

SUMMARY OF STATE AND REGIONAL RECOVERY MOVEMENTS

The first section of the research conducted by the planning committee for the Stigma Project sponsored by King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse & Dependency Services Division is a survey compiled from fifteen state and regional movements focused on improving the rights and status of people in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction. An attempt was made to focus on independently organized and funded groups as opposed to State Agencies. Particular attention was paid to those organizations that specifically addressed the issue of stigma. Stigma is explained by the organization, On Our Own of Maryland, Inc., in the opening description of its Anti-Stigma Project in this way:

“Stigma. While it may seem like an abstract concept, the consequences of stigmatizing attitudes and behaviors are tangible, painful, and destructive. Stigma affects every member of the mental health and addiction/recovery communities, including consumers/persons in recovery, family members, providers, administrators, and policymakers.”

All of the organizations reviewed have a website that includes some form of a Mission Statement highlighting the major focus of it’s existence. Most of the groups also include a detailed list of goals and objectives, although some were more clearly stated than others. Each organization actively encourages membership and holds regular meetings, with many of them supporting statewide branch locations. In addition, all conduct specific types of activities promoting their mission. Each of the organizations’ websites also includes a link to contact them through e-mail.

Throughout the organizations that are included in this review, there is a re-occurrence of certain themes/terms. A listing of this frequently used terminology is as follows:

Reduce/eliminate stigma/stigmatization

Reduce/eliminate discrimination

Advocacy/advocate/advocates

Grassroots organization/community based

Empower/empowering

Educate legislators

Educate public

Parity

Increased need for treatment

Peers/peer group support

“Put a Face on Recovery”

Two of the organizations describe themselves as follows:

“Friends of Recovery – Vermont is a grassroots advocacy organization.”

and,

“The Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) is a community-based grassroots membership organization of individuals in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, their families, friends and community supporters.” committed

Other examples of how many of these recurring terms are used comes from the Mission Statement for the Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention and Treatment (OCA):

“To eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with alcohol and other drug addiction by:

Educating the public that alcohol and other drug addiction is a preventable, treatable medical illness

Reducing barriers to treatment

Advocating for a system for care that supports a continuum of effective alcohol and other drug services”

Similarly, the Pennsylvania Recovery Organization – Achieving Community Together (PRO-ACT) states in its Mission Statement:

“The Stigma of Addiction that prevents people from seeking treatment must be reduced or

eliminated. It is through our services for prevention, education, advocacy, assessment, and intervention that this goal will be accomplished. “

And finally, the only national organization reviewed, Faces and Voices of Recovery, states:

“The people who launched Faces & Voices of Recovery believed that the times are changing – and that by speaking out, members of the recovery community can make a profound difference in public understanding of addiction and recovery, breaking down the wall of shame and stigma that creates discrimination against people in recovery.”

The following page contains a chart summarizing key characteristics and activities of the fifteen organizations reviewed in this study, with a narrative summary continuing on subsequent pages.

Characteristics and Activities of State and Regional Recovery Movements

ORGANIZATION NAME	Mentions Stigma	Advocacy	Lobbying and/or Education	Promote individuals to speak out	Speakers	Testimonials	Newletter	Provide and/or Create Resources	Use Media	Research/Links	Events	Campaigns	Conferences or Forums	Trainings or Workshops	Fundraise
Faces & Voices of Recovery	*	*					*	*	*	*		*		*	
NEARR New England	*		*	*						*					
On Our Own of Maryland, Inc.	*	*					*	*					*	*	
FOR Vermont		*			*	*	*	*		*	*		*		
SAARA Virginia		*	*				*	*					*		*
FOR New Hampshire	*		*	*	*	*		*		*	*		*		
CCAR Connecticut		*	*			*			*	*	*			*	
PRO-ACT Pennsylvania	*	*	*		*				*	*	*			*	
MOAR Massachusetts			*	*			*			*	*		*		
LIRA Long Island	*	*	*							*					
OCA Ohio Citizen Advocates	*	*	*				*		*	*			*	*	
MRN Missouri Recovery Net-	*	*	*	*	*					*	*			*	
MARRCH Minnesota	*		*	*		*	*			*			*		
Demand Treatment San Diego	*	*	*	*	*									*	
PIRA California	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*				*	

