

2023 ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Description

The Advocate of the Year Awards recognize outstanding advocacy leadership demonstrated by individuals, family members and youth/young adults. These awards are presented in honor of the legacies of Lisa Mojer-Torres and Joel Hernandez, who stood up for the dignity and rights of all people impacted by substance use disorders.

Award Categories

- 1. Individual
- 2. Family Member
- 3. Youth

Nominee	Mark Jachym
Organization	Westfield Addressing Addiction
Title	Acadia Health Care
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I know Mark through the recovery and human services communities. We have worked together for the past 5 years to try to help our hometown of Westfield, MA in gaining education on harm reduction, prevention, resources and recovery. We also have worked together in our neighboring city for the past two years as he works in outreach and I work with people experiencing homelessness.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	I have seen him go above and beyond and volunteer his time and energy to this cause on dozens of occasions. Mark believes in meeting people where they are at and has great results with that approach. Mark has a positive impact on the community he serves and has definitely had a hand in saving lives around here. He happens to also be a great speaker who shares his story of recovery freely and without shame, which isn't easy. He speaks with parents and spouses looking for guidance. He speaks in the schools and it's exciting to see how engaged the students are with him. It's also exciting to see the progress and change his advocacy is bringing about. Mark is a real gift to our community and I bet you can't find one person to disagree with me!!!
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	All pathways to recovery. Harm reduction. Education and prevention. Where the city will spend the opioid lawsuit settlement monies. Low barrier housing programs.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions	Mark was a member of CORE (a volunteer collation under the Board of Health) and is currently a member of WMSAPA (Western Mass Substance Abuse Providers Association).

toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	
Awards and Honors (if any)	

Nominee	Laurie Johnson-Wade
Organization	Lost Dreams Awakening
Title	Co-Founder and Executive Director
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I have know Laurie Johnson-Wade since 2015 and she has made a significant impact in the Behavioral Health & Recovery Community. We together are members of Black Faces Black Voices.
Describe the nominee’s work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	<p>Laurie Johnson-Wade is the Co-Founding Director of Lost Dreams Awakening (LDA) Recovery Community Organization (RCO), a 501c3 non-profit in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Laurie is an Advanced Implementation Specialist (AIS) with the Opioid Response Network (ORN) at UMKC; a Steering Committee Member for the Peer Recovery Center of Excellence Workforce Development Core Team 3; an adjunct faculty member of Faces and Voices Recovery Training Institute (RTI); and was recently selected to serve on the Life Unites Us Community Impact Committee.</p> <p>Laurie is a Certified Behavioral Consultant (CBC), a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS); a Recovery Support Supervisor (RSS); a Forensic Peer Specialist (FPS), and has a degree in Health Administration. Laurie brings over 30 years of lived recovery experience (Established May 30, 1991), to the revolutionary and rewarding work of Recovery Support Services and Recovery Coaching.</p> <p>Laurie is a 1993 graduate of Newport Business Institute with a degree in Health Administration. Laurie has a strength and passion for learning, as such, she has become trained as a National Certified Behavioral Specialist, a Pennsylvania Certified Board (PCB) Recovery Specialist (CRS), a PCB Certified Family Recovery Specialist (CFRS) , a Recovery Support Supervisor (RSS); a trainer of the CCAR Recovery Coach Academy & Ethics for Peer Providers; a</p>

	<p>Certified NAADAC Recovery Coach; a trained Forensic Peer Specialist; a trained facilitator of the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) Recovering Families Program; a trainer of PRO-ACTS Family Education Series, a Naloxone Trainer for Westmoreland County Drug & Alcohol Commission; a trainer of the Addiction Policy Forum's "What is Addiction" Community Education Project; an intern for Arise™ Invitational Interventions & Continuing Care for Families; and the Founder & President of Western PA GAP (Grandparent's As Parents).</p> <p>She serves on the Board of Directors for Faces and Voices of Recovery - serving as the Chair of the CAPRSS Committee, as well as the DEI Committee.</p> <p>Laurie is a proud member of Black Faces Black Voices (BFBV) and seeks to integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) within all systems of care - spanning Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery.</p> <p>Laurie is the founder of LDA Ubuntu Recovery, a new recovery pathway, based on the ancient African Philosophy of Ubuntu.</p>
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Laurie's passion is Advocacy and she is a staunch representative of the Recovery Community locally, statewide, and nationally. Laurie has been featured on television, news media, magazines, and mentors' communities in establishing their own Recovery Community Organizations. Laurie serves on the ARCO Membership Committee and brings over 28 years of lived recovery, Established May 30, 1991, to the rewarding and revolutionary work of Recovery Support Services (RSS) and Recovery Coaching.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	From the work she has done to promote recovery, I've mentioned quite a bit on the first section on this application. I'm not aware of speaking tours, writings, town halls, etc. but I do believe she has done plenty of local and state campaigns and speeches about her story and recovery as a whole.
Awards and Honors (if any)	Laurie was named the 2020 Recovery Advocate of the Year by the Pittsburgh Recovery Walk.

Nominee	Ginny Atwood Lovitt
Organization	The Chris Atwood Foundation
Title	Director of Advocacy and Development
Category	Family Member
Describe your relationship with the	Ginny is my daughter and I have known her all 35 years of her life.

<p>person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.</p>	
<p>Describe the nominee’s work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>Ginny Atwood Lovitt co-founded The Chris Atwood Foundation with the goal to fill the gaps in care that her brother slipped through - and that cost him his life. Ginny is also a person in long-term recovery, but first and fore-most she is a grieving sister who advocates on her brother's behalf. She has sat on the governor's opioid task force, as well as a handful of local taskforces.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Ginny is most passionate about dispelling the stigma against people who use medications for opioid use disorder and increasing accessibility of care. As one of a rare number of full-service hybrid recovery and harm reduction organizations, she also focuses heavily on bridging gaps between harm reduction and recovery and later this year will release a series of state-funded webinars on the topic.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee’s contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>In 2013, Ginny found her little brother Chris suffering from a heroin overdose and was not able to save him because at that time access to Narcan was slim. That same year our family launched The Chris Atwood Foundation, which Ginny took on leadership of. Shortly thereafter she almost single-handedly brought about the passage of three state laws in Virginia that pioneered access to Narcan by allowing community organizations like The Chris Atwood Foundation to dispense directly to the people they serve, removing administrative hoops and barriers to becoming eligible to dispense narcan, and allowing the distribution of intramuscular syringes with generic naloxone. Prior to Ginny's advocacy, to get narcan one had to acquire a prescription for a clunky and expensive nasal atomizer device and fill it at the pharmacy. Few to no people in active use were going this route. Training in overdose reversal was a mandatory hour-long curriculum offered sporadically that was inaccessible to many people. Becoming eligible to dispense narcan was a high-barrier endeavor virtually no organizations were able to complete.</p> <p>Thanks to Ginny's advocacy, you can now get naloxone through a standing order from the pharmacy without an individual prescription, any employee or volunteer of a community organization addressing the overdose crisis can dispense naloxone to the highest risk people in the field with a brief training of their own design, and abundant and affordable intramuscular naloxone can be legally distributed.</p> <p>Under her leadership, The Chris Atwood Foundation has given out over 100,000 doses of free naloxone and received reports of over 1,700 lives saved. Previous to Ginny's advocacy, syringe services programs were only allowed in certain areas of the state designated by the Virginia Department of Health to be at elevated risk, and programs were required to get law enforcement and local</p>

	<p>government approval before opening, which few localities could accomplish. Participants in the few existing programs could be charged with possession of paraphernalia while on their way to dispose of used syringes at the syringe program. Ginny spearheaded the passage of a law that made syringe programs legal statewide, removed the unreasonable program approval requirements, and protected members of the program from being criminalized for returning used syringes. After getting the law passed, she secured funding for and launched Northern Virginia's first comprehensive harm reduction program.</p> <p>She was also involved in the team effort to improve Virginia's Safe Reporting of Overdoses law, which now protects not just the person calling 911 but also the person who has overdosed. Her organization is fighting stigma and advocating for better services for people impacted by substance use disorder through a number of programs including the nationally recognized HOPE team, a partnership with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and Community Services Board providing in-jail and post-release recovery, harm reduction, and MOUD friendly peer support. This innovative program was featured in Beth Macy's new book, Raising Lazarus.</p> <p>Ginny has shared her family's story with local, national, and international news outlets such as NPR, NBC, the Washington Post, and The History Channel, and participated in the new alcohol and drug video curriculum shared with all middle and high school students in her home county.</p> <p>She is currently fighting a stigmatizing local zoning ordinance where she lives that prevents organizations from providing social services to people who use drugs. This piece of code is blocking her from opening a recovery community center. She is working with the Mayor and others to change this. She is also in the midst of a multi-year battle to pass legislation that would require hospital emergency rooms to stop "treating and streeting" people and start providing overdose patients with induction on MOUD, take-home naloxone, and community resources.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	Thanks to Ginny's advocacy work, The Chris Atwood Foundation was given a commending resolution from the General Assembly of Virginia, and Ginny has also received advocacy awards from Leadership Fairfax, Oxford House, and the local drug prevention coalition.

Nominee	Heidi Gerard
Organization	Inner County Outreach
Title	Director

Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	The person I am nominating is my mother and I have known her forever, well 16 years.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	My mother has met with our newly elected leaders since day one of their terms in office. She has met with our county executive, county council, state delegates and courts to bring awareness about to the fact that addiction is alive and thriving in our community. Our leaders try to turn a blind eye to the fact that people are experiencing homelessness and committing crimes due to addiction.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	My mom is most passionate about women in recovery and the effects on the children. As a mother in recovery, she provides a safe place, advocacy and other basic needs for women who are in active addiction or early in recovery. She also works with and mentors' children who are affected by parental incarceration and substance use. She wants to break the generational cycle of addiction in families.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	My mom just started a nonprofit, ChrysantheMoms Inc., for mothers and children who are affected by codependency, addiction and other challenges. Through her organization she provides resources, guidance and peer support to mothers and their children. My mom is also part of the 7 Dynamic Women Tour. She does several public speaking events in our community to bring awareness to what it is like to be a mother in recovery.
Awards and Nominations if any	2019-Champion of Children

Nominee	Elizabeth Cruz
Organization	Womens Justice Institute
Title	Senior Adviser
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Elizabeth Cruz and I have known each other for the past 4 yrs. We are colleagues of the justice reform sector throughout the states. I e known her to be passionate and committed to the work for and to the communities of people that have been disenfranchised by the system of incarceration. To watch her excel and achieve new heights each time is very inspiring!
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery	Elizabeth has been dedicated to educating, providing pathways that lead to recovery and also an example of a person whose determined

with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	to being the example. She's created jobs, and been a mentor to women who are transitioning home from facilities. She's created programs and advocated for the incarcerated women to have second chances. Social Justice Reform, Criminal Legal Reform, Women's rights, needs and supports as well as reducing harm in prisons, jails and community based treatment centers
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Women's rights. Prisoners Right. Equity for all. Justice issues. Immigration rights. Parent advocacy groups and motherhood advocates groups.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Ok here is the 2nd one Contributed to the development and content of the national Redefining the Narrative report with the Women's Justice Institute. In the report there are recommendations to alternatives to incarceration when substance use is present as well as reduce technical violations in relation to relapse during supervision. Ms. Cruz currently works on and continues to develop a national Care Coordination model which is a peer led and supports women returning home from incarceration who are in need to community based substance use treatment. This model is led for and by Ms. Cruz who has lived experience as a person in long term recovery as well as a person who experienced incarceration first hand.
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Todd Sylvester
Organization	Wasatch Recovery
Title	Life Coach
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I met Todd Sylvester the week I entered a residential treatment program at Wasatch Recovery in October, 2021. Todd is the life coach there. I have been a follower of his on Facebook since my graduation of residential care. (53 days) Todd has an amazing podcast called "Todd Inspires" where he shares his interviews with folks who have overcome their problems with addictions and difficult circumstances.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Todd has been interviewed countless times with public figures, news stations and has made appearances at schools, jails, prisons, recovery centers, organizations, businesses, private practice and so on. He is a brilliant voice of recovery, as he has had his own battles with addiction as a high school student decades ago. Every single person he has talked to that I am aware of, has nothing but amazing things to say about him. Most will say that Todd has inspired them. He is well known in Utah for all that he contributes to our community.

Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Todd is passionate about how our belief systems fuel our addictive behavior. It's mentioned in his book: "It's Time To Start Living." Copyright 2016
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	His podcast Todd Inspires is released approximately once per week. This is received by thousands of listeners and viewers. I do not know exactly how many times he shares his story publicly, but he has had numerous speaking tours for schools, businesses, and organizations.
Awards and Honors (if any)	I do not know of exact instances, but I imagine there are many. I'm just an ordinary person nominating a phenomenal advocate for recovery.

Nominee	Zoe Brokos
Organization	COSI
Title	Executive Director for Church of Safe Injection
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I have only worked with Zoe for about a year personally, however have seen her very strong in the recovery and advocacy community for many years.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Zoe Brokos has spent over a decade working in harm reduction and advocating for those who she serves and those she may never meet. She has worked advocating in the Maine State legislation for years in different capacities on bills supporting those who use drugs. No matter what it is Zoe whether someone unhoused needing shelter, someone with SUD needing treatment, funding or wound care to just name a few, she always makes it happen.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Harm Reduction Injustice Recovery and dignity
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	She has helped write a report for the ACLU "A better path for Maine: The case for decriminalizing drugs, pass numerous laws, launching advocacy campaigns, fundraisers, writing grants, etc. She is the wonder woman of recovery and advocacy.

