

Road to Recovery Month

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AGENDA 2009:

Planning Partners Meeting	Jan 27	Washington, DC
Planning Partners Meeting	Mar 25	Washington, DC
Planning Partners Teleconference Meeting	Jun 24	
Planning Partners Meeting	Sept 9	Washington, DC
Recovery Month Kick off and Luncheon	Sept 10	



Welcome 2009 New Partners!

By Wilmarie Hernandez

The list of the *Recovery Month* Planning Partners continues to grow and this year we will celebrate the *Recovery Month* 20th Anniversary joined by all the organizations that have worked and helped to promote the benefits of addiction treatment and recovery.

We are pleased to introduce five new *Recovery Month* Planning Partners and share with you how their organizations contribute to spread the word.

Welcome Discover Films!

Education is a key tool to prevent kids from using substances. This is why Angelique LaCour created *Discover Films* to produce tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana prevention videos for middle and high school students. "I believe education is the answer, and I am passionate about using public television for this purpose," she stated.

LaCour is an educator who left the classroom more than 20 years ago to dedicate her time to produce these videos.

She participated in the *Recovery Month* Planning Partners meeting in March, for the first time, because she thinks that *Recovery Month* is a great vehicle to spread the message that treatment is effective. She is committed to this because she has seen that the general public-including teachers, doctors, and legislators, among others-remains undereducated about

the disease of addiction.

The award-winning Discover Films videos, have been widely distributed throughout the U.S. and other English speaking countries. Five of the videos have been translated into Spanish.

These videos educate students about alcohol, bullying, drugs, marijuana, relationship & life skills, and tobacco. The web site also has information and videos for parents to help them to educate their kids.

You can watch these videos on their web site: www.discover-films.com

Welcome ReStart, Inc.!

"At ReStart *We Care*" - is the value driven mission of this nationally accredited full-service comprehensive behavioral healthcare provider. ReStart serves adults and youths through a comprehensive menu of addiction treatment and mental health services.

ReStart was founded in 2003 by Dennis Mitchell, former VP of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a US Marines Reservist and Teresa Lee, a Child Development, Family and Community Services and Adult Education Specialist. Both have been recognized for their social leadership and commitment to the field.

Alberto Blanco, the ReStart representative for *Recovery*

Month said that "As the proud son of a courageous recovered substance abuser, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Lee, and the ReStart team devote their energies to enable other recovering heroes the nurturing and therapeutic rehabilitative environment to support recovery." He stressed that not only are the program services important but also the relationship among the service delivery staff that makes the difference."

Among the *Recovery Month* events, ReStart will host a Recovery and Resilience Celebration in September that will take place in Greenville, North Carolina at the St. James United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Auditorium.

ReStart will also organize an awareness campaign in April focusing on alcohol abuse prevention. In December, to reduce relapse factors and to combat the "Holiday Blues" as a relapse factor, they will launch an awareness and sobriety reinforcement campaign.

For more information visit the ReStart web site: www.restarthumanservices.com

Welcome International Nurses Society on Addiction!

The International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA) is a professional specialty organization founded in 1975 for nurses committed to the prevention, intervention, treatment, and management of addictive disorders.

IntNSA's goal is to help all nurses provide comprehensive, high-quality nursing care for addicted patients and their families. IntNSA has something to offer every nurse, regardless of their area of nursing practice.

This is the 33rd year that IntNSA has hosted an Annual Educational Conference. This year it will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico from September 30 through October 3. The conference is open to: any one who works in the field of prevention and treatment of addictions including nurses, allied health specialists, employee assistance professionals, community agency workers and private practice therapists nurses who specialize in the prevention and treatment of addictions

The 2009 conference theme is "Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Working with the Criminal Justice System". The conference will have expert speakers, exhibits, a silent auction, networking and more. To see the complete schedule of events on the internet, visit: www.intnsa.org/events_schedule.php

Suzan Blacher, BSN, CARN is an IntNSA representative for **Recovery Month**, she noted that the "**Recovery Month** provides the venue for public celebrations, and helps to let the world know that we are here to work with the prevention and treatment community."

Ms. Blacher added that "the **Recovery Month** Planning Partners meetings offer an opportunity to share information about what others are doing in the field of addictions.

This year, at their conference, IntNSA will host a **Recovery Month** Luncheon and celebrate the 2nd Annual Addiction Nurses Week on October 2.

Local chapters will host their own events which will be posted on the **Recovery Month** website.

For more information please visit: www.intnsa.org/

◆ **Welcome Employee Assistance Professionals Association!**

Founded in 1971 the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) is a membership association that works with substance abuse providers. It has around 5,000 members all over the world.

Among their members are social workers, counselors, treatment centers, and other professionals.

Debbie Royal, Operations Administrator, EAPA said that she heard about the **Recovery Month** Planning Partners from other partners and decided to join. "**Recovery Month** is a great way to bring people together to celebrate recovery and the toolkits and the PSA's are great to encourage people to seek treatment," she said.

"We want to organize events, and meet other partners to help address the needs of those seeking recovery and treatment. We are excited about next year because one of the main target audience of the 2010 **Recovery Month** campaign will be the workplace and we would like to contribute and help in anyway we can," Royal added.

This year EAPA is hosting their Annual World EAP Conference: "Meeting the Challenges of a Changing World," at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, Texas from October 21-24. The conference is open to all members and professionals in the addiction field.

For more information visit EAPA web site: www.eapassn.org

Welcome New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services!

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) develops and regulates the state's system of chemical dependence and gambling treatment agencies, including direct operation of 12 Addiction Treatment Centers. OASAS also licenses, funds, and supervises 1,300 local, chemical dependence treatment programs.