To summarize, the majority of the organizations reviewed, eleven of fifteen, were located east of the Mississippi. One of these (Faces and Voices of Recovery) is a national movement based in Washington, D.C., and one (NEARR) is a multi-state regional organization in New England. Three (OCA, MAARCH, and MRN) are based in Mid-Western states, with the remaining two (PIRA and Demand Treatment) being locally based groups in California. The latter represent the only two west coast movements listed with specific goals of eliminating stigma and promoting members who are in recovery.

Eleven of the fifteen organizations reviewed specifically use the term “Stigma,” either in their Mission Statement, or within their Goals and Objectives. Other terms relating to the issue of stigma were discrimination, shame, and acceptance. In addition, the majority, eleven of fifteen, specifically promote the concept of “Advocacy” toward the rights and acceptance of people in recovery. Advocacy in most of these cases is defined as a purposeful attempt to educate legislators and the general public that addiction recovery is real and recovered and recovering individuals were entitled to equal and fair treatment under the law. This also addresses the issue of parity in health insurance coverage. To this end, twelve of the organizations list activities related to lobbying and educating legislators and the public by methods such as phone calls and letter writing to legislators, rallies, campaigns, as well as more formal lobbying techniques.

Another frequent theme among the organizations was “Putting a Face on Recovery.” This concept is defined as recruiting individuals who are in recovery to join and become involved in these organizations, and to then encourage members, within their comfort zones, to speak out and become role models for successful recovery. These types of activities range from formal, with six organizations providing speakers lists, to the informal with six providing encouragement and methodology for speaking informally to peer groups and public gatherings on a more “grassroots” level. Five of the organizations include and/or solicit testimonials and stories from members on the specific nature of their recoveries.

As a method of communication, all of the organizations have websites. Eight of the fifteen groups prepare and distribute newsletters of current events and progress to their members. Six also provide a “resource center” of materials and publications, some produced in-house, for members to acquire information or tools to use in their promotion of recovery. Also, five groups actively seek and use media coverage of events and activities. Twelve of the websites provide links to cites including articles, research, and/or additional information.

Larger and more formal activities are also conducted by these organizations. Five of the fifteen groups host specific “Events” such as walkathons, picnics and rallies. Seven groups sponsor professional national conferences and/or regional forums for discussion of recovery issues. Training sessions and workshops for members or other interested parties are made available by eight of the groups.

Concluding this report is a listing of each of the organizations and their website addresses, followed by a one-page summary of each organization’s Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives, and Activities. Also included is a rating of each website, on a scale of 1-5, based on user friendliness and the comprehensive nature of the content.

List of Reviewed Recovery Projects

Faces and Voices of Recovery (national)

<http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/>

NEARR- New England Alliance for Addiction Recovery (regional)

<http://neaar.org/>

On Our Own of Maryland, Inc. (state)

<http://www.onourownmd.org/>

FOR Vermont – Friends of Recovery Vermont (state)

<http://www.firendsofrecoveryvt.org/>

SAARA of Virginia – Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (state)

<http://www.saara.org/>

FOR New Hampshire – Friends of Recovery New Hampshire (state)

<http://www.fornh.org/fornh/>

CCAR – Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (state)

<http://www.ccar-recovery.org/>

PRO-ACT; PRO-A – Pennsylvania Recovery Organization – Achieving Community Together <http://www.proact.org/> and

Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (state) <http://dcradar.org/proa/proa.html>

MOAR – Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (state)

<http://neaar.org/moar/about.htm>

LIRA – Long Island Recovery Advocates (community)

<http://longislandrecoveryadvocates.org/>

OCA – Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention and Treatment (state) <http://www.charityadvantage.com/oca/Home/asp>

MRN – Missouri Recovery Network (state)

<http://www.morecovery.org/>

MARRCH – Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (state) <http://www.marrch.org/>

Demand Treatment! San Diego County (county)

<http://jointogether.org/sa/action/dt/program/partners/strategy/0,1241,1301,00.html>

TITLE: Faces & Voices of Recovery

MISSION STATEMENT: The people who launched Faces & Voices of Recovery believed that the times are changing – and that by speaking out, members of the recovery community can make a profound difference in public understanding of addiction and recovery, breaking down the wall of shame and **stigma** that creates discrimination against people in recovery. It’s time to show America that recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs is a reality.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Faces & Voices Right to Recovery Platform: To inform policy makers and the media about the ways that they can support addiction recovery.