Awards and honors if any	I'm sure many with all the work she does.
--------------------------	---

Nominee	Reagan Dunn
Organization	King County Council
Title	Councilmember
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Council Member Dunn has been a longtime friend of Recovery Café and advocate for recovery in Washington State!
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	<p>Reagan Dunn is a devoted advocate for recovery within our local government, within Washington State, and the entire country. He has given not only his time and position to raising awareness of substance use prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services, but he has dedicated much of his personal life to it as well.</p> <p>Reagan has consciously used this personal challenge as an opportunity to do good, openly sharing about his journey to recovery from alcohol use disorder in order to help reduce social stigma. He has used his unique platform as a public figure to be open and vulnerable about his recovery, being intentional about normalizing recovery for the media and for the public, and demonstrating that recovery is possible for anyone.</p> <p>Not only has Reagan used his platform to share his own story of finding recovery and reduce stigma, but Reagan has also made substance use issues a primary focus of his work as an elected official at the county level and used his position to advocate for needed policy changes at both the state level and the federal level. Examples of this include working at the local city and county level to be a voice for the needs of the substance use community from advocating for increased funding to working with his colleagues to make sure recovery services are considered in all new social service projects; working with the State Legislature to advocate for increased emphasis in funding of recovery services as well as proposing and advocating for legislation that would make conversations between sponsors and the sponsored party privileged; and striving at the national level with our state's delegation to find ways to increase substance use disorder services by funding local governments and making life saving medication more accessible for those in need. Reagan has dedicated his time in recovery to fighting for others and making sure they have the same opportunity to recover as he did.</p>

<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Through Reagan’s own lived experience and his position as a King County Councilmember, he is one of the foremost elected advocates for stigma reduction and awareness of substance use disorders in Washington State. Reagan’s passion for substance use and recovery extends far beyond one advocacy issue, but I believe all his work can be boiled down to the advocacy issue of “substance use disorder stigma reduction and awareness.” Many examples of his work on this issue are below.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee’s contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>In order to effectively and efficiently communicate the true breath of work that Reagan Dunn has done for those seeking and in recovery, I have highlighted several examples out of many to help you understand his work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2016, Councilmember Reagan Dunn was the primary advocate and author of Washington State legislation that ensured those seeking treatment from addiction have a protected relationship with their sponsors. This legislation passed with large bipartisan support, enshrining in law the confidential relationship between a person in recovery and their sponsor, and solidifying the safe environment that helps people recover. With the passage of this bill, Washington became the first state in the nation to add legal protections for those in fellowship recovery programs. 2. Reagan established and hosted the first King County Conference on Substance Use Disorders in the spring of 2021, where the over 200 participants heard from behavioral health experts on substance use issues and provided resources for those needing help. Since its launch, the conference was hosted again by Reagan in 2022 and became an official funded King County event, establishing future conferences for years to come. This year, the conference will be held in-person for the first time and Reagan and others working on it are hoping to bring 400 people together to talk about substance use disorder and recovery. 3. After seeing and personally experiencing the impacts of societal stigma when it came to substance use disorder stigma, Reagan successfully advocated for funding to establish an anti-stigma awareness and recovery encouragement campaign. This campaign launched in October of 2022 and is called the “Don’t Count Us Out” campaign: https://supportaddictionrecovery.com/. This social media and billboard campaign has reached thousands of people across King County and is continuing to help remove societal barriers within our communities for those with substance use disorders looking to start their journey to recovery. 4. In the 2023-2024 King County Biennial Budget, Reagan helped secure over \$600,000 for the County to purchase the life-saving opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone. His advocacy for this came from meeting with fellow advocates, providers, and both people with

	<p>active substance use disorders and those in recovery to understand that one of the best ways to getting people to recovery is to keep them alive. From this understanding, Reagan is continuing to advocate for this life saving drug by working with federal partners to lower costs and, in turn, making it more accessible to local governments.</p> <p>5. In 2021, as conversations were happening to decide how best to spend levy money to help people in King County from birth to 26 years old, Reagan led the way to advocate and ensure that the levy included Substance Use and Mental Health supports. His passion for this came from understanding that the youth of our county would need much higher behavioral health supports for the post-pandemic environment. He successfully secured an awareness campaign for youth as well as placing a higher emphasis on substance use disorder prevention and intervention within this monumental levy. This prioritizing of funding will invest in wellbeing of King County’s youth for years to come.</p> <p>6. As virtual recovery meetings were becoming necessary due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and inappropriate zoom bombings and recordings were picking up, Reagan took action by introducing legislation to help hold zoom bombers and others looking to cause malice accountable by making it illegal in King County to hack into a virtual recovery or behavioral health meeting. Giving legal power and assurance back to those that are seeking help.</p> <p>7. Finally, Reagan spoke at a virtual Speak Out for Recovery Event in the middle of the pandemic. He shared the practical ways of how he navigated the early days of his recovery which I found incredibly helpful to people seeking a drug and alcohol-free life.</p> <p>As I mentioned above, this is just a small glimpse of the work that Reagan has done to advocate for those in recovery. It is my hope that with this you can understand his passion and dedication for this work and my reason for nominating him for this award.</p>
Awards and honors if any	Washington State’s Outstanding Local Elected Official of the Year.

Nominee	Jeff Breedlove (please note that Jeff received two nominations)
Organization	Georgia Council for Recovery
Title	Chief of Communications and Policy
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	<p>First nomination: Mr. Breedlove is a leader in the field whom I look up to. He's an excellent advocate for recovery and a wonderful example of quality recovery. I met him when I began work in the field a year ago.</p> <p>Second nomination: Over the last 4 years, I have had the privilege of working with Jeff on various recovery related events and trainings. I first met him when he presented a recovery advocacy training during Recovery Month. Since then, we have collaborated on several occasions to provide recovery messaging, recovery advocacy and other community engagement events.</p>
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	<p>First nomination: Mr. Breedlove works to create and implement policy on the regional, state and national levels with policy-makers and political leaders with respect to recovery awareness and programs for people in long-term recovery. He creates social media posts nearly daily for those of us in recovery to share and travels around the state doing recovery advocacy trainings for the public. He makes sure the voice of recovery is heard throughout our state and has helped make Georgia a leader in recovery at the national level. We need him and are extremely grateful for all of his work.</p> <p>Second nomination: Jeff has diligently and passionately led the recovery advocacy movement in Georgia. Not only does he directly work with our senators and representatives on providing recovery friendly language and legislation, he has been a leader in training the recovery community to advocate with the peer voice.</p>
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	<p>First nomination: Mr. Breedlove gives voice to the concept that "recovery is real" on a national level, advocating for those of us in recovery and our families by highlighting the reality of complete recovery from substance use disorder and demonstrating the ability to live a full life free from drugs or alcohol. He works to combat stigma through raising awareness of recovery in our nation, and by serving as an example of quality recovery to those of us in the field. He's also passionate about fund-raising in order to help achieve the goals of these efforts, which are to shatter stigma and promote that recovery from substance use disorder is real, as well as community partnerships and networks across the country which aid these efforts.</p> <p>Second nomination: Jeff has a passion for issues such as:</p>

	<p>"recovery is real" bringing awareness to the community at large that people DO recover, and there is hope for those who struggle with SUD, AUD, and MHD.</p> <p>"shattering stigma" Jeff believes the number one killer is STIGMA. His goal is to educate the public, letting them know that SUD, AUD and MHD know no social, economic or racial bounds. Until we shatter stigma, people are going to keep dying in silence.</p> <p>Jeff seeks provide legislation that makes recovery possible for ALL people, to increase recovery opportunities and resources.</p> <p>Jeff advocates for more funding for recovery service providers.</p>
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	<p>First nomination: Mr. Breedlove regularly leads advocacy events and speaking engagements at the capitol and throughout the state. He has organized town hall meetings throughout the state of Georgia through ZOOM meetings with senators, house representatives and law enforcement. He has aided in making Georgia a leader in the recovery field across the country and improving the lives of many citizens in recovery today. We are extremely grateful for him!</p> <p>Second nomination: There are countless contributions that Jeff has made toward the recovery movement, and I do not claim to know them all. Just to name a few are: Georgia Recovery Ambassador Billboard Campaign (2 rounds) Countless town hall meetings Countless press conference meetings Mobilize Recovery Campaign HB-1013</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	

Nominee	Pete Nielsen
Organization	California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
Title	CEO & President
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	My name is Sherry Daley, I am the Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Corporate Communications at the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) and it is with great pride that I nominate Pete Nielsen for the Advocate of the Year Award. I have known Pete for 15 years. We met as colleagues at CCAPP and through our work fighting the devastation of addiction and promoting recovery, I have come to see him as a friend and respected leader. In every aspect of Pete's life, I see his perseverance and commitment to advancing recovery. From his professional commitments and achievements in his personal journey Pete Nielsen is an individual most deserving of this award.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery	Promoting awareness of recovery has been Pete Nielsen's lifelong work, I can say with confidence that Pete's achievements in this journey far exceed that of any other individual I know. As the

<p>with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>president and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP), CCAPP Credentialing, CCAPP Education Institute, and the Behavioral Health Association of Providers (BHAP), Pete is a steering force in California’s recovery landscape.</p> <p>He stands at the helm of CCAPP, the only addiction-focused advocacy organization in the state of California to maintain federal, state, and in-house governmental affairs representation. With his guidance and expertise in recovery policy, he has led CCAPP into the most successful advocacy era of its time. In fact, with his leadership last year, CCAPP was recognized by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing for Organizational Achievement in Advocacy. During his ongoing tenure, CCAPP has shepherded to enactment two landmark pieces of legislation ending the predatory practice of patient brokering (SB 1228 (Lara, Chaptered) and AB 919 (Petrie-Norris, Chaptered)). And he has helped CCAPP become one of the most recognized recovery stakeholders in the state. Pete serves on countless working groups, boards, and other stakeholder organizations. In these groups, he represents the voice of recovery and works to keep our issues at the forefront of everyone’s minds. To name just a couple of groups he has served or worked with: he was a committee member on the National Quality Forum’s Opioid and Behavioral Health Committee, a member of the Board of Directors for the National Alliance on mental illness, and a member of the Advisory Board for A Reason to Believe LLC. Pete also facilitates one of California’s largest recovery events. Annually, CCAPP hosts the Recovery Happens event, California’s largest recovery celebration. Each year, thousands gather to increase awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders and celebrate those in recovery.</p> <p>Outside of his professional commitments, Pete Nielsen is an avid writer, speaker, and educator promoting recovery awareness. He dedicates time and energy to television, radio, and print publications to advance the notion that recovery is possible for everyone. He led the effort to purchase Counselor Magazine to better present a forward view of addiction treatment strategy and advocacy across the nation and is a formidable force in thwarting NIMBYism at the local government level. He has been published nationally and travels the country speaking on the issue of recovery. In all his capacities, he is a leader, a mentor, and an advocate promoting recovery awareness in all his work.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Pete Nielsen is extremely passionate about all recovery advocacy issues but he is the most passionate about ethical care, ensuring equitable access to multiple pathways to recovery and building a recovery-oriented system of care. For these reasons, he has in all his capacities as a leader, a professional, and an individual in recovery always supported the expansion of ethical guidelines, access to medication-assisted recovery (MAR), and the building of</p>

	<p>recovery infrastructure. He strongly believes that if these values are shared and made true, recovery would be possible for all.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee’s contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>With his passion and commitment to the aforementioned issues of ethics, access, and recovery in mind, Mr. Nielsen has spearheaded numerous efforts advancing recovery. Pete has championed reform in the education system that is the pipeline for the SUD profession. Alongside his advocacy work to create a licensing program for addiction professionals and to obtain budget allocations for substance use disorder students, Pete has made significant improvements to all levels of addiction education in California. He led the effort to completely update badly outdated vocational education curriculum and expanded the state’s locations for providing vocational education at the CCAPP Academy. He fought for and won a state grant to train peer support professionals in California, and reformed the state’s largest continuing education system to ensure that the quality and relevance of continuing education will keep pace with the developments the industry is experiencing.</p> <p>In addition to this, he led a statewide campaign to educate program owners and operators in ethical practices within their programs, creating the first-ever Certified Treatment Executive program; he travels throughout the state performing trainings for counseling professionals to ensure that their knowledge and motivation to ensure client protection remains highly competent. Mr. Nielsen has also campaigned to make California an early adopter of new medications for treating addiction. Facing institutional bias against using “drugs” to treat drug addiction, Mr. Nielsen was undeterred in his desire to save lives by ensuring that every Californian in need of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) be given information to make informed choices about these life-saving medicines and access to them. From meeting with program owners and managers at business roundtables and boardrooms; to the creation of educational tracks and seminars on MAT; to working with state contractors to develop a highly interactive tool for counselors to hold in their hands while discussing these therapies with clients, California has Pete Nielsen to thank for its acceptance and utilization of MAT. Beyond the practical aspects and thousands of hours Pete has spent addressing the quality of treatment, ethical delivery, and improving access, he should be this year’s award recipient because he has literally started a movement to end the stigma of addiction and to make California, and the nation, recovery friendly.</p> <p>Furthermore, he is published nationally and travels the country speaking on the issue of recovery. A few notable publications and speaking engagements include the Treatment Center’s Role in Building a Recovery-Oriented System of Care at the Addiction Professional Summit and Addiction Intervention Treatment,</p>

	Integrating the Family into Addiction Treatment: A guide for families and addiction professionals.
Awards and Honors (if any)	President's Volunteer Service Award, 2007 and 2008 1st Quarter Instructor Intercoast Colleges Award, 2010 The Joseph A. Giannantonio II Award (Excellence in Teaching), 2010 Award for performance/achievement from CAADAC, 2010 Award for performance/achievement from CAADAC, 2012 Excellence in Performance Award from CAADAC, 2013