OASAS is now working on the recovery campaign: "Your Story Matters." In this campaign 12 people spotlight their recovery stories, go to events to talk about their pathways to recovery and also to encourage people to celebrate recovery. They created a web site (<http://iamrecovery.com>) where people can read recovery stories and share their own personal experiences.

Some of the projects that OASAS is working on include a National Research Project to develop a data system capturing accurate information and statistics about how many people are currently in recovery. They produced a series of brochures for providers on such topics as "How to Talk to your Doctor," they are also founding 12 recovery centers, and hosting **Recovery Month** events.

OASAS will be hosting "The Pathways to Recovery Forum" where individuals will be talking about how they achieved recovery. This forum will take place at the John J. College in Manhattan, NY from September 11-13.

For more information visit OASAS' web site: www.oasas.state.ny.us

Editor's Column



As the year progresses we cannot help to think about how quickly it seems between year to year that we start the planning process for a **Recovery Month** event or activity. I suspect that part of the challenge is the information overload that keeps us in a constant state of connectedness and busy doing the business of living.

In this the 20th anniversary of **Recovery Month** let us then just stop to rejoice about the fact that we are still planning **Recovery Month** events and activities. The alternative would be that we would not have an opportunity to celebrate those in recovery, their families and those who help individuals and families reach recovery. That alternative at this point in

our journey should not be contemplated.

That is why I continue to thank all of you who help plan **Recovery Month** and those in communities and organizations, government entities, the business sector and others for the commitment to keeping this observance alive. While doing so, I constantly challenge everyone not to become too complacent in thinking that government, or, one particular agency can single-handedly be responsible for its sustainment. The fact is that planning partner organizations and each community needs to help brand the observance and needs to keep the flame alive.

In the final analysis, you have made a difference in so many peoples lives. You have offered people in recovery an opportunity to look at themselves with pride at their accomplishments; you have offered families an opportunity to share the miracle of recovery with loved ones, and you have taken

time out to thank the millions of addiction treatment counselors, outreach workers and health professionals who make it possible each day for thousands to reach recovery - that is indeed the value and strength of **Recovery Month**.

So as we get ready for the September celebrations- continue to collaborate but don't forget to continue to demand the support of whatever Administration or resource is available to make sure that **Recovery Month** survives and continues to grow. It is your celebration and thus you are the guardians of its next 20 years of success.

Peace!

Ivette Torres

Associate Director for Consumer Affairs
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
SAMHSA

Recovery Month 20th Anniversary

Partner Spotlight: Maryanne Frangules, MOAR

Have you heard the phrase “Visible, Vocal, Valuable!”? It is the moving description of people in recovery, families, and friends adopted by planning partner Maryanne Frangules, from the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR).

MOAR joined **Recovery Month** Planning Partners in 1998 making them one of the seminal planning partners. When they were invited to join the partnership, “MOAR was thrilled to participate in a national effort to educate the public about the value of addiction recovery,” Frangules noted.

This organization works by “helping legislators to see that people in recovery want professional addiction counselors to have the same standards as other professions.” Their vision is to build a strong recovery community, who help each other help themselves, as educate the public and policymakers.

MOAR has grown from a small committee of volunteers to a formal organization. They have received awards from peer provider organizations, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Nurse's Association, and other groups.

This year MOAR celebrates the 19th Recovery Celebration at the State House. Since their early beginnings it has grown from 50 people in attendance to over a 1000 people. They have been also sponsored SAMHSA's motorcycle ride for the last five years. They keep the **Recovery Month** theme alive throughout the year at policy forums.

Frangules notes that, as a person who is proud of being in recovery, “**Recovery Month** gives an opportunity for people to speak about the value of recovery. People give each other courage to learn from each other's experiences, and overcome



Stigma.”

She is particularly moved by seeing young people participate in **Recovery Month**. “I am touched when I see students in our recovery high schools speaking up for recovery; they are the future.”

She notes that one year, the deaf and hard of hearing community came in large numbers and made themselves heard by waving their hands in the air, and by sharing their needs through sign language, which brought tears to her eyes.

“MOAR is happy to join the rest of the Planning Partners to celebrate the **Recovery Month** 20th Anniversary, and looks forward to the next 20 years of recovery celebrations,” Frangules added.

To find out more about MOAR and their events visit their web site:

www.moar-recovery.org

2009 EVENTS

Fetal Alcohol Awareness Day

Sept. 9

Info:
www.fasday.com/

The Recovery Project

Sept. 12
Brooklyn, NY

Event:
2nd Annual Recovery Rally

Info:
www.therecoveryproject.com

3rd Annual Recovery Month Celebration

Sept. 12
Wasilla, AK

Info:
<http://recoverymonth.gov/Community-Events/2009/3rd-Annual-Recovery-Month-Celebration-427.aspx>

South Florida Rally for Recovery

Sept. 12
Miami, FL

Info:
<http://recoverymonth.gov/Community-Events/2009/2009-South-Florida-Rally-For-Recovery!-SAMSHA-SPONSORED-226.aspx>

Los Angeles Dodgers Celebrate Recovery

Sept. 16
Los Angeles, CA

Info:
<http://recoverymonth.gov/Community-Events/2009/The-Los-Angeles-Dodgers-Celebrate-Recovery-417.aspx>

Unite for the Voices of Recuperation

Sept. 20
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Info:
<http://recoverymonth.gov/Community-Events/2009/Unite-for-the-voices-of-Recuperation-349.aspx>

New England Motorcycle Ride for Recovery

Sept. 27
Somerville, MA

Info:
<http://recoverymonth.gov/Community-Events/2009/New-England-Motorcycle-Ride-For-Recovery-314.aspx>



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www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov)

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Together We Learn, Together We Heal”**