ACTIVITIES:

- List of regional representatives for contact information

- Newsletter
- One-day regional training: “The Power of Story and Persuasion: Fighting **Stigma** and Discrimination.”
- Campaign

WEBSITE RATING: 4

TITLE: NEAAR – New England Alliance for Addiction Recovery

MISSION STATEMENT: The New England Alliance for Addiction Recovery (NEAAR), a representative group of the six New England states is dedicated to improving attitudes and public and legislative awareness about substance abuse recovery issues. We seek to engage recovering people and all others concerned about the recovery process in educating policy makers, service providers, legislators and the public. Our goal is to support the empowerment of recovering people in their physical, emotional, and spiritual growth and provide opportunities to make significant contributions to society.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Creating a formal voice for the recovery community.
- Reducing the number of people suffering from addiction, alcohol, and other drugs.
- Raising public awareness of substance abuse and addiction through education, and information exchange.
- Reducing the **stigma** associated with addiction and recovery.
- Emphasizing the effectiveness of treatment and recovery programs.
- Influencing public policy and requesting for increased resource allocation.
- Increasing active participation in the legislative and regulatory processes.
- Assessing, improving, and monitoring the quality and responsiveness of addiction treatment and prevention systems in northeastern states: Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

ACTIVITIES:

- Manchester Aldermanic Committee
- Special Forum on Alcohol and Drugs

There are a number of ways that you can help:

- Becoming involved in the planning and development of a local chapter of in your community.
- Helping to organize recovery support services in your local community
- Helping to organize recovery informational services in your community
- Writing letters to local newspapers, local officials, treatment providers or legislators
- Speaking with individuals and groups in your community to provide education on addiction, treatment and recovery.
- Helping to organize education and awareness events at the local and/or state level.
- Becoming involved in the organization and development of the statewide chapter.
- Becoming involved in with policy makers at the state and local level.

▪

WEBSITE RATING: 3

TITLE: On Our Own of Maryland, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT: **Stigma.** While it may seem like an abstract concept, the consequences of **stigmatizing** attitudes and behaviors are tangible, painful, and destructive. **Stigma** affects every member of the mental health and addiction/recovery communities, including consumers/persons in recovery, family members, providers and policy makers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To provide peer-operated support to members and a formalized structure for input into the mental health system.

ACTIVITIES:

- The **Anti-Stigma Project** – workshops
- The Advocacy Training Project
- Annual Summer Conference: “Declarations of Independence and Recovery: Power to the People

WEBSITE RATING: 2.5

TITLE: FOR – Friends of Recovery - Vermont

MISSION STATEMENT: Friends of Recovery - Vermont is a grassroots advocacy organization. We help spread the word about the value of recovery from drug and alcohol addiction and the effects of addictions.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Together, we are the solution because we bring voices and visibility to recovery:

- We inform: We provide resources and education about recovery issues.
- We speak up: We offer forums to share personal stories. These voices need to be heard.
- We celebrate: We put on public events to showcase the possibilities of recovery.

ACTIVITIES:

- Recovery Celebration Events.
- Annual Legislative Recovery Day at the Statehouse.
- Newsletter and Website.
- Recovery Resources.
- Membership Meetings.

- Recovery Forums & Task Forces.
- Speakers Bureau.