Nominee	Tracie Gardner
Organization	Legal Action Center
Title	Senior Vice President of Policy Advocacy
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Tracie and I have worked together at Legal Action Center for close to 20 years. Tracie is my supervisor, teammate, partner in the fight for health equity and justice, as well as my very loved friend and sister.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Tracie uses her voice in New York, DC, and nationally to advocate for policies that help improve the health and well-being of people who currently use or have used drugs, including people in recovery. Tracie not only participates in high-level discussions with elected officials and other policymakers, but also routinely engages with diverse community members, particularly those most impacted by our issues, to train, educate, and strategize. Tracie is an extremely effective communicator, leveraging media opportunities to inform and engage people around the country toward greater health equity and justice.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Tracie's work focuses on myriad topics related to improving the lives of people with substance use and criminal legal entanglement, particularly those who are Black and brown and disproportionately criminalized and punished for issues related to their chronic health conditions. Tracie's projects include efforts to leverage Medicaid to improve physical and mental health care for people preparing to reenter their communities after incarceration, bring Alternatives to Incarceration and reentry programming to scale across New York State, and expand equitable access to harm reduction services for people who use drugs.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched	Tracie serves as a leader in and guides the work of multiple campaigns and coalitions in New York and nationally – the ATI/Reentry Coalition, Freedom Agenda's Campaign to Close Rikers Coordinating Committee, the Clean Slate New York Campaign, From Punishment to Public Health (Health and Justice Working Group),

<p>advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>LAC’s No Health = No Justice Campaign, the Black Harm Reduction Network, and more. She sits on the NYC Commission for Community Reinvestment and the Closure of Rikers and chairs its Health Sub-committee.</p> <p>Tracie is an invaluable leader not only for LAC but for her many advocacy colleagues in New York and across the country. She is a mentor to many and works tirelessly to build the next generation of advocates. She approaches her work with tenacity, humor, and deep care and respect for the constituencies she fights for and alongside.</p>
<p>Awards and Honors (if any)</p>	<p>Gay City News Impact Award, 2020</p> <p>Master Class Award—Women’s Health and Activism, New York State Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, 2019</p>

Nominee	Wendy Jones
<p>Organization</p>	<p>Minnesota Recovery Connection</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Executive Director</p>
<p>Category</p>	<p>Individual</p>
<p>Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.</p>	<p>Wendy is a colleague and friend. I have known her since she assumed the role of the Executive Director for the Minnesota Recovery Connection in January of 2018.</p>
<p>Describe the nominee’s work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>Wendy is a mission-driven leader with extensive experience in nonprofit management, public policy reform, public relations and program operations. She is the Executive Director for the Minnesota Recovery Connection, the oldest Recovery Community Organization in the state of Minnesota.</p> <p>Wendy joined Minnesota Recovery Connection as its Executive Director in 2018 after a long career with the Minnesota Historical Society, where she was the Director of Education. A person in long-term recovery from Substance Use Disorder, she was first introduced to Minnesota Recovery Connection as a volunteer, an experience that had a profound impact on her life.</p> <p>Wendy holds a master's degree in public affairs from the prestigious Humphrey School of Public Affairs and is a former Humphrey Policy Fellow and a graduate of the Wilder Foundations' Shannon Institute on Leadership. Under Wendy’s leadership, Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC) has become the premiere Recovery Community Organization in the State of Minnesota.</p>

	<p>Under Wendy's guidance the MRC trains dozens of people to become certified peer recovery specialists every year. Wendy is viewed as a subject matter expert on recovery at the Minnesota State Capitol and is often called upon by the state house or state senate to testify on recovery matters. She has been instrumental in the founding of the Minnesota Alliance of Recovery Community Organizations (MARCO).</p> <p>She has authored articles on recovery, written Op Ed pieces on recovery, has been interviewed on the radio and television about recovery and was recently selected to serve on the Minnesota Governor's Advisory Council on Opioids, Substance Use and Addiction. She is a fierce and proud advocate for recovery. In a recent article on recovery Wendy wrote the following, "The 2017 Minnesota Substance Use Reform legislation is a positive step towards a recovery-oriented system of care, but implementation is not yet fully understood or realized. Peer recovery support services, including services provided by RCOs, are an innovative component of the legislation. They have great potential to disrupt the old models and lay the foundation for lasting change in our systems of care. However, issues of funding, compliance, integrity of services, workforce development, and integration within current practices are as yet unresolved."</p> <p>Additionally, under Wendy's guidance, Minnesota Recovery Connection lifted and shifted their annual walk for recovery from Minneapolis to the capitol grounds in St. Paul. This past September, Wendy led 2,000 others around the state capitol grounds to celebrate recovery and to send a subtle message to our state legislators that we're in recovery, we know how to show-up and we vote!</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Wendy is passionate about growing recovery throughout Minnesota. In the spring of 2019, Wendy contacted the Recovery Community Network (RCN) in St. Cloud, MN to enquire if the RCN could use some start up funding to become a bonafide nonprofit. Through Wendy's hard work , the RCN received it's initial funding from the State of Minnesota. Wendy's organization, (MRC), acted as the RCN's fiscal agent, thereby allowing the RCN to focus on providing peer recovery services to the citizens of Central MN. Today the RCN is a premiere RCO in Central MN that provides telephone recovery services to over 110 people weekly, educates over 3,000 people annually and brings recovery services into the Central MN Detox and the county jail on a weekly basis. None of this would have been possible had it not been for Wendy's advocacy, passion and assistance.</p> <p>Similarly, Wendy contacted Beth Elsted in Duluth, MN and enquired if the Recovery Alliance Duluth (RAD) could use funding from the</p>

	<p>State of Minnesota to increase the services RAD was providing in northern Minnesota. Beth responded enthusiastically with, "yes" and Wendy was able to obtain funding for RAD too. Through Wendy's advocacy, Beth was able to expand recovery services to northern rural MN - a portion of MN that has been particularly devastated by the "Opioid Crisis."</p> <p>In an effort to help spread recovery services throughout Minnesota, Wendy has been instrumental in organizing state RCOs to collaborate and cooperate with each other. Under the banner of "We are stronger together", Wendy has laid the groundwork for the Minnesota Alliance of Recovery Community Organizations (MARCO). Wendy has obtained state funding to organize MARCO and once established, this organization will advocate at a public level and legislative level to lower stigma regarding substance use disorders and to increase services for people living with or seeking help with a substance use disorder. Moreover, MARCO will provide assistance to emerging RCOs and share best practices with them until the emerging RCO is able to provide a full array of recovery services on their own.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>Wendy is a person in long-term recovery. What that means to her is that she has not used alcohol or drugs in 24 years. She states, "I have found great joy, love, success, and health in my recovery, and have also experienced profound loss, pain, and failure. But my recovery has given me the hope and stability to navigate life's challenges with confidence in my many strengths. In recovery, I've been able to create a better life for myself, my family and my community. I am one of 23 million Americans who are living proof that recovery is possible."</p> <p>Wendy's impact on the recovery community of Minnesota cannot be adequately measured. She has positively impacted the lives of thousands of Minnesotans through her advocacy, organizational skills, public policy reform efforts and the sharing of her recovery experiences. Here are but a few examples of her extraordinary services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Recovery Month - Wendy leads and directs Minnesota Recovery Connections' National Recovery Month events. Those events include but aren't limited to: a) Recovery Breakfast - This event is held in collaboration with Augsburgs College's Step Up Program. This breakfast brings together over a 100 attendees to learn about recovery in all its forms and manifestations and especially collegiate recovery. b) Rally Caps for Recovery - This event, held in cooperation with the Minnesota Twins professional baseball team, is the premiere recovery event held in partnership with any sports team in Minnesota. Over 2,000 people in recovery will attend this annual game where a recovery speaker will speak to an audience of approximately 20,000 people prior to the start of the game. c) Walk for Recovery - This annual event brings together

	<p>almost 2,000 walkers from throughout Minnesota to gather on the front lawn of the state capitol and to hear information about recovery prior to walking in a 5K around the capitol. This annual event helps spread the message both verbally and physically that "Recovery is for Everyone."</p> <p>2. Minnesota Alliance of Recovery Community Organizations (MARCO) - Wendy recently authored a grant requesting \$3,000,000 from the State of Minnesota to organize and codify MARCO. The state accepted the grant and currently officers from MARCO along with Wendy are in contract negotiations with the state. Once solidified, MARCO will become the face and voice of Recovery Community Organizations in Minnesota. In coordination with ARCO, MARCO will help mentor emerging RCOs while it provides leadership and guidance to the 18 RCOs located throughout Minnesota.</p> <p>3. Wendy has been responsible for obtaining over \$200,000 of funding from the State of Minnesota for the Recovery Community Network located in Central MN thereby allowing the RCN to morph into a fully functioning RCO recognized by ARCO and MARCO.</p> <p>4. Wendy was able to obtain over \$100,000 from Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) in Central MN to provide Peer Recovery Services in a seven county area north of the metro area of Minneapolis and St. Paul.</p> <p>5. Wendy has held town-hall meetings, written editorials and spoken on numerous occasions about recovery and a recovery oriented system of care throughout Minnesota.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	<p>Venerable Order of Talbot Award Sept. 2022 - Issued by the Recovery Community Network</p> <p>Pinnacle Award July 2016 - Issued by Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration</p> <p>Leadership in History Award Sep 2014 - Issued by American Association of State and Local History</p> <p>Gold Award Jul 2014 - Issued by Serious Play Conference.</p>

Nominee	Elizabeth Hagadorn
Organization	Northern Tier counseling
Title	CPS
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how	I have known Liz for at least 5 years. When we first met, we were both in active addiction. I'll never forget the first day we met, because it ended with us being in a high speed police chase together. After that, we didn't really speak to each other until a couple years later when we saw each other at a 12 step meeting.

long you have known the nominee.	Little did we know, we were becoming a part of each other's recovery journey. Liz has not only became my friend, but she's also my sponsor and a huge inspiration to not only me, but so many others in our community.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Liz was a member of the drug treatment program in which she has recently graduated. In that time, herself and a couple other members of treatment court, started a non profit called ROAAR which stands for raising overall awareness about recovery. They have worked with other people in recovery and the community to do fundraisers to support their cause. They have participated in parades to bring awareness about recovery. Liz has spoke at different events and rehabs and has also done a podcast where she told her life story. Liz's organization plans to open a halfway house in the future and has partnered with salvation army to help people getting out of jail get jobs. Liz also has plans to do some work in Kensington. Liz came to work at northern tier where she is a peer support and continues to inspire others as well.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	I feel like Liz is most passionate about helping anyone that has the desire to recover.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Liz has participated in holiday parades in the community and the floats her and her partners made were focused on recovery and won first place. Liz has spoken at rehabs and told her life story on a local podcast. Liz does volunteer work for our local salvation army. Liz is a Co founder of a non profit which raises awareness about recovery.
Awards and Honors (if any)	Liz received an award from salvation army. She was honored for graduating treatment court. She won awards for her recovery float in the holiday parade.

Nominee	Sterling J. Gildersleeve
Organization	Phoenix Recovery Support Services
Title	President
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I have known Sterling for 22 years. We first met while he was serving as the Executive Director of A Safe have in 2000. I was a resident at the time and Sterling became not only an inspiration but a mentor professionally, an example of a person in recovery and then my supervisor. Sterling's life has been dedicated to helping others to develop thier own path in recovery, education stakeholders and trailblazing for the recovery community. He is now my business partner and I have learned more about the needs, challenges, how to advocate and educate than I have my enitre career. Sterling lives and breathes recovery, not only for himself but for our entire state.

<p>Describe the nominee’s work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>Sterling J. Gildersleeve has over 30 years of experience in the field of alcoholism and substance use treatment and recovery services with experience in providing management services in halfway house, residential extended care, and sober housing programs. Sterling was instrumental in writing 2060.509, the Illinois regulations for Recovery Homes.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Sterling is dedicated to increasing services for people with substance use disorder. Sterling has forged lasting relationships during his career with community partners and developed professional training programs, all to achieve the goal of increasing awareness of substance use illness in communities across the state of Illinois. Due to his dedication for supporting underserved populations, countless lives have been saved and many more people have a chance at recovery, finding hope in their future once again. Helping people who are struggling and also ending the stigma around the disease has been his passion for his entire career.</p> <p>Sterling works tirelessly to battle misinformation and is always looking for new and innovative ways to help our communities. He is an incredible asset to the state of Illinois.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee’s contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>Key Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for the design, implementation and management of sixteen facilities (1500 beds) for men, women and children in the Chicagoland area, encompassing substance abuse services, workforce development, both short and longer-term residential aftercare, as well as independent living. - Initiated and developed the Women with Children Program through DCFS and Illinois Office of Substance Abuse - Initiated and developed a program with the Cook County Department of Corrections providing and supportive services to assist in reducing recidivism for detainees and overcrowding in the county jail <p>Initiated and developed a 25 bed Youth Emergency Overnight Shelter program to offer temporary housing and case management to homeless male, female and trans gender youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiated and developed the treatment alternative program for gay men who are HIV positive - Initiated and developed Veterans Grants Per Diem Housing program that houses 30 veterans for a stay of up to two years - Developed and initiated a 100 bed Veterans Transitional program that house and provides case management services to male and female veterans <p>Specialist in:</p>

Structuring and managing long/short term residential aftercare facilities

- Devising strategies to penetrate new markets and develop new business
 - Preparing and negotiating multimillion dollar, long-term contracts
 - Managing strategic plan development and execution
 - Uniting and mentoring people to form multicultural, cross functional teams
 - Creating and directing training programs and establishing policies to improve productivity
 - Navigating operational and technical situations
 - Preparing and delivering internal and external presentations
 - Performing public relations functions and serving as media link
 - Developing and administering budgets
 - Analyzing and preparing detailed reports and forecasts
 - Identifying trends and creating organizational systems and procedural improvements
 - Contributing to new program development
- Regional Board Director
National Association of American Halfway House and Alcoholism Programs

Professional Affiliations:

Board of Directors Illinois Association of Extended Care

Board of Directors Illinois Association of Extended Care

Committee Member NCRS Certification Board

Past President/ National Association of American Halfway House and Alcoholism Programs

Co- Chairman/Housing Committee Member for the Aids Foundation of Chicago

Previous Board of Directors ACCESS Health Network

Past Chairman / Illinois Association of Extended Care

Advisory member GLATTC (Great Lakes Addictions Training Transfer Center)

