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FOR-NY.ORG

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2014 POLICY STATEMENT

Friends of Recovery New York (FOR-NY), the statewide 501 c3 non profit, **Recovery Community Organization** (RCO) remains committed to confronting discrimination and to educating decision makers and the general public by advocating for access to addiction treatment, support for recovery community organizations and expansion of regionally located recovery centers with the use of recovery coaches and peers to provide peer driven, recovery support services. We urge the NYS Legislature and Administration to give the strongest possible consideration to these constituent needs by taking action on the following:

Access to Treatment

- Discrimination against those with addiction illnesses continues to permeate insurance law and authorization practice(s) in New York. These practices are especially evident in inpatient rehabilitation coverage. Guised under the various elusive definitions of “medical necessity”, insurers repeatedly prohibit authorization for inpatient addiction treatment and in rare cases where treatment is authorized, severely limit the length of stay allowed.
- FOR-NY encourages support for pro-active access to treatment legislation. Such legislation would justly authorize addiction treatment professionals, the frontline experts, to certify the need for treatment as well as determining the level of care and duration of treatment. The existing system with insurance companies making dollar driven decisions has often denied life-saving treatment and contributed to numerous preventable deaths and a cycle of short term abstinence and relapse, draining our state of vital resources.
- Senate and Assembly Bills **S4623/A7003** would enact the desired and sorely needed changes for authorizations.

Reinvestment and Recovery Services

FOR-NY strongly urges reinvestment of resources into recovery support services including; **Recovery Centers, Recovery Coaches, Recovery Community Organizations.**

Funding should be earmarked to support existing **Recovery Community Organizations** (local entities consisting of people in recovery, their family members and friends who are dedicated to improving the lives of local residents by helping individuals find and sustain recovery, in turn lifting up communities and embracing a return to mainstream society). In addition funds should be dedicated to support the creation of other organizations (communities of recovery) across the state. Financial support in the form of seed money to help ensure the establishment of regional, locally run **recovery centers** which focus heavily on the use of peers to help the newly recovered and their family members to establish strong recovery foundations in their local communities.