WEBSITE RATING: 3

TITLE: SAARA of Virginia - Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance

MISSION STATEMENT: The Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) is a community-based grassroots membership organization of individuals in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, their families, friends and committed community supporters. SAARA's mission is to celebrate, support and advocate for resources and services for the prevention of and recovery from substance abuse and addiction. SAARA promotes social, educational, legal, research and health care resources and services that support accessible, effective and accountable addictions: prevention, intervention, treatment and Recovery.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Advocacy: Develop and implement procedures to advocate for and educate the public regarding the accessibility, effectiveness and accountability of resources and services for addictions: prevention, intervention, treatment and Recovery and the devastating impact of addictions and of the benefits of recovery to society as a whole.

Organization: Develop and implement organizational activities to establish and maintain SAARA of VIRGINIA as a viable advocacy organization for the provision of accessible, effective and accountable resources and services for addictions: prevention, intervention, treatment, and Recovery.

Communication: Develop and implement procedures for communication with Affiliate organizations of SAARA of VIRGINIA, the general public and legislative organizations/agencies.

Fiscal: Become fiscally self-sustaining by: December 1, 2004.

ACTIVITIES:

Announcing Virginia C.U.R.E's annual Family Day Picnic
Saturday June 12, 2004

"Celebrating the Road to Recovery" May 29, 2004
Women's Conference

WEBSITE RATING: 4

TITLE: FORNH – Friends of Recovery New Hampshire

MISSION STATEMENT: Friends of Recovery, New Hampshire, is a statewide grassroots alliance of individuals who support recovery. Our goal is to eliminate the **stigma** of addiction through education and the recognition of the social and economic contributions of recovering people. Our purpose is to initiate change in legislation and resource allocation, raise awareness through public acknowledgment, and promote support by sharing experiences of recovering people, their families and friends.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce the number of people suffering from chemical addiction by advocating for adequate alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention resources.
- To reduce the **stigma** associated with chemical dependency by providing education to the general public and policy makers. Educational activities will be designed to increase public knowledge and understanding of chemical addiction, to reduce the **stigma** of chemical dependency, and to provide

information on the effectiveness of addiction recovery.

- To develop a formal voice for clients, former clients, family members and communities by putting a face on recovery and by establishing an ongoing dialogue with government and private funding agencies, providers of services, policy makers and the general public.

ACTIVITIES:

- THE EIGHTH ANNUAL HALF MOON SOBER FESTIVAL - May 23-26, 2003
- Manchester Aldermanic Committee: Special Forum on Alcohol and Drugs
- **Manchester Demand Treatment!**

WEBSITE RATING: 4

TITLE: CCAR – Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery

MISSION STATEMENT: Each and every person in the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery will strive to ensure that people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction will be treated with dignity and respect in their recovery process regardless of the type of addiction, treatment or support. We seek to involve recovering people, their families, significant others and friends in educating policy makers, services providers, legislators and the general public about the addiction recovery process. Our goal is to empower recovering people in their physical, emotional and spiritual growth and provide the opportunity for them to make significant contributions to themselves, their families and our society.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Society sees addiction treatment and recovery as a heroic and positive effort by the year 2005.

ACTIVITIES:

- Advocates at the state level for policies and priorities that are pro-recovery.
- Holds monthly meetings in the Greater Hartford Area and six other locations convenient to large population centers.
- Develops and delivers dozens of useful training programs annually to those in recovery as well as to healing professionals and counselors, like clergy, who are working in the field of addiction. Example: Getting Comfortable: The Nuts & Bolts of Healthy Relationships in Recovery.
- Puts a public face on recovery by testifying before the legislature and state commissions, as well as through well-attended public events like CCAR's annual "Recovery Walks!" which attracts several thousand supporters.

WEBSITE RATING: 4

TITLE: PRO-ACT, Pennsylvania Recovery Organization – Achieving Community Together; and

PRO-A: Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance

MISSION STATEMENT: PRO-ACT is dedicated to educating its constituency and mobilizing its members to advocate for the recovery community. The initiative is working to reduce the **stigma** of addiction, ensure the availability of adequate treatment options, and influence public opinion and policy regarding the value of recovery. PRO-ACT is developing and mobilizing a constituency of Ambassador for Recovery – recovering persons, professionals working in the field, and others with a special interest and knowledge of recovery.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Our purpose is to unite the recovery community through educations of ourselves and the general public, promote quality treatment and support services, as well as advocate for equal opportunities for all recovering individuals.