Board President YANA (You Are Not Alone) Recovery Home

Board of Directors SRHAC (Single Room Housing Assistance Corporation)

Bachelor of Science Degree/ Major in Social Work

State of Illinois Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselor

Nationally Certified Recovery Specialist

	Certified HIV Education & Addiction Counselor United States Air Force Honorable Discharge
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Denise Alba
Organization	Victory Recovery Partners
Title	Peer Advocate
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I have known Denise for more than 5 years, when we post began workin at FCA outpatient in Hicksville. We are not just co-workers, we have become friends in part because we both feel so strongly about recovery.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	I've known Denise for almost 5 years. WE met white were both working at FCA Outpatient in Hicksville, Denise as a Peer, and me as a CASAC. I was so im[ressed by the way Denise can make a client feel so heard, calm them down, and able them to relax and be heard. Soon she and I started working as a team, referring clients to each other for our various different skills. Denise has contacts at so many places different places: courts, treatment centers, jails, and in Albany. If I need to get a client into a specific inpatient, Denise always knows the facility for each client and gets them in. Recently we both moved to working at Victory in Massapequa where we continue to work as a team. The Denise introduces herself to a new client she says simply "that I a a person in recovery." I have never seen someone who is able to gain someone's trust and have them in east in no time.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Denise's passion for recovery is so strong, but even more so is her passion to help remove the stigma surrounding substance use disorder, Has possess a capacity for compassion and empathy that is rare and that I have not come across in anyone else. Denise goes out of her way to meet client's where they need, often meeting them at court, or meetings, and will stay with then until they get accepted into a facility. This is not a 9-5 job for her.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	I know that Denise is a strong advocate for people in recovery, but is even. more passionate about help to remove the stigma surrounding substance use disorder. At the last NYS Recovery Conference she , alone , presented to other peers to help them reach their clients more successfully. While in Albany,, Denise makes presentations and meets with state legislators where she studies upcoming bills and funding opportunities that man help the Lon Island Community. Denise is also co-chair of NYSAPP, and is one of the most prolific volunteers at LIRRA, as well as Thrive in Nassau and Suffolk Denise is often out in the community making sure the community is aware

	of all the services available to the. For Denise, this is not just a job ut a calling.
Awards and Honors (if any)	Denise received an award for Peer Advocate of the Year from Thrive (she has been at both locations in Nassau and Suffolk. I am proud to call Denise my co-worker and friend.

Nominee	Tanja Alessi
Organization	Clinical and Support Options
Title	Housing Navigator
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Tanja is my closest friend and a strong woman in recovery. She advocates for everyone no matter what their pathway to recovery might be, including harm reduction. She doesn't judge and is always willing to listen. She is the most caring woman I know when it comes to substance use disorder. I have known her for the past 5+ years and my life is better being her friend.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Tanja is a Housing Navigator at Clinical and Support Options in Springfield, Ma. She also is the administrator for a Facebook page called Westfield Addressing Addiction. She is not confrontational in her advocacy but she does get her point across and people love and respect her.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Tanja is most passionate about getting homeless individuals into safe housing first and then working on finding recovery. She strongly believes that without a stable housing situation the odds of finding recovery drops dramatically. She has housed many individuals who have successfully found their own version of recovery. She truly is amazing, and phenomenal at helping others.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Tanja has long been the administrator for the highly successful Westfield Addressing Addiction Facebook page her in Westfield Ma. This page has helped many people ona daily basis and it has become a tight knit community
Awards and Honors (if any)	None yet but deserving of so many

Nominee	Michael Jackson
Organization	Official StayStopped
Title	CEO
Category	Individual

Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	As an individual, I am nominating myself after seven years in recovery.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	We have created the very first official StayStopped recovery apparel brand. Which creates connection in our respective communities we promote and attract awareness for success. Our brand also embodies, encouragement, outreach and unity with a strong inspirational message to sustain a new life of freedom.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Advocacy issues that I am most passionate about is connecting with Newcomers as they transition from treatment back into society, we advocate for Alumni programs and act as a bridge that will forever keep individuals and families connected to this miraculous new journey.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	The quality of our contributions that we are contributing towards advancing recovery has been well-established as we are the very first official Recovery apparel brand that actually collaborate directly with other rehab centers, sober, living, as well as detox centers across the nation to provide staffing apparel, fundraising apparel, and client incentives.
Awards and Honors (if any)	Hopefully this will be my first. Our brand is innovative, and connects into the lives of so many individuals and families who have lost hope and feel disconnected our stay humble, design, resonates, and embodies sustained recovery.

Nominee	Steve Kind
Organization	SMART Recovery
Title	National Support Team Administrative Assistant
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	<p>I have know Steve Kind for about 3 years.</p> <p>He is the facilitator and chief advocate for the existence of SMART Recovery opportunities that are happening in the Mankato, MN area. I would also say he has an influence in the Twin Cities Metro area as well.</p> <p>I often have heard him discuss how this group began; he created an opportunity for a SMART group, got the word out, and for awhile just sat and waited. Due to his perseverance, the group now includes 3 well-attended weekly online meetings and 1 in person meeting. He has advocated for at least 3 of the group members to complete SMART facilitator training, and they also now facilitate the weekly meetings. Due to the online option, meetings attract people</p>

	<p>from all over the country (Colorado, New York, California). He has created a safe, trusting, healing, fun environment that people want to be part of. The group attendees are consistent, and they are there because they want to be and it is such a positive environment.</p> <p>Outside of that, Steve is just a great guy and a sobriety champion. He is one of the most down to earth people I have met. I feel like a huge portion of his success in advocacy is that Steve can talk to and relate to anyone. He puts people at ease and makes them feel understood and heard.</p>
<p>Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>In 2021 Steve published a book called "Inspirational Dissatisfaction". "Inspirational Dissatisfaction" is about Steve's journey to sobriety, and it is literally a ride. An engaging adventure that sweeps the reader along.</p> <p>Steve was recently interviewed by Maia Szalavitz for the New York times discussing secular options for recovery.</p> <p>He is currently working with MN Humanists, American Atheists, and Sarah Levin of Secular Strategies to pass legislation to present alternative options during sentencing in the State of Minnesota.</p> <p>He is employed by SMART Recovery as a National Support Team Administrative Assistant.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>SMART Recovery and meeting people where they are at. Steve is a go getter. He has recently been featured on the SMART Recovery website as a "Take 5 Spotlight". He self describes as not having an "off button", and I don't question that.</p> <p>As any reader of his book would agree, another strength to Steve's success and accelerating velocity in the field, is his "dogged determination".</p> <p>I believe his motivation is people. He goes where people are and invites them into a welcoming and healing space, and it's effective. He's also very real in his approach; that sobriety is "work", we all have a road we have traveled, and there are journeys ahead. I must note that on this journey Steve encourages laughter. He is humorous and smiles a lot, that is important to him. He exudes enjoyment in the present. Being an example is a way Steve advocates.</p> <p>He's worked at a men's house, he's a certified peer recovery specialist, he's been a volunteer for the Minnesota Recovery Connection, and serves on MarCom (Marketing and Communications) committee for SMART Recovery. He is also on the board of the Peer Support Alliance. Now he's finding himself drawn into policy work, and I am sure he will take that to the next level as well.</p> <p>Again, to bring up his "Take 5 Spotlight", his work is noted as "no matter what title he might be assigned, is that his work is a response to real human beings in need."</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the</p>	<p>As described above, Steve has the Mankato SMART Recovery scene happening and growing. Steve and his team have participated for</p>

nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	<p>the Walks for Recovery in St. Paul and Mankato, Minnesota. He has been active and tabled at the "Faces and Voices of Recovery's Leadership Summit" in St Paul, Minnesota. I believe an aim is now to grow SMART "Friends and Family" meeting opportunities in the area.</p> <p>He has been interviewed for podcasts, and the New York Times. He has scheduled book presentations. His book is listed on the SMART Recovery website and is available on Amazon.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Janie Gullickson
Organization	Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon
Title	Executive Director
Category	Individual
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	<p>Janie Gullickson is the Executive Director of the peer-run organization the Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHA AO). She is a person in long-term recovery, which for her means she has not used alcohol or other drugs in over 14 years. Janie is in recovery from both addiction and serious mental health issues, as well as houselessness, incarceration, and criminal justice involvement. She navigated the many systems and institutions that can accompany such life experiences, from frequent hospitalizations to prison. Janie was released from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in September 2006 and began her work as a Peer Support Specialist/Recovery Mentor in 2011. Janie joined MHA AO in 2014 as a Project Assistant and, in 2017, became MHA AO's Executive Director. She also earned her Master of Public Administration: Health Administration (MPA: HA) degree from Portland State University in June 2017. MHA AO has grown from an organization of four staff to over 150 serving Oregon and beyond!</p> <p>I have known Mrs. Janie Gullickson since 2014 when we worked together at MHA AO. When I left MHA AO, we stayed in contact, and we grew to be colleagues, friends, and advocates for peer-led services and social justice. I returned to MHA AO in 2022, working closely with Janie to launch a peer-run day center for individuals experiencing homelessness and/or behavioral health challenges. I now hold the position of Deputy Director of Operations at MHA AO under the compassionate and courageous leadership of Janie Gullickson.</p>
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	<p>Janie Gullickson is a trusted leader in Oregon's peer-delivered services movement, advocating for recovery at the local, state, and national levels. Janie has continuously stepped out of her comfort zone to meet with policymakers and the media to ensure peer support is in every facet of the behavioral health system, criminal justice department, hospital systems, and community outreach.</p>

	<p>Janie is frequently interviewed by media outlets about recovery services in Oregon. She has been interviewed by Portland news stations, publications like Portland Business Journal, The Lund Report, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and national outlets like NowThis News and USA Today. She also serves on numerous advisory and advocacy committees and groups. She has met with government officials, testified in front of Oregon’s legislature, and was one of the community leaders for a ground-breaking drug addiction recovery bill, Ballot Measure 110. She was also appointed by Oregon’s Governor to serve on the Steering Committee of the Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment Project from 2018-2019.</p> <p>Janie is passionate about social justice issues with a focus on mental health and addiction recovery, peer programs and services, and advocacy in these realms. This passion led her to become one of the three co-chief petitioners of Oregon’s Ballot Measure 110, which was overwhelmingly supported by Oregon voters in November 2020. This groundbreaking law is now the Drug addiction Treatment and Recovery Act (DATRA). The first of its kind, Measure 110 redirects marijuana tax revenues toward addiction recovery services and decriminalizes low-level drug possession. Measure 110 has helped an estimated 60,000 people in Oregon thus far. In an interview with Drug Policy Alliance in February 2022, Janie said: “Measure 110 is helping us create a reality where we can offer hope and support proactively. At the Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon, we’re connecting people with vital services and support. Policies like Measure 110 could someday be implemented in other places and, in doing so, millions of other people just like me — who once felt hopeless, alone, and isolated — could find another path, something good to live for.”</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Janie is most passionate about peer support, which exuberates hope for the still-suffering addict. Her passion to see people recover does not end with peer support – she has stood in the trenches as a Peer Support Specialist and as Executive Director to support individuals on many occasions, assisting them with getting into treatment, housing, and detox. Janie lives and breathes peer-delivered services. She leads the Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon from a peer lens, knowing what it’s like for the people we serve and never forgetting where she came from or the impact peer support had in her life. She has lived experiences of mental health and addiction, incarceration, hospitalization, houselessness, and more and used these experiences to support others as a Peer Support Specialist early in her career. She has worked her way up with strength and grace, still meeting each individual right where they are on their journey to recovery. Janie is open to sharing her lived experience fearlessly, which creates a safe place for others to do so as well</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee’s contributions toward advancing</p>	<p>Janie has continuously contributed to advancing recovery through advocacy efforts and fearless leadership. In addition to being a lead petitioner and advocate for Measure 110, she sits on a number of committees, workgroups, and Boards, including:</p>

<p>recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Commitment to Change workgroup, which focuses on civil commitment advocacy 2) The Behavioral Health Emergency Coordinating Network (BHECN) Governance Committee 3) The Health Justice Recovery Alliance (HJRA) 4) The Improving People’s Access to Community-based Treatment, Supports, and Services (IMPACTS) Steering Committee and Grants Review Committee 5) The Coalition for Suicide Prevention in Clackamas County (appointed by CC Commissioners) Steering Committee 6) Metro Acute Care Advisory Council (MACAC) Steering Committee 7) Blanchet House of Hospitality Board Member <p>She has also presented in a number of subject matter expert panels, sharing the importance of peer support in a variety of settings and disciplines to a wide range of audiences. These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Health Share- All Together Leading Toward a Ready + Resilient Community-Panel: “Can We Turn the Tide? Emerging Efforts to Improve Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment Within Health Care and Across Community and Justice Settings” (2018) <p>Annual presenter for multiple Police Bureau Crisis Intervention trainings and panel presentations on the “Peer Recovery Movement” (2017-present)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) SAMHSA Rockville, MD, “Peer Support in Criminal Justice Settings” (2017) 3) Lewis & Clark College, “Exploring the Landscape of Disability Justice: From Lived Experience to Policy and Professional Response” (2016) 4) Oregon State Bar Seminar, “Your Law Practice: Understanding Clients with Mental Illness” (2015) 5) International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium, “Peer Recovery Practice Examination,” (2015-2016) 6) Florida Certification Board, “Peer Support Specialist National Certification Project” <p>She has also contributed to scholarship on peer support, including being one of the co-authors of the publication “If It Wasn’t for Him, I Wouldn’t Have Talked to Them”: Qualitative Study of Addiction Peer Mentorship in the Hospital,” published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine (JGIM) and Substance Abuse Journal (SAJ).</p> <p>Oregon’s peer-delivered services movement and recovery landscape would not be the same without the tireless efforts and passionate</p>
--	---

