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Help Us Define the Recovery Agenda of the Future

Dear Friends,

Alcoholics Anonymous Co-Founder Bill Wilson famously noted that “the pathways to recovery are many.” As research proceeds, we will learn more about the many pathways to recovery and the characteristics of those in recovery. However, in addition to science, we also need the unique experience, perspectives, and input of individuals and families in recovery and of communities healing from the ravages of drug abuse. That is why President Obama and ONDCP Director Gil Kerlikowske have urged us to continue to seek input from the recovery community.



David K. Mineta

No amount of scientific knowledge can replace the unique experience, perspectives, and input of individuals and families in recovery and of communities healing from the ravages of drug abuse.

– David K. Mineta

To better understand the diverse goals, needs, and experiences of the recovery community, ONDCP recently launched the ["Americans in Recovery" Facebook page](#). We hope this will provide opportunities for those following diverse recovery pathways to share their stories, hopes and goals -- not only with each other, but with the entire Nation. We also hope you use the page as a way to communicate with us. (See article, this page.)

As always, please don't hesitate to forward the *Update* to others who might be interested. To offer input or subscribe, simply email us at Recovery@ondcp.eop.gov with a request to be added to the *Recovery Update* subscriber list.

David K. Mineta
Deputy Director, Office of Demand Reduction

ONDCP News

Director Kerlikowske, ONDCP celebrate National Day of Service

On January 21st, our Nation celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In recognition of Dr. King's service to our country, the President [called on](#) all Americans to participate in a [National Day of Service](#) on Saturday, January 19.

Director Kerlikowske, Deputy Director for Demand Reduction David Mineta, and ONDCP staff answered the President's call. Together with the Baltimore City Mayor's office and Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, Inc., Director Kerlikowske honored the [Baltimore Recovery Corps' Peer Recovery Advocates](#) (PRA) for their outstanding volunteerism and joined them for a community clean-up in Baltimore, Maryland.



Director Kerlikowske, left, and other volunteers help with community clean-up in Baltimore, Maryland.

News from the Recovery Branch

'Americans in Recovery' Facebook page

ONDCP recently launched the ["Americans in Recovery"](#) Facebook page. Here, ONDCP posts stories of interest to the recovery community, providing a platform for people in recovery and their allies to share stories about their hopes, goals, accomplishments, and realizations, as well as the barriers, setbacks, or challenges they may have encountered.

Through these shared stories, the site helps convey the power of recovery to transform individuals, families, and communities. It also provides a way for citizens to communicate directly with policy makers about recovery.

ONDCP envisions a Nation where recovering people are embraced for their contributions, and where barriers to fully rejoining society are a thing of the past. If you are 18 years of age or older, please share your story in words or video on our "Americans in Recovery" Facebook page. Post a photo and please "like" the page and share it with friends. (Keep in mind that ONDCP reserves the right to review, archive, and remove posts from the page.) Also consider following ONDCP on Twitter (@ONDCP).



Visit the "Americans in Recovery" Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Americans-in-Recovery/163346080352683>

NCPIE and SAMHSA launch 'Pass It Forward' video challenge

The [National Council on Patient Information and Education \(NCPIE\)](#) and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) have launched the *Pass It Forward* Video Challenge, which calls on young people aged 17-25 to create an online video publicizing recovery resources available to others their age. Entrants' two-minute videos must answer the following questions:

- How can technology be used to pass forward information about the availability of resources to promote prevention and recovery?
- What creative strategies can help ensure that college campuses and community-based service organizations across the country know about these resources and reach out to young people?

Winning entries will be announced in July. To find out more, visit www.passitforward.info starting in mid-March.



Director Kerlikowske with 2012 PRISM award winner Caterina Scorsone of "Private Practice" and Susan Sullivan of "Castle."

EIC announces 2013 PRISM Nominations

In February, the [Entertainment Industries Council \(EIC\)](#) announced nominations for the [17th Annual PRISM Awards](#), which recognize the accurate depiction of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, addiction, and mental illness in entertainment. Nominees included the Oscar-nominated films "Flight" and "Silver Linings Playbook," and the television shows "Modern Family," "Glee," and "Breaking Bad."

The awards will be announced at a ceremony in Beverly Hills, California, on April 25, and the PRISM Awards Showcase will be broadcast September 14 on the FX Network. Learn more about the PRISM awards at: www.prismawards.com.

Documentary tells story of recovery movement

Millions of Americans are in long-term recovery from addiction and yet, with notable exceptions, their voices are rarely heard. Even today, individuals with addiction disorders—and by extension, those in recovery—are often stigmatized. While a growing number of recovering individuals and families are speaking out and mobilizing, press and public interest on the topic of addiction and recovery continue to focus primarily

on the harm addiction causes; on sensational and lurid tales of celebrity relapse, and on arrest, criminality, overdose, and death. Addiction as a disease and public health concern



and recovery as an attainable outcome still garner only modest attention.

Greg Williams has created a documentary film entitled [The Anonymous People](#). The film celebrates the emergence of the organized recovery community and its significant accomplishments, which include legislation establishing the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, which later gave rise to SAMHSA, and, more recently, the [Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act](#). In a [recent interview](#) with [The Fix](#), the 28-year-old Williams said people in stable recovery are the only ones "who have the power to demand change in the media, to demand policy change, to demand increased treatment." Without "a mobilized constituency that demands change," he notes, "this issue will never look like HIV or breast cancer. ... That is what this film is about, the need for a community to conquer this issue."