ACTIVITIES: Recovery, Advocacy, Service, and Empowerment (RASE) was the first project, begun in May 2001. RASE was created to deliver service, provide positive social outlets, and reduce the negative **stigma** associated with the disease of addiction by organizing a representative, grassroots body of committed recovery community individuals. RASE holds quarterly events to place a positive spin on recovery and to reduce the stigma of addiction by giving back to the community in positive ways.

Other activities include:

- Family programs
- Find Your legislator page
- Recovery Kits (duffle bags filled with recovery info and aids)
- Recovery Walks
- Tree of Hope lighting (Bucks County)

WEBSITE RATING: 3

TITLE: MOAR Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery

MISSION STATEMENT: Participating in MOAR allows recovering persons, their family members

and friends, to have a voice about addiction recovery. We work together to reduce the **stigma** of alcohol and other drug addictions; we strive to educate policy makers and the public about the issues surrounding recovery from alcoholism, drug dependency, and substance abuse.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Open access to treatment
- Removal of administrative obstacles to treatment
- PARITY of health care coverage
- Licensing of alcohol and drug counselors
- Alternative sentencing programs
- Improved physical facilities/buildings that offer treatment and rehabilitation services
- Student assistance programming
- Peer education in schools
- Improved and INCREASED treatment services for incarcerated addicts
- Expansion of the recovery home network
- Sober housing
- Recovery programs with work experience components

ACTIVITIES:

- Recruiting recovering persons, their family members and friends, to join MOAR. Helping them to speak out regarding the benefits of recovery, and the social costs of addiction in our communities and the workplace.
- Celebrating "Recovery Day" at the State House every year by inviting recovering persons, policy makers, legislators, treatment providers, and others to meet together. We discuss our accomplishments, as well as the continued need for public education and awareness about addiction.
- Offering community education about the need for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Licensing to protect the public, and acknowledge the SPECIAL SKILLS and methods needed to successfully intervene with persons suffering from addiction.
- Educating insurers, HMOs and other third party payors regarding the need for equal access to an adequate treatment benefit.
- Partnering with treatment providers to assure access and quality care for addicts and their families.
- Educating health care providers and the public to reduce the **stigma** of addiction, while promoting the recognition of addictive disorders as a public health problem.

WEBSITE RATING: 2

TITLE: LIRA – Long Island Recover Advocates

MISSION STATEMENT: Through education and advocacy, we hope to help **de-stigmatize** alcoholism and other diseases of addiction, achieve treatment parity for addicted persons seeking treatment and ensure that a compassionate and well-informed understanding of the nature of illnesses of addiction becomes the norm rather than the exception among legislators, institutions, family members and society in general.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To bring together recovering addicts and alcoholics, along with their families, friends, and allies, to advocate for the rights and needs of those affected by alcoholism and drug dependence.

To partner with other advocacy groups and professional organizations to educate as many people as possible and effect positive change. We wish to utilize various forms of media as a key tool in this process. Broad-based education is key to changing societal attitudes, and strategic alliances are crucial to achieve our goals.

The ultimate goal is to end discrimination and broaden social understanding that addiction is a disease with a behavioral component, much like diabetes, and not merely a matter of lack of willpower or weak character.

ACTIVITIES:

- TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE legislation requiring health insurance plans to cover alcohol and drug dependency treatment on par with the way they cover other chronic illnesses.
- TO HELP ESTABLISH a care pool to provide chemical dependency treatment
- TO ADVOCATE for legislation that protects the children and other family members of alcohol- and drug-dependent individuals by ensuring they have unrestricted access to the services they need.
- TO REPLACE the punitive focus of present laws by advocating mandated treatment.
- TO ENCOURAGE LEGISLATORS to underwrite these projects with funds from existing state and federal programs.

