves sustained vigilance in preventing harm and injury to those to whom we have pledged our loyalty. This meaning is revealed through four terms: Iatrogenic, Fiduciary, Boundary Management, and Multi-party Vulnerability.”

Fiduciary—a word whose roots are linked to those of the word “faith”—describes relationships in which one person has assumed a special duty and obligation for the care of another



What is fiscal sponsorship and What are the Benefits?

What is fiscal sponsorship?

- Fiscal sponsorship is a less-costly and more efficient alternative to launching a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.

What are the benefits to becoming a nonprofit through fiscal sponsorship instead of forming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation?

Starting a nonprofit through a fiscal sponsor is easier for a single reason: it saves both time and money. The process of forming a nonprofit corporation and applying for IRS tax exemption is expensive (typically requiring an attorney) and takes approximately six months. Additionally, starting a new, independent nonprofit organization is like starting a new business and requires time, money, and energy to set up operations. Fiscal sponsorship allows organizations to start working toward their goals right away and lets staff focus fully on the mission and programmatic work.

RCO Best Practices is Safeguarding your Autonomy

1. Non-profit Organization
2. Led and Governed by the Recovery Community
3. Primary Focus is Recovery from Substance Use Disorders
4. Grassroots
5. Participatory Process
6. Peer Recovery Support Services
7. All Pathways Towards Recovery
8. Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies, Practices, and Services
9. Recovery-Friendly Language
10. Code of Ethics and Grievance Policies



Definitions RCO's and RCC's

Recovery Community Organization (RCO)

- A recovery community organization (RCO) is an **independent**, non-profit organization **led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery**.
- Phillip A. Valentine, William L. White and Pat Taylor, 2007



Recovery Community Center (RCC)

- Non-profit centers **for the recovery community** that offer local networks of non-medical, recovery support services.



RCO Best Practices Governance

1. Non-profit Organization

2. Led and Governed by the Recovery Community

- These organizations have a recovery led board of 51% or of their more board members identifying as being in recovery from their own substance use disorder.
- *This leadership provides an authenticity of the recovery voice.*
- Along with key staff, these recovering voices lead conversations and participate in decision-making on programmatic development, recovery services provided, and advocacy efforts to reflect the needs of the recovering community.

RCO Best Practices Autonomy via Programs and Activities



3. Primary Focus is Recovery from Substance Use Disorders

- Evident in the organization's mission and vision statements, through the services provided, and when applicable, in their advocacy efforts.
- *The organization has a Recovery Vision.*

4. Grassroots & 5. Participatory Process

- Connected to their communities, and people and organizations concerned about recovery.
- They learn from this network through things like surveys and workgroups to learn what they need and then they take steps to meet those needs.
- *The grassroots involvement and participatory processes provide accountability to the recovery community.*

6. Peer Recovery Support Services

- Rcos provide primarily non-clinical, peer recovery support services.

RCO Best Practices

Autonomy via Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (D.E.I.)



7. All Pathways Towards Recovery

- The organization supports, allows for, and may provide opportunities for all pathways towards recovery and does not exclude anyone based on their chosen pathway.

8. Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies, Practices, and Services

- Rcos develop and enact culturally informed plans to diminish inequity in the implementation of their outreach and services.

RCO Best Practices Autonomy via Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (D.E.I.) Continued



9. Recovery-Friendly Language

- RCO websites, materials, and other online platforms use language that is supportive of and promotes recovery across diverse geographical and cultural contexts.



10. Code of Ethics and Grievance Policies

- The organization has an employee and volunteer code of ethics in place, and easily accessible grievance procedures, to protect service recipients and stakeholders engaged with the organization.



RCO Autonomy Authenticity of Representation

- “Authenticity of representation is the assurance that the organization is led by and on behalf of individuals and families in recovery and their vetted allies. It is a pledge of watchfulness on the issue of double-agentry—persons who may present themselves as representatives of the recovery community who, unconsciously or with intent, represent other personal, ideological, institutional or financial interests. This is not to say people who wear such multiple hats cannot contribute to the movement, but it does say that these other potential influences on the movement must be acknowledged and minimized. Nor as we noted earlier does this mean that persons without recovery experience should be denied roles in a recovery advocacy movement. Such movements have always been aided by persons not in recovery, but **the majority of its core leadership must remain with people in recovery.**” William White (2011)

Questions?



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