

THIS IS WHO WE ARE.



FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY

ADVOCATE. ACT. ADVANCE.

Strange Days

presented by

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Introductions

- Andrew Kessler, JD
- Slingshot Solutions, LLC
- 23 years federal policy experience (18 in behavioral health)
- Federal Liaison for FAVOR/ARCO since 2019
- @SlingshotDC

The New Normal

- There's more to life than COVID! (or at least there was before March...)
- Recovery has long been ignored in the federal legislative process, and especially in the federal funding process.
- We determined a few simple priorities to start with

“The Long Game”

- Still playing the long game.
- SUD has made major advances over the last decade
- Recovery Support Services have not kept pace with treatment (in terms of policy advances)
- Congress tends to want acute solutions to chronic problems.



Show Me the Money...

- BCOR
- Peer Technical Assistance Center
- Peer Collaborative Network

Appropriations

- In FY 2020...it was a very good year.
- We achieved some gains in appropriations.
- Not large, but significant.

- BCOR increased from \$6 million to \$8 million
- Peer Technical Assistance Center got an increase in the House (\$1 million to \$2 million) but unfortunately it did not stick in the Senate.

525,600 Minutes...

- You have to keep coming back- year after year.
- No cuts proposed in the FY 2021 White House budgets to recovery specific programs.
- Were some proposed cuts that could hurt us tangentially
- Never forget, it's a continuum.

- \$4 million for a program that will assist people in recovery with employment training
- Department of Labor program: a pilot grant program focused on addressing the economic and workforce impacts associated with the high rate of substance use disorders. The new pilot program, titled "Support to Communities: Fostering Opioid Recovery through Workforce Development," will fund approximately 8 to 10 partnership grants, with awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$5 million.

CORC

- Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers
- \$2 million in FY 2021 (first year of program)
- The funding represent the first year of a four-year project period. Grantees are required to provide outreach and the full continuum of treatment services including MAT; counseling; treatment for mental disorders; testing for infectious diseases, residential rehabilitation, and intensive outpatient programs; recovery housing; peer recovery support services; job training, job placement assistance, and continuing education; and family support services such as child care

TCE Peer to Peer

- TCE-Peer-to-Peer has supports individuals in achieving and sustaining sobriety and enhances their education/employment opportunities as well as their housing stability.
- As of September 29, 2019, 17 of the TCE-PTP grants will be ending leaving the four (4) grants funded in FY 2019 for \$250,000 each annually.
- These programs represent Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) that provide peer-to-peer services to individuals in need of recovery support services (RSS) in a variety of settings (e.g. hospital ED, jails, institutions, homeless shelters, etc.), peer recovery coaching to, and peer navigator services (i.e. assisting individuals in recovery to obtain a driver's license, employment, housing, childcare, etc.).

RCSP

- Recovery Community Services Program
- The RCSP-SN grant program supports a statewide approach to enhance the presence of people with lived experience in recovery from drug/alcohol addiction as key partners in state systems, as well as building a peer workforce.
- Activities include collaborating on local and state workforce development, developing linkages with other organizations that promote recovery throughout the state, and participating in policy, planning, and program development discussions at the state, community, and local level.

Wedge Issues

- Let's talk about the elephant in the room
- Recovery in the age of COVID
- COVID will dominate all public policy discussions for the foreseeable future
- And when it's not COVID, it will be racial injustice.
- Where does recovery fit in these discussions?

Are You Ready For Some Football?



"Phase 3"

- COVID Phase 3
- "CARES" Act
- They don't seem to "care" very much about SUD treatment and recovery...
- Because we're not the best game of football in town anymore.

- Recovery support services did not fare well. Nor did any SUD services.
- SAMHSA received \$425 million- which sounds like a considerable amount.
- Put another way...

Table Scraps...


- Behavioral Health received 1/5 of 1% of all Public Health funds
- BH received 1/2 of 1% of what the airline industry received.
- We're not in the headlines anymore. That impacts policy.

“Telehealth! Telehealth!”

- Not as easy as flipping a switch (pun intended...)
- What do we need?
- Teleservices infrastructure
- Ability to conduct outreach

“Phase 4” (and final?)

- Phase 4
- “HEROES act.”
- We got more- but did we do BETTER?
- This is still in progress. The House has passed its legislation. The Senate has not.


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- \$3 billion to SAMHSA
 - \$60 million set aside for Behavioral Health
 - Recovery support services are an allowable use of these funds- but the states will have outsized influence.

- Ryan/Katko, Klobuchar/Young
- \$100 million a year for two years
- Building support networks and outreach for SUD recovery is an allowable use of funding.

Opioids

- State Opioid Response Grant
- \$1.5 billion nationwide
- States receive grant based on population
- States with highest overdose rates get extra funds.
- Recovery funds are allowable use.
- Some states are more committed than others.

- OIG report
- <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-BL-18-00460.pdf>

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- 20 states and territories dedicated less than 5% of their SOR funds to Recovery Support Services
 - Of those 20, ELEVEN states dedicated ZERO funds to Recovery.

- There is some good news
- Vermont: 37.2%
- Rhode Island: 35.4%
- Massachusetts: 74.1%
- New Jersey: 48.8%
- Overall average: 13.2%

SAMHSA SAPT Block Grant

- Still no increase in block grant
- 12 years running
- Real impact is prevention (20% set aside)

Family Support Services

- Family Support Services for Addiction Act
- FAVOR has endorsed both the house and senate versions.
- First of its kind, to our knowledge.
- The bipartisan legislation administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services would start a \$25 million grant program lasting over five years to help national and local nonprofits and community organizations offering resources of support to families.

Medicaid Re-entry Act

- Passed House as part of the “HEROES” Act
- Medicaid benefits can finance health care beginning up to 30 days before release from incarceration (via the 1115 waiver)
- Speeds up re-enrollment and closes gaps in coverages
- Will benefit those in need of treatment and recovery services upon release
- Still working on passage in the Senate

- One of our long-term goals is to see a “set aside” in the SAMHSA SAPT block grant for recovery support services.
- Perhaps the COVID 19 emergency is an opportunity?
- If not, we try again in the future.

In Closing

- Running along two roads
- The “New Normal” and “Business as usual.”
- May you live in interesting times!



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