WEBSITE RATING: 2

TITLE: OCA - Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention and Treatment

MISSION STATEMENT: To eliminate the **stigma** and discrimination associated with alcohol and other drug addiction by:

- Educating the public that alcohol and other drug addiction is a preventable, treatable medical illness
- Reducing the barriers to treatment
- Advocating for a system for care that supports a continuum of effective alcohol and other drug services

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: OCA is working to empower people in recovery, their family members, and other allies to become effective advocates for policies and services that support their sustained recovery and to reduce the **stigma** associated with addiction. To accomplish this, OCA is organizing recovery community groups in five regions of the state.

- Facilitate participation of people in recovery, their family members and other allies in the planning, design, delivery, and evaluation of prevention, treatment and recovery policies, systems, and services.
- Strengthen the ability of recovery community groups to bring about positive changes in policy and public perceptions through training and leadership development.
- Promote linkages among recovery community members and with local, state, and national policymakers and service delivery systems.
- Conduct public education to help reduce the stigma associated with addiction treatment and recovery.

ACTIVITIES: OCA offers training at no cost to groups and organizations on two topics.

- **Advocacy** – This training will teach you the nuts and bolts of becoming an effective advocate. Topics include:
 - Forming a grassroots network
 - Educating legislators
 - Working with the media
 - The difference between advocacy and lobbying

- Strategies to educate the public
- **Stigma** – This training explores the nature and roots of stigma and ways to fight **stigma**. Topics include:
 - Historical overview
 - Examination of personal needs
 - **Stigma** in you workplace and community
 - Strategies to eliminate **stigma**

WEBSITE RATING: 2.5

TITLE: MRN - Missouri Recovery Network

MISSION STATEMENT: To interconnect recovering individuals in Missouri in order to further chemical addiction recovery and to encourage policy makers to increase funding, better use existing resources, and identify and foster system, program, and service improvements for substance abusing and chemically dependent persons.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: That Missourians with substance abuse and chemical dependency disorders can access health care services in full parity with the services available for any other serious disease, get well, and be accepted as equal members of the communities in which they live, work, socialize, and participate fully in civic affairs free of **stigma**.

To establish and empower a culturally diverse statewide network of recovering people, their families and their allies; to educate the public about the proven efficacy and cost effectiveness of integrated chemical dependency treatment and substance abuse prevention measures; to establish a dialog between recovering and non-recovering people; to foster the recovering population's ability to take community action; to advocate for changes in public policy to reduce **stigma**; and to direct available resources to improved healthcare and treatment for addicted individuals and their families.

ACTIVITIES:

- MRN Capitol Rally and Festival – “Join the Voices of Recovery”
- Voices of Recovery Prayer Service

- Walk for Recovery
- Tracking legislation in Missouri – Public Policy Highlights
- Missouri Recovery Network State Council

WEBSITE RATING: 2.5

TITLE: MARRCH – Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health

MISSION STATEMENT: The collective, authoritative voice for Minnesota chemical health caregivers.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Joining MARRCH gives you essential tools in your work as a chemical dependency professional. As a collective body, MARRCH works to educate, support and guide individuals and agencies while speaking with a unified voice in public policy venues. Monthly publications help keep our members up-to-date on legislative issues and notified of upcoming events of interest.

ACTIVITIES:

2004 Minnesota Chemical Health Summit: "**Ending Discrimination and Stigma Around Addiction and Treatment,**"

MARRCH Fall Conference. This annual tradition attracts approximately 1,000 professionals from chemical dependency and related fields for three days of intense, high-quality speakers on a variety of topics. Speakers come from across the country to share their expertise and the latest trends and research

Treatment Works Initiative:

What Treatment Works is: A collection of personal experiences distributed to the Minnesota Legislature by MARRCH to demonstrate the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment.

What we need: Your story. Many of us have made it through addiction to recovery and continue to work to pull others through—by sharing your success story MARRCH is able to put a “face” on recovery from the positive side. How you participate: Write your story down and send it to the MARRCH Office.