	<p>advocacy of Mrs. Janie Gulickson. Janie pours her heart and soul into her work, inspiring those around her to do the same. She continues to advocate for peer recovery services and lead MHA AO with grace and kindness. I am honored to nominate her for this award. Through this nomination, we at MHA AO hope to show our gratitude and appreciation for Janie’s advocacy, leadership, and service to the community.</p>
<p>Awards and Honors (if any)</p>	<p>1) Trillium Behavioral Health Services “Keep Oregon Well” Mental Health Hero Award (May 18, 2018)</p> <p>2) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Voice Award Nominee (2015)</p> <p>3) Kenneth Shaw Award-International (Goodwill Job Connection Graduate of the Year) (2009)</p>

STOP

Go to the Advocate of the Year (Part 2) Form to continue scoring

Advocate of the Year (Part 2)

Nominee	Syd Danziger
Organization	Elon University
Title	Phoenix Free President
Category	Youth or Young Adult in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	<p>I was first introduced to Syd Danziger in September 2020. Syd transferred to Elon University from Colorado. As a transfer student, a colleague in our student care and outreach office recommended I reach out to Syd and so I did. The email read: "Hi Syd, welcome to Elon University and our collegiate recovery community! We're a small group, but we're growing. I'd like for us to meet sometime soon as well as introduce you to a couple of other students involved with the CRC. Please let me know what dates/times work best for you. I look forward to meeting you."</p> <p>Syd quickly responded. I could hear the excitement in their voice. Syd shared about their involvement with the CU Boulder CRC (CUCRC) and that they were eager to meet our newly formed/developing Phoenix Free CRC. A few weeks went by and then months with no response, no meeting. While I would still check in with Syd from time to time, my emails went unanswered. Then out of the blue on April 15, 2021 (National Collegiate Recovery Day) guess who shows up for our inaugural recovery day event. Call it intuition, but I immediately knew it was Syd when they approached our table. Syd proceeded to apologize for "ghosting" (their description) me, but no apology was needed. Phoenix Free was there whenever Syd was ready. From that day forward, Syd and I formed an inseparable bond and they soon connected with our previous CRC president.</p> <p>As the advisor to our Phoenix Free CRC (which is a registered campus organization), I have developed a strong bond with Syd. I'm so impressed by their maturity and commitment to their recovery. I feel privileged to learn from their experiences and support Syd as a college student in recovery.</p> <p>Syd later shared with me that the reason they didn't respond to my emails was because of losing a dear friend to substance use during the first semester on campus. Being so new to campus and NC, Syd relied on support during this difficult time from their closest friends and family back home. They soon realized that Elon was also there to support them too.</p>
Describe the nominee's work to promote the	In Spring 2022, Syd was instrumental in helping me compile a virtual snapshot/report of our collegiate recovery community and

<p>awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>was also featured in the report. See the report here: https://express.adobe.com/page/RwB7YginYi36j/</p> <p>The following September 2022, our student media (broadcast and newspaper) featured a segment on Collegiate Recovery and Phoenix Free which aired in recognition of National Recovery Month. Syd was a central focus and candidly shared about their pathway to recovery. Syd's heartfelt journey was captured with amazing grace. I invite you to hear their story, the links are provided here:</p> <p>Elon student navigates sobriety on campus https://www.elonnewsnetwork.com/article/2022/10/students-navigate-sobriety-on-elons-campus</p> <p>YouTube (Elon News Network) https://youtu.be/l08j4rWcW5M (3:47 - 6:44)</p> <p>The Pendulum, October 26, 2022 (see Page 6, Student's Navigate on Elon's Campus) https://issuu.com/pendulum/docs/full_7dc830eb7c9cd2</p> <p>Syd has also devoted considerable time to sharing about Elon's Prevention and Recovery programs and services. They have presented to parents and incoming students during multiple live-stream events via FaceBook.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Syd is most passionate about advocating for Phoenix Free to have an accessible and designated space in our student center. Syd currently reserves classrooms and other spaces on campus to host CRC meetings. This requires a great deal of planning and organizational skills as dates must be approved in advance of all meetings. Syd worked diligently to submit a strong proposal last year advocating why students in recovery need an inclusive and safe space on campus. Unfortunately, the request was denied. However, this has not deterred Syd from reapplying this year (2023).</p> <p>Syd has been and continues to be vocal and an outspoken champion for collegiate recovery on Elon University's campus. They are leading the way as our campus begins to reshape norms and conversations around substance use, stigma, and recovery. Syd is also a strong advocate for ensuring that recovery support resources and services are listed on the faculty syllabi and handbook. They are currently consulting with the appropriate faculty and staff on how to begin discussions around the course syllabus.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions</p>	<p>I am always so deeply humbled by Syd's vulnerability and dedication to their recovery and the recovery of other students, even serving as a sponsor to those in early recovery. Syd has</p>

<p>toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>facilitated group discussions around mental health and substance use with students, student organizations, faculty, and staff, not to mention the countless 1:1 moments with peers in need of a listening ear or recovery support. Their commitment to student success and building community is unwavering.</p> <p>When our former CRC President graduated in December 2021, the Phoenix Free baton was passed to Syd, who readily accepted the role as president and ran with it. I could not keep up! Syd brought so much passion, enthusiasm, and innovation. Beginning that spring semester of 2022, Syd implemented our first ever weekly "All Recovery Meetings" and promoted these on our campus platform. They created digital and print media to promote meetings on campus. To date, Syd has led over 30 meetings and supported our part-time Collegiate Recovery Specialist with identifying students and alumni to speak during the monthly Phoenix Free "Recovery Speaker Series."</p> <p>It's hard to imagine that in August 2020, our small program only had 1-3 students in the program. Today, student attendance has increased significantly with an average of 8-10 students participating in each meeting. On occasion, some of the monthly speaker series averaged 20 or more participants.</p>
<p>Awards and Honors (if any)</p>	<p>(none that I am aware of)</p>

Nominee	Jonathan Langston
<p>Organization</p>	<p>Reboot Jackson</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>President/ Founder</p>
<p>Category</p>	<p>Individual in Recovery</p>
<p>Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.</p>	<p>Jon is my husband and partner in recovery work and grass roots recovery advocacy. I have known him for 10 years.</p>
<p>Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>Jon advocates for recovery to everyone he meets. He has made concerted efforts to network with our local and state elected officials. He has spent at least one day per week at our state capital during legislative session for the past two years advocating for peer-friendly legislation and for budgetary appropriations for naloxone. Jon reaches out to policy makers in person, via phone, and via email to steadily remind them of the great work recovery leaders in Georgia are doing and the value of funding peer-led organizations and harm reduction.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>The issue that Jon has most intentionally been advocating for is funding for the purchase of naloxone for first responders and law enforcement in Georgia. About 2 years ago, we discovered that our</p>

	<p>local rural volunteer fire departments were unable to afford Narcan for their vehicles. They were coming to our RCO asking if we could supplement this need for them. Jon made a point to survey other RCO's and rural communities across Georgia and discovered that, while Narcan is something that is frequently funded in urban areas, rural communities were falling short and missing out on opportunities to help save the lives of people experiencing an overdose. He also discovered that overdoses were occurring statistically more densely in rural areas. Because of this, Jon began lobbying for budget appropriations for Narcan for responders across the state.</p> <p>Jon also lobbied for Georgia's HB1013 last year and testified before the Georgia State Senate subcommittee on this bill.</p> <p>This year, while continuing to advocate for naloxone funding, Jon is also lobbying for Georgia HB250 which calls for more funding for peer focused organizations.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>Not only did Jon lobby for funding for naloxone at the state level (which was somewhat successful as Governor Kemp did appropriate a portion of opioid settlement funds to purchase naloxone), but he also helped spearhead efforts to raise money for naloxone on a grassroots level. Jon is a founding member of a recovery riding club called the Grateful Few. He, along with the help of the club, came up with the idea of an annual motorcycle ride to raise funds. The first year, the club was able to distribute over 100 boxes of Narcan to responders in need. They rode from one corner of the state to the other to deliver this life-saving medication to sheriff's departments and EMT's. In 2022, the club raised enough funds to purchase approximately 100 more boxes. As the movement has grown, Jon and company have caught the attention of private citizens and businesses who have also donated Narcan for distribution. So far in 2022, Jon and the club have hand-delivered over 200 boxes of Narcan to any responder who reaches out. He is also in the process of planning a Gala called the HEROES Initiative Gala (Helping Every Responder Offer Effective Support) with the goal of raising \$1million for this effort. These efforts have caught the attention of media outlets including local newspapers, radio stations, the Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia, and others who have all featured the efforts of Jon and his riding club to assist responders with the tools that could help them be more well equipped to do their jobs.</p> <p>Jon is also the founder of Reboot Jackson, a recovery community organization based in Jefferson, GA. Through Reboot Jackson, he formed a committee to put together a public forum which featured recovery stories and education about the science of recovery.</p>
<p>Awards and Honors (if any)</p>	<p>Reboot Jackson was honored to be awarded RCO of the Year in 2021 by the Georgia Council For Recovery.</p>

Nominee	Mylisa Lee
Organization	Florida Dept of Children and Families
Title	Circuit 14 Community Administrator
Category	Family Advocate / Family Member in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Mylisa is my wife. We have been married for 10 years and I have known her for 15 years.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Mylisa was one of the first people within her organization to promote Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) in the NW region of Florida. She also was one of the first region directors to hire a peer in recovery who then went on to become the first certified peer specialist with lived experience in SA and MH in the NW Region area of Florida. That individual then went on to assist leading recovery efforts across the state of Florida. Mylisa does not have a judgmental bone in her body. She strives daily to gain more knowledge of recovery efforts so she can offer hope to others. Mylisa is a family member of someone in recovery from SA and MH. She has spoken at the Governors Faith Based Initiative committee in Tallahassee to promote support for building a bigger group of peers within the Florida Dept of Children and Families. She is passionate about working with a local HT ministry, which tries to help young ladies that need hope and love so they can decide that recovery is an option. Mylisa assisted with rolling out WRAP and MHFA trainings in the department as one of the first certified instructors employed by the DCF anywhere in the state of Florida. She speaks at conferences and other events any chance she gets to spread the message that recovery is possible.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Mylisa tries to advocate for everyone. She does not see addiction as a reason to give up on someone; she sees addiction as an opportunity to offer hope. She speaks with churches all over the circuit about being the hands and feet of Jesus no matter what a person believes or does not believe, that recovery looks different for everyone, but everyone deserves to be loved. She is involved with Eye of Hope Recovery advocates and supports them through working at events and promoting their message of hope.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Mylisa speaks at any engagement where she is given a platform as to the need for offering hope to those in recovery. She works with faith-based organizations to educate on how we can love those in recovery without any guilt attached. As one of the leads to push ROSC out in the NW region with DCF, she has had the opportunity to help build a true system of care for families which includes faith-based community partnerships, cultural competency and a broader implementation of peers to assist with support and lived experience. Mylisa was one of the co-founders of the Domestic Violence task force for Holmes and Washington Counties. She promoted Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) with numerous community partners such as schools,

	<p>Guardian ad Litem, churches, law enforcement and other local government such as the Dept of Corrections and DJJ.</p> <p>Mylisa worked with the local lead agency to implement Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) in the NW region. This required system changes around the development of peer support and advancement of efforts to infuse recovery-oriented principals which is still a work in progress. The ROSC framework she passionately worked on with the lead agency been responsible for connecting agencies in the community in efforts to provide better prevention and early intervention for the families served to include the Department of Corrections and Dept of Juvenile Justice. ROSC has provided the NW region with community health and wellness, peer-based recovery support, cross-system partnerships and collaborative relationships.</p> <p>Through collaboration with the community and providers in Bay County to include NAMI, Mylisa able to assist with the opening of the first peer ran activity/drop-in center in circuit 14. Mylisa has served as a liaison with DCF Headquarters staff and CBC/ ME/ lead agency in the NW region of Florida regarding policies and procedures, contract management, and grant initiatives/ funding as well as liaison among her peers at DCF such as legal services, Adult protective services, child welfare, and ACCESS. She was also responsible for assisting with the implementation of Mobile Response Teams (MRT) and Behavioral Health Consultants through the opioid crisis grant (SOR and STR) in her community.</p> <p>This relationship building has resulted in joint efforts to work on a trauma informed care workgroup and develop other training opportunities in the region including the certification of over 600 people in MHFA.</p> <p>Mylisa responds to youth and family as well as community-based providers requests for information and services regarding system of care and wraparound by offering leadership and oversight to ensure quality service delivery that aligns with the Departments mission, vision, values and priorities. At the roll out of ROSC efforts, she was available for coaching and supervision to those providers in the community currently implementing wraparound. This required strong organization, communication and leadership skills that contributes to the development.</p> <p>of strong relationships with all of our community providers responsible for the delivery of services to the vulnerable and their families.</p> <p>She has served as System of Care grant representative in the past at community meetings, forums, workshops and trainings across the NW region. Mylisa has successfully fostered a climate of collaboration between youth and families, community-based providers and other community leaders to better serve the most vulnerable and those that care for them.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	Mylisa served as a liaison to the faith-based community and focused on African American communities to educate on SAMH related topics. She is seen as a change agent among these community

leaders regarding collaboration and intervention around recovery efforts. Mylisa has served as the expert and advisor on all matters pertaining to System of Care and Wraparound as well as representative for the region in public forums and served on Statewide committees representing the Northwest Region in System of Care and Wraparound initiatives.