Williams, a person in long-term recovery, is not only an advocate and filmmaker. He is also Co-Director of [Connecticut Turning to Youth and Families](#), which seeks to "strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery services for youth and families facing drug or alcohol abuse problems." In 2012, [Connecticut Communities for Addiction Recovery \(CCAR\)](#) presented Williams with the [Bob Savage Recovery Advocate of the Year Award](#).

A preview of the film is [available online](#). It premieres on [April 13 in Hartford, Connecticut](#), and is also showing on [April 25 in Washington, D.C.](#)

Additional information, including news on additional showings across the country, can be found at: www.facebook.com/theanonymouspeoplesmovie

Research and Data

Article argues for recovery focus

In a commentary published in the March 25, 2013, issue of [Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Weekly](#) Michael T. Flaherty, Ph.D., argues the importance of adopting a wellness and recovery focus for policy, practice, and research. Flaherty says that understanding recovery as both a process and an outcome is essential as we configure services and determine how to reimburse them. Policies, systems, and services that effectively support health, wellness, and recovery, he says, can be developed only with the guidance of a clear vision and a "person, family and community centered" science of recovery.

Spotlight: Recovery in the Field

'Reach Out Recovery' launches new site

Leslie and Lindsey Glass, mother and daughter filmmakers and recovery advocates, founded the nonprofit "Reach Out Recovery" in 2011 (www.reachoutrecovery.com). The idea was to create a website that delivers timely and relevant recovery news ranging from research, policy, and advocacy to pop culture and also provides a place for members of the recovery community to connect.

Like popular websites such as BuzzFeed and Huffington Post, Reachoutrecovery.com pulls updates from other sites to make sure its content is always fresh.

Online resource for young people in recovery

NCPIE has launched recoveryopensdoors.org, a place where young people in recovery can tell their stories, hear the stories of others, learn more about recovery, and find tools to help them along the way. Recoveryopensdoors.org also has resources for college administrators, healthcare providers, educators, counselors, community leaders, and others. Find out more at: www.recoveryopensdoors.org

Help inform Federal eHealth strategy

Last month, the [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology \(ONC\)](http://Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, launched a new website (www.planningroom.org) to collect public input to update the Federal Health Information Technology (IT) Strategic Plan. The site was developed in collaboration with Cornell University's eRulemaking Initiative—an academic research group working with Federal agencies to increase public participation in government decision-making.

The Federal Health IT Strategic Plan outlines goals and strategies for the nationwide shift to electronic health records and information exchange, and for creation and spread of new health information technologies. Visit the PlanningRoom site to learn about these issues and take part in the public discussion that will shape the new plan.

The PlanningRoom site—which includes discussion topics and questions to help guide the conversation—will be available through May 9, 2013. Check out the site, inform yourself, and help guide Federal policy through your input.

Voices of Recovery

Our Voice of Recovery this quarter is Tom Hill, who, since 2010, has served as Director of Programs for Faces & Voices of Recovery, the national addiction recovery advocacy organization. Tom has been in recovery since 1992 and, as William L. White noted, is one of a very few people who have been dedicated full-time to the formal efforts to develop recovery advocacy and peer recovery support services that began in the late 1990s.



Tom Hill

Tom's first experience as an advocate came while he

was living in New York City at the height of the AIDS epidemic. After entering recovery, he came out as a gay man and quickly joined the movement to combat AIDS. Tom's experience working with groups such as ACT UP inspired him to pursue a career as an advocate and organizer. He then completed graduate studies in community organizing at Hunter College.

In 1998, the New York City LGBT Community Center hired Tom to head Speak Out: LGBT Voices for Recovery, one of the first SAMHSA Recovery Community Support Program (RCSP) grantees. Reflecting on the multiple layers of stigma that confronted individuals at *Speak Out*, Tom noted: "It wasn't just the stigma of addiction and even recovery; it was the stigma of being queer, of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered. It was this double and often triple stigma because we had people of color, people of criminal justice experience, and people who were HIV-positive as well." To address the paralyzing effects of such overlapping stigma, the program focused on "coming out across the boards—as queer citizens, as people with HIV, and as people in recovery."

Tom planned and participated in the 2001 St. Paul, Minnesota, summit that many mark as the start of the present-day recovery movement and led to the creation of Faces & Voices of Recovery. As part of the RCSP technical assistance team, which he joined earlier that year, Tom was instrumental in helping grantees navigate a sudden shift in program focus from advocacy to services. He subsequently served as technical assistance director for the SAMHSA Access to Recovery program, under which states and tribes are awarded competitive grants to provide an integrated array of treatment and recovery support services using vouchers as a payment mechanism.

A founding board member of Faces & Voices, Tom now oversees policy, programming, and technical assistance initiatives related to recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He is also spearheading the development of accreditation standards for recovery community organizations and qualifying programs that deliver peer recovery support services. The accreditation system is scheduled to be completed in tandem with ACA implementation in 2014.

This article was based in part on William L. White's extended interview of Tom Hill, which can be found here:

http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/publications/profiles/tom_hill.php

Coming Up

- [Integrating Evidence-Based Substance Abuse Treatment with the 12-Step Program](#), Webinar sponsored by Addiction Professional Magazine & Foundations Recovery Network, 1 PM, May 16, 2013
- [The College on Problems of Drug Dependence \(CPDD\) 75th Annual Conference](#), June 15-20, 2013, San Diego, CA
- [Research Society on Alcoholism 36th Annual Scientific Meeting](#), June 22-26, 2013, Orlando, FL
- [Association of Recovery Schools 12th Annual Conference](#), July 11-12, 2013, Delmar, CA
- [Connecticut Recovery Conference](#), July 15-16, 2013, Groton, CT