WEBSITE RATING: 3

TITLE: Demand Treatment! San Diego County, CA

MISSION STATEMENT: To create a stronger collective voice of people who will drive up the demand for substance abuse treatment in San Diego County, thereby creating the need for more treatment opportunities and services.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Educate the public and community leaders about the true nature of the disease of addiction and effective treatment modalities.
- Advocate for the rights of substance abusers to access treatment services.
- Collaborate with all the major stakeholders (recovery community, families, criminal justice, community leaders, healthcare professionals, & decision makers).

- In order to reduce the **stigma** of substance abuse, influence policy changes, increase access to services, and expand addiction treatment opportunities.

ACTIVITIES:

- Educate: general meetings, speaking engagements, seminars, workshops, articles
- Advocate: articles in paper, newsletter, letters to legislators, building teams of volunteers in various areas of the community.
- Collaborate: meetings and partnerships with criminal justice, Bd. Of Supervisors, Judges, healthcare providers, schools, parents, other organizations, City planners, etc.
- **Reducing the Stigma: Faces of Recovery Calendar**, bio collections, It Takes Community, speakers from recovery community.

WEBSITE RATING: 2

TITLE: PIRA – Contra Costa County Partners in Recovery Alliance

MISSION STATEMENT: For too long the recovery community has been absent from policy forums that greatly affect the recovering addict. Policy makers for education, job training, employment, child protection, juvenile and criminal justice, law enforcement, and other critical funding arenas have neglected to

include the expert voices of individuals and families who understand addiction and recovery.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: PIRA's purpose is to create opportunities for recovering individuals, their families, and friends in Contra Costa County to help guide the development of effective substance abuse policies and as well to guarantee quality assurance services at the local level.

ACTIVITIES: Partners In Recovery Alliance Initiatives: The *Education Initiative* is designed to reduce the **stigma** attached to recovering individuals through the following strategies:

- Establish a Speakers Bureau.
- Media Outreach.
- Produce videos and other informational materials.
- Provide training and educational opportunities in topics recommended by P.I.R.A.'s participants

Advocacy and Policy Initiatives are designed to create a strong unified voice for the recovery community to impact alcohol and other drug abuse policies through the following strategies:

- Identify and prioritize recovery community needs and resources.
- Develop regional and countywide action plans to address recovery community needs and resources.
- Promote recovery expertise through pro-active participation of recovering individuals and their families in boards, commissions and organizations involved in substance abuse policy issues, substance abuse service delivery and prevention strategies that aim to change youth access and availability of alcohol and other drugs in local communities.

“**Rants and Raves**” – monthly publication with recovery related news

WEBSITE RATING: 3.5

List of Reviewed Recovery Projects

- ❖ Faces and Voices of Recovery (national)
<http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org>
- ❖ NEARR- New England Alliance for Addiction Recovery (regional)
<http://neaar.org/>
- ❖ On Our Own of Maryland, Inc. (state)
<http://www.onourownmd.org>
- ❖ FOR Vermont – Friends of Recovery Vermont (state)
<http://www.firendsofrecoveryvt.org>
- ❖ SAARA of Virginia – Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (state)
<http://www.saara.org>
- ❖ FOR New Hampshire – Friends of Recovery New Hampshire (state)
<http://www.fornh.org/fornh/>
- ❖ CCAR – Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (state)
<http://www.ccar-recovery.org/>
- ❖ PRO-ACT; PRO-A – Pennsylvania Recovery Organization – Achieving Community Together <http://www.proact.org/> and
Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (state) <http://dcradar.org/proa/proa.html>
- ❖ MOAR – Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (state)
<http://neaar.org/moar/about.htm>
- ❖ LIRA – Long Island Recovery Advocates (community)
<http://longislandrecoveryadvocates.org/>
- ❖ OCA – Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention and Treatment (state) <http://www.charityadvantage.com/oca/Home/asp>
- ❖ MRN – Missouri Recovery Network (state)
<http://www.morecovery.org>
- ❖ MARRCH – Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (state) <http://www.marrch.org/>
- ❖ Demand Treatment! San Diego County (county)
<http://jointogether.org/sa/action/dt/program/partners/strategy/0,1241,1301,00.html>
- ❖ PIRA – Contra Costa County Partners in Recovery Alliance (county)