She was one of the first certified MHFA (youth and adult) trainers within the FI Dept of Children and Families statewide. She successfully implemented a sustainable system of care in the NW region through project management of the Early Childhood Mental Health System of Care/ SAMHSA grant. She has obtained the following:

- *Certification as a Wraparound facilitator
- *Graduate of the NW Region Leadership training class-spring 2015
- *Certified in Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP). Certified to teach MHFA for youth and adult.
- *Certified in Cultural Awareness-FI Certification Board
- *Represented Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) as a trained CIRRT team member with the Dept of Children and Families deployed on child death reviews throughout the state of Florida.
- *Completed numerous presentations to community and state leaders on System of Care and Wraparound.
- *Subject Matter Expert in the field of Domestic Violence.
- *Currently serves on the board for the Circuit 14 Community Alliance.
- *Recently chosen by DJJ Secretary as the Circuit Community Advisory Board chair.
- *Participant/Vendor at the Child Protection Summit representing the statewide system of care and wraparound initiative.
- *Co-founder of the Holmes County Sheriff's Office Ladies Auxiliary
- *Professional Certification in Trauma and Resilience

Currently serving or have served as a member of the following boards/committees: Healthy Families Advisory Board, Child Welfare & Mental Health Integration Committee, Chair and Co-founder of the Washington-Holmes Domestic Violence Task Force, Hunger and Homeless Coalition of NW Florida board member, Healthy Holmes Task Force, Washington Co Community Health task force, Bay County Community Health Committee, CASE Coalition of Holmes Co., Lavished ministries (Sex trafficking), NAMI of Bay County board member, Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, Community Health Planning, Holmes County Sheriff's Office Ladies Auxiliary (co-founding member), SED-NET advisory council, Calhoun County Children's Coalition, Chipola Healthy Start Board member, Franklin/Wakulla/Gulf advisory council, Early Learning Coalition C14

	Advisory Board, Holmes County Steering Committee, DJJ Circuit Advisory Board,
--	---

Nominee	Laura Fry
Organization	Live4Lali
Title	Executive Director
Category	Family Advocate / Family Member in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	<p>I have known Laura for almost 5 years now. First as a respected fellow colleague who, like myself, works within the harm reduction ecosphere in IL.</p> <p>Shortly after that I became closely connected to her as a dear personal friend.</p>
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	<p>Laura co-founded Live4Lali over a decade ago after supporting her son through a long period of problematic substance use, who now has been in sustained long term recovery for several years. Her passion is working with families of loved ones who use drugs problematically and chaotically to offer the families an alternative to "tough love" and be able to support their loved one and still hold healthy personal boundaries. She is a fierce advocate in the statewide and regional recovery and harm reduction arenas. She was essential to passing statewide legislation to make harm reduction programs legal in IL, and now works alongside me as we advocate for decriminalization of drug possession for personal use, ending cash bail in IL, and introducing legislation to pilot our state's first aboveground OPS planned to operate in Chicago.</p>
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	<p>Laura is a passionate advocate for many harm reduction issues and progressive drug policy reform initiatives.</p> <p>These advocacy efforts include the decriminalization of drug possession for personal use, ending cash bail in IL, and introducing legislation to pilot our state's first aboveground OPS planned to operate in Chicago.</p> <p>What she is MOST passionate about is supporting families of addicted loved ones. She does this to educate them on how to navigate the family's wellness and modeling compassionate and evidence based support.</p>
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	<p>She was essential to passing statewide legislation to make harm reduction programs legal in IL, and now works alongside me as we advocate for decriminalization of drug possession for personal use, ending cash bail in IL, and introducing legislation to pilot our state's first aboveground OPS planned to operate in Chicago.</p> <p>Laura is also a frequent guest on panels centering around harm reduction education and advocacy.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	<p>There are too many to list, and honestly cannot recall all of the specific awards she has received over the years.</p>

Nominee	LaToya Nkongolo
Organization	Work Life Behavioral Health
Title	Therapist
Category	Family Advocate / Family Member in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	LaToya is my spouse. I have known her since college while she was studying social work in undergrad over 20 years ago.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	LaToya came from a family plagued with mental health and addictions and she has made it her life's mission to make sure that families seek support for their own recovery. LaToya started a family wellness workshop for our local hospital (Luminus Health) which has helped thousands of families since 2013. LaToya has been featured in local media at various events where she talks with community members and local elected officials on the need to expand access to treatment for mental health and addictions. Anne Arundel County featured one of her community talks on their local television station which ran for almost a year, multiple times a day.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	LaToya ran for the Maryland House of Delegates in 2022 with the hopes of using her mental health and addictions expertise to craft policies that would expand access to treatment for such disorders. Although she did not win the seat, local elected officials have reached out to her to request that she gives feedback on a variety of bills and testify in support of mental health and addictions. Her biggest passions are prevention programs for at risk youth (which she developed a curriculum for), family recovery and peer recovery support services.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	LaToya is the Past President of the Maryland Addictions and Behavioral Health Professionals Certification Board where she led the charge to bring the peer recovery certification to the State of Maryland. LaToya also led the workgroup that developed Maryland's Family Peer Support endorsement. LaToya is currently on tour with the stage play titled, "Diagnosed," where she is the lead clinician conducting Q&A sessions with the audience after each performance. LaToya is also the co-owner of Work Life Behavioral Health.
Awards and Honors (if any)	<p>2020 Leadership Anne Arundel Distinguished Graduate award for advocacy for mental health and addictions.</p> <p>2022 Black Legislative Caucus award for excellence in community service for mental health and addictions advocacy.</p>

Nominee	Sarah Matthews
Organization	Live Rite Recovery Resource Center
Title	Peer Coach
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Work Friend relationship 9 months
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	She is a recoveree of 4 years, she works as a peer coach and recovery care technician. She also is a sponsor and service worker of many woman in recovery. She donates time and service to numerous meetings in the community.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Helping people on their journey in recovery with a non-judgmental stance.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Started meetings
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Dona Dmitrovic
Organization	SAMHSA - Office of Recovery
Title	Senior Advisor
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Dona Dmitrovic is a colleague in the SAMHSA - Office of Recovery and serves as a Senior Policy Advisor. We have been colleagues for the past six (6) months. However, I indirectly worked with Dona while she served as the SAMHSA Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Prior to that, I was the Project Officer for the Foundation for Recovery BCOR (Building Communities of Recovery) grant where Dona was Executive Director. I have known Dona for almost eight (8) years both professionally as a colleague and personally as another person in long-term recovery.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the	As a Senior Policy Advisor at SAMHSA's Office of Recovery, Dona provides national leadership in the vision and operation of the Office

<p>awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>of Recovery. She seeks input from external and internal stakeholders including issues on recovery from those in recovery, family members, and allies. Dona coordinates and develops responses to congressional inquiries that promote, emphasize, and educate recovery to policy makers. In addition, she manages priorities with SAMHSA Centers to address broad critical policy and program issues on recovery from substance use disorders. She drafts and reviews documents on policy and program proposals for behavioral health recovery including their impact and provides training and technical assistance as required. Dona continues to be the outward voice for the Office of Recovery and delivers presentations representing SAMHSA and the Office of Recovery at conferences, national summits, and webinars. She has been instrumental in establishing the Office of Recovery, its organizational structure, and has identified personnel with tasks and functions for each proposed staff member.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>As a former CEO of PRO-A, Harrisburg, PA, Dona has always emphasized the critical importance that recovery starts in the community. At PRO-A she provided leadership, guidance, and management of the first PA statewide recovery community organization that was funded through SAMHSA's Recovery Community Services Program (RCSP) in 1998. She participated in the first SAMHSA Recovery Summit in St. Paul, MN held in 1998. She has always been at the forefront and on the cutting edge of fostering and supporting the development of recovery community organizations (RCOs). As Director of Education and Advocacy for the Johnson Institute (Washington, DC) Dona focused on advocacy in organizing and directing 'America Honors Recovery,' an annual event highlighting recovery and leveraging community support on both the local and national levels. As for 'paying it forward,' Dona trained over 3,500 Recovery Ambassadors in 43 locations nationwide birthing RCOs in numerous communities and optimizing their voices in policy and program affecting their communities of recovery. As an early adopter of Harm Reduction, she lead the RASE Project, PA in program development and management of the Buprenorphine Program that was recognized for two (2) national awards on innovation and leadership. Additionally, at Foundation for Recovery (Las Vegas, NV) she worked with NV FQHCs, Opioid Treatment Centers, CCHCs, and harm reduction agencies and community mental health centers to staff and supervise on-site peer recovery support specialists. Another advocacy issue she is passionate about involves the establishment of the NV Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative which included the publication of a toolkit to support NV companies on policy and program development for employees with substance use disorders and mental illness. Another critical area of importance has been Dona's dedication to the area of SUD Prevention. As SAMHSA's Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) she collaborated with internal and external constituents, including federal partners, on a wide range of public health issues including substance use prevention and the recovery field. While serving as Director of CSAP she applied administrative and analytical skills to propose new</p>

	<p>programs for technical assistance on harm reduction programs in collaboration with the CDC.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee’s contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>For the past 25 years Dona has been intensely involved in the recovery movement. As the Executive Director of PRO-A (PA) she provided leadership, guidance, and management to the first PA statewide recovery community organization funded through the SAMHSA RCSP grant in 1998. While at PRO-A she delivered technical assistance and training on recovery, stigma and discrimination reduction and developed policies directly affecting the recovery community. In addition, she authored the first proposal to the PA Certification Board for inclusion of a Peer Recovery Support Specialist credential. At the Johnson Foundation she organized and directed the annual 'America Honors Recovery' event that highlighted recovery on the national level. She also trained over 3,500 Recovery Ambassadors in 43 locations nationwide birthing RCOs in communities and optimizing their voices in policy and programs affecting the recovery community. She also planned and executed National Recovery Month events across the country to elevate the message of recovery. At the RASE Project (PA) Dona was the lead in program development and management for the Buprenorphine Coordinator Program that served opioid dependent individuals with recovery support services. As Director of the National Office of Consumer Affairs for Optum Behavioral Health, United Healthcare, she implemented addiction recovery coaching programs within Optum's provider network, co-chaired the Substance Use/Opioid Overdose Workgroup and provided leadership on potential impact of policies affecting people in or seeking recovery from OUD. Serving as the Executive Director of Foundation for Recovery (Las Vegas, NV), Dona facilitated growth of the organization into a statewide RCO. She implemented the Family Program to support families with loved ones in or seeking recovery from SUDs, and provided leadership in methods, processes, and techniques to state substance use authority (SSA) on program development and improvement to enhance use of peer recovery supports throughout NV. She also established the NV Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative including the publication of a toolkit to support NV companies on policy and program development. While serving as the Director, SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), she provided national leadership in the development of programs, policies, and services to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use. She collaborated with internal and external constituents on a wide range of public health issues including substance use prevention and the recovery field. Dona worked with SAMHSA executive leadership on key issues related to the behavioral health field with a focus on substance use prevention, mental health promotions, and substance use recovery support services. Currently, she serves as a Senior Advisor, SAMHSA Office of Recovery, and provides national leadership in the vision and operation of the new OR. Dona is the face of recovery for the OR and delivers presentations on recovery representing SAMHSA nationwide. She provided project</p>

	management to support the Recovery Summit 2022, national peer certification and SAMHSA's Cross-Collaboration Recovery Workgroup.
Awards and Honors (if any)	<p>Advisory Board Member - Cocaine, Meth, & Stimulant Summit</p> <p>Former Board Chair - Faces & Voices of Recovery</p> <p>Member of founding board of CAPRSS - (Council on Accreditation of Peer Support Services)</p> <p>Professional Mentor - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</p> <p>Board Member - NAMI Nevada</p> <p>Executive Board Member - Nevada Certification Board</p> <p>Board Member - PRO-A</p> <p>Recovery Consultant - Opioid Response Network Technical Assistance Team</p> <p>Former Board Member - Young People in Recovery</p> <p>Former Advisory Board Member - ATTC National Hispanic/Latino Center, Puerto Rico</p> <p>Advisory Board Member - New York Certification Association</p> <p>Trainer - National Recovery Institute, Center for Best Practices, Faces & Voice of Recovery</p>

Nominee	Brenda Maks
Organization	Live Rite Structured Recovery Corp
Title	CEO
Category	Family Advocate / Family Member in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	She is my aunt. She is one of the toughest people I know. She has come so far and done so much to help herself and others around her.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	She's always going over and beyond to make the company bigger and better to help more people everyday
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Helping people see a new way of life
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched	Her company has so much to offer. From getting your GED, learning computers, game night, support groups and much more

advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Robert Kanter
Organization	International Media Commentator/Recovery Advocate-Fentanyl Epidemic
Title	Recovery Advocate
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I've know Mr. Kanter professionally for a number of years, approximately the time he initiated his advocacy work addressing the opioid epidemic. I am a physician specializing in Addiction Medicine and Emergency Medicine, and have witnessed the devastation of drug overdose fatalities from the front lines. Mr. Kanter and I met at a press conference where Senator Gillibrand (N.Y.) introduced the "Family Support Services For Addiction Act" to the 117th Congress. Mr. Kanter delivered a moving speech chronicling his journey of recovery from substance use disorder (now in his 18th year of recovery) and how his daughter's substance use disorder (now in her 5th year of sobriety) impacted their relationship. This challenging family dynamic, and her near overdose from opiates/heroin, served as the genesis of his advocacy work.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Mr. Kanter and I co-authored an article entitled "Commitment Yields Success in 12-Step Programs" which appeared in Psychology Today and was written on behalf of the Chair of Addiction Psychiatry and program director of the opioid overdose prevention program at Weill Cornell Medicine. Mr. Kanter is regarded as an empowering public speaker, thought leader, and leading recovery advocate addressing the fentanyl epidemic. His television, radio and podcast interviews have appeared in 12 countries including the United States. He was recently interviewed on his analysis of the House Foreign Relations Committee hearing on illicit fentanyl trafficking, and has addressed the MAT act and HALT FENTANYL ACT in previous interviews. Mr. Kanter's YouTube channel playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvmNkz3akIFMlzTr_g-y-tZrcScqg7pYD
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Although Mr. Kanter has been interviewed on topics including the Purdue Pharma lawsuit settlements, drug legislation and the proliferation of rainbow fentanyl, he is most passionate about the importance of parent/youth conversations in promoting positive mental health. On his YouTube channel (video #17) is a podcast interview he did with his daughter addressing this issue, and he often cites the Portugal Model of Harm Reduction as an important tool in combating the stigma of substance use disorder. This week

	Mr. Kanter was filmed for the "My Prevention Story" campaign as part of SAMHSA's upcoming National Prevention Week where he discusses at length the loving, destigmatized conversation he had with his daughter for which she attests had launched her recovery from S.U.D.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	More than any of the critical components that support recovery from substance use disorder (civic engagement, access to treatment, diversity, legislative funding, etc.), Mr. Kanter believes that daily, consistent media coverage is the primary vehicle that allows for mobilization of individuals and advocacy organizations, dissemination of valuable and timely information, and the raising of awareness of the addiction crisis we face. Mr. Kanter plans to continue his advocacy work in the media with a mission of appearing on as many network and recovery podcasts as possible. He will continue to pen articles addressing the stigma and highlighting recovery resources, speaking at press conferences and committee hearings to drive solutions, and aligning himself as a volunteer with government and grassroots advocacy organizations to support the addiction and recovery movement. Twitter: @media_kanter
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Jessica Geschke
Organization	Start Healing Now
Title	President
Category	Family Advocate / Family Member in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I grew up with Jessica, having gone to grade school and high school with her. I have known her since she moved to WI in 4th grade. We are now almost 45 years old. She is one of my best friends.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Jessica created a project called The Overdose Aid Kits or OAKs. She saw a need in her community after her brother overdosed and went to work. She found sustainable funding for her project through a private donor and since starting her project, she has placed her OAK boxes out and into the communities throughout the nation in over 25 states plus the District of Columbia. There are a total of over 210 boxes Nationwide and an additional 140 OAK boxes in her home state of WI alone. She is currently working with WI State Senator Jesse James to create a bill to make narcans a priority in all WI schools by passing a law that all schools must have narcans on hand. She is also working with states around the country to provide OAK boxes to businesses and schools to house narcans so that community members and the general public can easily access it. Jessica joined a national bus tour in September of this past year. She requested that her company sponsor 200 OAK boxes for that purpose. Her and her boss traveled behind the bus, for over 10,403

	<p>miles, across the nation, visiting with recovery community organizations and providing them with free Overdose Aid Kits and Narcan. By the end of that month long trip, Jessica had helped to distribute over 11,000 fentanyl testing strips, 10,000 free overdose response kits with naloxone, registered new voters, hosted organizing trainings, public narrative trainings, hung the 200 overdose Aid kits onto the walls of recovery centers, RCOs, libraries, community buildings, cities halls, hotels, gas stations, schools and more and found new ways for the recovery community to engage.</p> <p>Jessica contacts the media for almost every installation that she conducts. She does this to share a message of hope to those who may be watching, who are still struggling. What I have seen however is that she is not the one being interviewed, she wants the news to interview the center where the OAK is being installed, the parents who donated the funding to purchase the OAK boxes that are hanging on the wall or the city official who is supporting recovery. She is so passionate about getting the word out and lifting others up and she shares her spotlight with others. She is an example of an amazing leader.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Jessica is so passionate about harm and stigma reduction. After her company funded the pilot year of the OAK boxes, her desire to do more continued and they saw her passion. She worked with her employer and they expand its opioid risk management assistance, beyond plan benefit design, to provide employers with more in-depth education, training and resources to support workplace safety, recovery-friendly cultures, language trainings and save lives. Due to this, the O.A.K program was created. Serve You Rx kicked off it's 2022 OAK program in January and they offer not only the OAK boxes but Naloxone Training, Training on the effects of the opiate epidemic, Recovery Friendly Workplace Training and Installation of a Kit to employers (clients) free of charge. Jessica also then wrapped her non-profit Start Healing Now into her design so that she would supply recovery community centers with an OAK box free of charge based off fund raising efforts. She currently hosts events two times a year in order to raise funds to this very reason. Her goal is simple. Save lives. Get the OAK boxes onto walls. She raised 22k in three hours in November by hosting an online fundraiser! With that fundraiser, her non-profit was able to purchase OAK boxes and supply them to WI communities in high need.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>Jessica has hosted four town halls in WI, two of which Faces and Voices was a part of. She has also lead over 15 listening sessions in our state.</p> <p>Jessica is the lead for Recovery Advocacy Project in WI and has launched the campaign for ACT 122, which was made law in 2021.</p> <p>Jessica has also lead the Good Sam revision law in WI through Recovery Advocacy Project and is currently working with Vital Strategies and their overdose Prevention Program to create a counter argument for the drug induced homicide convictions in WI.</p>

	<p>Jessica presented at the Clinton Global Initiative in 2022 in New York City at the invitation of President Bill Clinton.</p> <p>Jessica speaks professionally through Start Healing Now, sharing her own personal story of recovery as well as the story of her brothers addiction and road to long term sobriety. She has spoken over 200 times locally in WI and a handful of times nationally.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	<p>Designated as Governor Evers Representative for the Wisconsin State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse- December 2020</p> <p>Horicon Police Department Outstanding Citizen Award- May 2019</p> <p>Dodge County Sheriffs Outstanding Citizen Award- July 2018</p> <p>Horicon Hometown Heroes Award presented by Modern Woodmen of America- March of 2018</p> <p>Washington County Community Award presented by The Prevention Network of Washington County- November of 2016</p> <p>Phi Theta Kappa Society issued by Lawrence J Pasquini, Chapter Abbisor, Betta Mu Kaappa, Moraine Park Technical College- March 2009</p> <p>Crushing Stigma and Silos Award, TINHIH Las Vegas NV- December 2022</p>

Nominee	Andrew Malone
Organization	Nick's Place, Inc.
Title	Executive Director
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Best friend, mentor, and long time supporter. Andrew has been a beacon of light for me and many others. His passion and giving to others goes beyond words. I have known him for over 10 years and have worked under him for the last two years. Andrew has been a great friend and it would be a true honor to surprise him with this award.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Andrew is the Executive Director for Nick's Place, Inc. a non-profit organization helping save the lives of young men. Andrew works with the young men daily and is one of the most passionate people, promoting recovery at a personal level. Additionally, he focuses on changing the stigma of recovery locally. Andrew continues to help alumni who are no longer in our program with any life and recovery areas that they may need help in. Andrew's dedication to his work is truly inspirational and can be seen in his interactions with those in our recovery community. On a personal level, he is a member of a 12 step fellowship and continues to be active within the community having more than 15 years of recovery.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Andrew is most passionate about removing barriers to recovery. He believes that a balance between life, recovery, fun and work are essential to a great life without using. Andrew in his personal and work life spends a lot of time working with and for others in recovery. His ability to selflessly give and help is without measure.

	In addition to helping those who are residents at Nick's Place, he answers every phone call with the same dedication. Andrew will go above and beyond for anyone who needs help, even if they do not use our services. Andrew's daily primary focus is helping people at an individual level.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Andrew has taken over as Executive Director of Nick's Place, an organization founded in 2000. Andrew has continued to pursue the dream that Rhea Mcvicker had when she founded Nick's Place nearly 23 years ago. Andrew consistently works to make the program the best possible place for those in recovery and is always fighting to make sure the residents in the program get everything they need. Needs include recovery, jobs, mental health, food, clothing, and much more. Additionally, he participates in local recovery events including organization tables, meeting with other recovery residences new and old, discussing changes within the local area recovery community, and connecting with treatment centers to better help potential participants. Nick's Place has helped over 300 people, and Andrew is one of them! He is not only the Executive Director, but was also a resident of Nick's Place in 2007. He credits the organization with saving his life, and now he makes sure that Nick's Place is a highly functioning and successful organization so that more lives can be saved.
Awards and Honors (if any)	Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Registered Peer Supervisor

Nominee	Emily Newman
Organization	Prevention Links
Title	Grants & Programs Manager
Category	Youth or Young Adult in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Emily Newton is a person in long-term recovery from substance use and mental health challenges. She graduated from Rutgers University in May of 2021 with a Bachelors of Psychology degree, and going on to pursue a Master's degree in Business Administration. Emily's passion for the recovery supportsfield was ignited when she returned to Rutgers as a young person in early recovery and lived in the Rutgers Recovery House. There she gained opportunities to lead, inspire, and plan meaningful activities for her peers in recovery.Emily joined our team as an intern in 2019 and has served in various capacities with Prevention Links and New Jersey Coalition for Addiction Recovery Support. I have been her direct supervisor for much of that time, and have also served as an informal mentor to Emily throughout the time I have known her.

	<p>Additionally, we are both active alumni of the Rutgers Recovery House collegiate recovery program.</p>
<p>Describe the nominee’s work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>After seeing how many challenges the collegiate recovery field had yet to face – harm reduction, residential housing for students, inclusivity of communities of color, justice involvement, and so much more- Emily began her journey to advocating in much bigger ways. In 2019 Emily spoke on a panel for the Big 10 mental health conference hosted by Rutgers, sharing her story to mental health professionals across the nation, emphasizing how the collegiate recovery community at Rutgers was essential to her recovery. She went on to participate in the SAFE (Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic) Collegiate Recovery Leadership Academy. Emily was connected to students across the nation who worked to improve the recovery support services field, and attended a leadership summit.</p> <p>Emily’s Advocacy Project for this cohort was a presentation shedding light on the hidden identities that create barriers for students in accessing college, let alone collegiate recovery programming.</p> <p>In March of 2020, Emily presented for a webinar series hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), where she spoke about the integral and multifaceted approach to inclusivity in the collegiate recovery field. The presentation was for professionals across the nation who wanted to start a collegiate recovery program of their own.</p> <p>This presentation covered topics like accepting students practicing harm reduction, advocating for past criminal justice involvement to be scratched from the college applications, and the financial burden of college. The presentation also focused on outreach, and how to access communities who face barriers not previously thought of by higher education communities—physical disabilities, financial insecurity, community college students—making sure that collegiate recovery spaces would do their part to bridge the gaps to access that both recovery and higher education create.</p> <p>In June of 2020, Emily presented her SAFE Project Advocacy Project at the ARHE national conference. The presentation entitled My Dog Ate My Homework featured the hidden identities and barriers that people, particularly of marginalized identities, face in accessing collegiate</p>

	<p>recovery communities. In this presentation, Emily created a collaborative space with the participants on how to bridge these gaps, and created commitments for each participant on how they would return to their collegiate recovery programs and implement change. Emily’s passion for inclusivity and breaking barriers in the collegiate recovery field, and her professional role in training and empowering the next generation of peer recovery specialists, breaking down barriers for them, has inspired Emily’s passion to continue to break down barriers and advocate for underserved communities across the continuum of care. Marginalized communities—communities of color, physical disability, mental health challenges, low socioeconomic status, justice involved, and so many more—deserve access to recovery support services. These communities deserve advocates who will help connect them to treatment, apply for insurance, connect them to housing, job training, and connection to jobs. Emily strongly believes that the best way to serve these communities is to listen. Listen to what they need, and provide services to fit the needs they have voiced. Serving any community is not a one size fits all model, and Emily’s approach is one of listening, advocacy, and action. Emily has served as a thought partner and consultant in the development of the SoberTogether app. Sober Together leverages the power of technology to forge personal connections that support people on their recovery journey. The app relies on an asynchronous video format to facilitate conversations between members of recovery communities that are either virtual or related to a physical recovery center or organization.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Emily has found purpose in advocating for recovery spaces to become increasingly more inclusive, particularly in the collegiate recovery space. Both the higher education system and the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery system have historically not been inclusive of communities of color, people of low socioeconomic status, justice involvement individuals, and those with mental health challenges.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee’s contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an</p>	<p>Emily’s first commitment to change was co-creating a mental health and substance use meeting, Open Recovery, on the Rutgers campus, which was open to all students. This meeting was meant to create a safe, peer-led space to allow students facing—or unsure if they were facing—substance use or mental health challenges, to discuss the barriers these identities pose within the framework of the college setting. This meeting was then opened up to a local treatment center so more people could participate in the meeting,</p>

<p>organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>and learn to tackle the barriers of being in recovery, struggling with substances, facing behavioral addictions, and/or mental health challenges all while managing the social, educational, and financial aspects of being a college student.</p> <p>In June of 2019, Emily began an internship at Prevention Links, working on the New Jersey Coalition for Addiction Recovery Supports. Since then, Emily has gained a variety of recovery support experience while at Prevention Links including working on a 24-hour peer support hotline, implementing the Recovery Data Platform across programs, hosting mutual aid meetings, providing support during Recovery Coach Academy and Ethical Considerations trainings, and helping peers find gainful employment. Her current position at Prevention Links is the Recovery Employment Coordinator for the Union County Pathways to Success Program.</p> <p>Through this program, Emily empowers the next generation of peer recovery specialists as they enter the field—from the time they begin their Recovery Coach Academy training to the time they are connected to full time employment in the recovery support services field.</p>
<p>Awards and Honors (if any)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Nominee	Amy Brinkley
<p>Organization</p>	<p>NASMHPD</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Recovery Support Systems Coordinator</p>
<p>Category</p>	<p>Individual in Recovery</p>
<p>Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.</p>	<p>I am a colleague of Amy's at NASMHPD. I have known her since January of 2022.</p>
<p>Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.</p>	<p>Amy Brinkley is a National Advocate and is versed on how systems fail and what they need to improve on for the betterment of people in recovery. She was previously employed at the State of Indiana as the Director of Recovery Support Services. Before she left her position she was able to get millions of dollars advocated to the state for people with substance use issues. She has multiple articles and press detailing her recovery and the accomplishments that she has made in the field. Amy has presented for many years to de-stigmatize people in recovery on a National level.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Amy is passionate about getting equal opportunities for all people to have better access to resources and a chance to have a more meaningful life.</p>

	<p>Amy is also very passionate about data outcomes for people in recovery and what States are doing to better serve their populations.</p> <p>Amy is a strong advocate to better the criminal justice system so that people with substance use disorders don't have to suffer when they could benefit from a more recovery friendly approach.</p>
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Amy is a published author of 'A Glimpse of Blind Faith' and has shared her motivational recovery story in Indiana and throughout the nation. She is on the Board of NAMI National. She has advocated for Recovery Cafe's all throughout Indiana and has helped the initiative expand. Amy has used her experience in systems that failed her to change the country and the way we look at recovery.
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Julvette Price
Organization	BHSBaltimore
Title	Consumer Inclusion Coordinator
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	<p>I have been knowing this person since i moved to the Baltimore area in 2019 , she has been a wealth of support and encouragement to me.</p> <p>She has shown great compassion for the men and women who are suffering in our community. Her work in the area's of Inclusion - Advocacy</p> <p>Training and Empowerment is a true testament to her commitment to those she serves and those she guides.</p>
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Her work is unparalleled in this area both personally and professionally
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	She is very compassionate about her advocacy with the men and women she serves as well as the people she guides in their personal recovery.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing	Excellent highly respected both in her personal and professional life

recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Amber Martinez
Organization	Southern Plains Tribal Health Board
Title	Program Manager
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Amber Martinez has been my supervisor for about four years. She is the Program Manager of the CSTLTS Opioid Overdose Prevention in Tribal Communities Project, as well as several other projects at Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB). She has also been an excellent mentor as I grow in my position at SPTHB, and has provided me support within my own recovery journey.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Through partnership with the state, she ensured that Tribal peer programs and culturally humble peer support is more accessible than ever for Native Americans seeking recovery. She worked with the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority to ensure that Tribes could bill Medicaid for peer services. Before this work, there were a few administrative roadblocks within the State of Oklahoma that prevented some Tribally operated organizations from being able to bill Medicaid for services. She was able to work with state to help remove these roadblocks. This contributes to the sustainable of peer programs and should help bring recovery to others if grant funding ends.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	I think that Amber is very passionate about recovery, in all forms. She really just wants to see people live a life in recovery.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	<p>She has helped destigmatize and promote recovery at several levels in her work. Through the CSTLTS Opioid Overdose Prevention in Tribal Communities Project, she has helped create and support peer programs at at least three Tribal organizations. Through the funding and technical support of the program she manages, three Tribal organizations created peer programs from the ground up. She is the one who advocated to provide this funding. Most of these Tribal peer programs now have multiple peer positions and are thriving. This has helped bring recovery to an innumerable number of people in Native communities.</p> <p>Additionally, she prioritized the development of a supplemental training on Native American history, culture and resources for state certified Peers. This training is integral to not only in promoting culturally competent care, but also in ensuring that Native American</p>

	<p>people are able to access relevant Tribal resources, even when receiving peer support outside of Tribal organizations. She also helped start the Indian Country Peer ECHO, which has provided a network of support for peers across Indian Country. She has truly been an advocate for more culturally humble peer support for Native Americans.</p> <p>She also helped lead the launch of a Harm Reduction project which mails out free Narcan, syringes, first aid, hygiene and safe sex kits. Her passion for this work is obvious, whether she is approving budgets or packing kits to ship herself.</p> <p>Finally, at the organizational level, she has been fearless in her leadership. She has shared her own lived experience with her staff and helped support them in their own recovery, when needed. Her openness helps to destigmatize recovery and helps her staff thrive.</p> <p>I feel that I could go on and on. She is the reason our organization is able to provide support to peers across Indian Country.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Kristina Padilla
Organization	California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
Title	Vice-President of Education & Strategic Development
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	My name is Devon Wayt, I have known Mx. Kristina Padilla in a variety of professional capacities over the 8 years I have known her. I met her through the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) where my program, Circa Behavioral Healthcare Solutions, is a program member. Kristina is CCAPP's Vice President of Education and Strategic so I know her in this capacity. And for as long as I have been a member at CCAPP, I have seen Kristina's hard work and dedication to the recovery community. From her time as a Program Director to now as a Vice President, Kristina has worked tirelessly to lessen the devastation of addiction and promote to all the possibility of recovery. I cannot think of a more deserving individual to nominate for this Advocate of the Year award.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	In both her professional and personal life, Kristina Padilla promotes awareness of recovery to policymakers, media, and more across the local, state, and national level. Professionally, as the Vice President of Education and Strategic Development at the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP), Kristina is recognized as one of the leading voices of recovery in various stakeholder settings as it

	<p>relates to state and local policy. She often works with governmental entities seeking insight into the recovery community. Previously she consulted with the Office of Substance Abuse Treatment Services and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to develop and implement their Offender Mentorship Certification Program.</p> <p>This dedication to promoting recovery awareness extends to her personal life as well. Mx. Padilla has recently written a book specifically for LGBTQ people experiencing addiction. Kristina with a K: A Rainbow Person's Journey from Addition to Recovery is an explosive exposé into the lives of LGBTQ people experiencing addiction. Told from the first-person perspective, Kristina takes readers through her harrowing life as a gang member and drug addict, the tragic episodes of her early life, and her life in recovery. From coming out stories to horrific intimate partner violence and self-harm, to suicidal ideation, Kristina's personal story sheds light on what many young LGBTQ people with addiction experience. Kristina shares her experiences and then presents carefully researched explanations as to why LGBTQ individuals face the challenges they do with regard to substance use disorder. In each aspect, Kristina serves as inspiration as someone who has overcome great odds to turn her life into a productive and loving example of recovery.</p> <p>Furthermore, Kristina travels the country as a trainer and speaker offering all audiences the opportunity to learn about what recovery is and promoting equitable and culturally responsive recovery-oriented systems of care. Some of her most notable conference features include US Journal, West Coast Symposium, NCAD National Center of Addiction Disorder Conference, Finding Freedom symposium, National Association for Recovery Residences National Conference, CCAPP California Addiction Conference, CCAPP Multi Cultural Conference, and the Department of Health Care Services Conference.</p> <p>Kristina Padilla has and continues to go above and beyond in promoting awareness of recovery. Her contributions in advocating for the excluded and marginalized are critical to ensuring we continue to improve accessibility and equity for all in the recovery community.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Kristina Padilla is an extremely multidimensional individual and I have seen her use her various unique identities as a mother, a part of the LGBTQ+ community, an indigenous Native, and a person in recovery, to advocate for equitable and culturally responsive care for all individuals in recovery. You can see her passion for these issues in how Kristina amplifies the voices of all the communities she is a part of by being a leader. Mx. Padilla is an Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Trainer and Equality California Leadership Academy fellow. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Addiction Professionals and their Allies (NALGAP), the Board of Directors for the Women's Association of Addiction Treatment (WAAT), and the board of the Native American Institute in New</p>

	Mexico (NATI). She was a former board member of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Sacramento chapter. And, Mx. Padilla consults for Faces and Voices NRI (National Recovery Institute) and on LGBTQIA2+ program development and design, issues, services, counseling, therapy, mentoring, and training and coaching. Her leadership and dedication to being a voice has helped shaped more equitable and culturally responsive recovery systems.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Kristina Padilla has and continues to go above and beyond in serving her community. Her contributions in advancing recovery for the excluded and marginalized are numerous and critical. As the Vice President of Education and Strategic Development at the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP), Kristina has developed and advanced several curriculums and opportunities for SUD counselors with equity inclusion focuses. To name one, she developed the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DIP) credential for substance use disorder professionals. Outside of her day-to-day duties at CCAPP, Kristina works closely with CCAPP's policy department to ensure there is equity and inclusion in all our legislative efforts. Some of her contributions have led to her inclusion on various boards driving recovery policy in California. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Women's Association of Addiction Treatment (WAAT), and the board of the Native American Institute in New Mexico (NATI). She was a former board member of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Sacramento chapter. And, Mx. Padilla consults for Faces and Voices NRI (National Recovery Institute) and on LGBTQIA2+ program development and design, issues, services, counseling, therapy, mentoring, and training and coaching. Lastly, she has also pioneered the "Summer Symposium," a gathering to share LGBTQ SUD counseling concepts and innovations
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Deb Lewis
Organization	David Lawrence Center
Title	CRPS
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Deb Lewis is my supervisor and a CRPS at DLC. She inspires me and countless others on a daily basis and has been bringing the community together to get an RCO created in collier county. She lives, eats, and breathes recovery for all and promotes/advocates for people suffering from SUD where ever she goes. She has been a fundamental part of my journey to becoming a peer and taught me and others what it means to be a peer in all aspects.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the	Local news interviews, works alongside the state of FL, networks in the community and recovery community.

awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Language and stigma, letting go of the term anonymous and stepping into the light.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Started all recovery meeting, created peer luncheon for peers across the entire company, trains all newly hired employees on ROSC recovery oriented systems of care.
Awards and Honors (if any)	Awarded buzz worthy employee of the year in our organization 2020

Nominee	Jefferey Walker
Organization	Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc.
Title	Programs Director
Category	Individual in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	Jeff Walker is my direct superior at Wilkes Recovery Revolution. He was present for my interview in December of 2020 and continues to be a source of leadership and guidance today. I've known Jeff since that interview, so a little over two years.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	<p>Jeff Walker works tirelessly. Literally, I'm not sure he sleeps. Jeff manages 8 unique programs at Wilkes Recovery Revolution. He attend our county commissioner's meetings where he has gained partnerships and support for recovery programming in our area, he is a facilitator for just about every relevant training available (recovery coach, forensic peer support, eCPR, etc.), and he is still providing direct client services.</p> <p>When our organization gets a call at 3am, chances are Jeff is answering the phone. If one of our participants (or even a potential new participant) is stumping local law enforcement officers, they call Jeff to come down and support them. On his weekends, Jeff comes by the center to tidy donations, clear commonly used spaces, and clean when necessary. He partners with local, statewide, and national organizations by serving on coalitions and committees working to inspire change. Some of these include the Community Opioid Prevention and Education team here in Wilkes County, the</p>

	<p>Peer Justice Initiative of North Carolina, the Recovery Friendly NC Advisory Committee, and more.</p> <p>Jeff is just as likely to be seen shaking hands with local leadership as he is to be sitting in the street next to someone who has no one else to support them. A community member shared with me that she saw Jeff approach a gentleman others were avoiding, giving him cash and purchasing food and drinks for them. That individual can be seen walking around town and does not have the support or care that he needs, or truly, a way to access that support. He now comes down to spend time at our center, often grabbing a quick meal or resting on the benches outside, and that is just one of many similar stories.</p>
<p>Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.</p>	<p>Jeff is most passionate about increasing access to recovery services, removing barriers to basic support services in the community, improving conditions for those currently in prison and those reentering society, and access to harm reduction services. Jeff has built Wilkes Recovery Revolution, along with our Founding Executive Director, Devin Lyall, based on the communicated needs of those most others wouldn't consider speaking with.</p> <p>Jeff can also be found cleaning up campsites where our friends experiencing homelessness live, advocating for the protection of their safety and living spaces, and supporting them with services. Recently, he worked alongside Devin and generous community members to put most of our homeless population in hotels during a horrible storm this past December.</p>
<p>Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).</p>	<p>As previously mentioned, Jeff has been with Wilkes Recovery Revolution from the start. Our programming includes transitional housing, a farm where we operate an agricultural work-study and therapeutic farming program, a mobile market operating by those in recovery bringing farm fresh produce into the most underserved parts of our community, extensive harm reduction services, certified peer support services and advocacy, educational attainment and workforce development programming, community advocacy development, and so much more.</p> <p>Jeff regularly attends the county commissioners' meetings, engages with local elected officials and town managers, and organizes Recovery Coach Academy, Language Matters, and other recovery advocacy training locally. He is frequently asked to present at conferences, grand openings, and reentry simulation events and does his best to attend every event he can.</p> <p>Again, I would say that Jeff's main contribution to advancing recovery is in the example he sets for others. If someone falls through the cracks of the criteria set by another organization, Jeff will work tirelessly to serve that individual. If he is called to attend</p>

	the court case of a community member without context or prior introduction, he will attend. If someone calls on the weekend or after hours in need of harm reduction supplies, he will drive into town and meet them where they are. If everyone in our community did even a fraction of the work supporting those who need it most that Jeff Walker does, we would be living in a very different world.
Awards and Honors (if any)	N/A

Nominee	Hannah Jackson
Organization	Arizona State University
Title	Wellness Coordinator
Category	Youth or Young Adult in Recovery
Describe your relationship with the person you are nominating and how long you have known the nominee.	I have had the privilege to supervise Hannah's work for the past two years at Arizona State University where she is employed as a Student Wellness Coordinator within the Health Promotion and Prevention of Sun Devil Fitness and Wellness.
Describe the nominee's work to promote the awareness of recovery with policymakers, the media, and others on the local, state and/or national level.	Hannah Jackson is a Wellness Coordinator employed at the Tempe Sun Devil Fitness and Wellness, Health Promotion and Prevention Team where she oversees a team of 12 student employees responsible for driving student wellbeing initiatives across the Tempe campus. This includes delivery of training, creation and execution of small, medium, and large events focused on promoting the adoption of healthy habits and staying abreast of current student wellbeing trends. As part of her student employment role, Hannah attended a national conference addressing collegiate recovery support and was inspired to revamp the Recovery Rising training offered to faculty, staff, and student leaders. She is a student leader who went above and beyond, she identified a gap and took the initiative to create a solution to enhance ASU's environmental support for this marginalized community. Hannah located a best practice training curriculum being utilized within higher education and adapted/branded it to fit ASU's needs thus creating the "What is Recovery?" training. As a skilled presenter she delivered the training and evaluated its results to determine it was positively impacting the ASU community's ability to positively affect the health and well-being of their community. Participants learned new strategies on how to build an inclusive environment for students in recovery. And increased their confidence on how to support students in recovery. While Hannah herself is not a student in recovery, she has taken an active role in finding ways to enhance belonging for this marginalized group of students. She has spearheaded the creation of wellbeing programming tailored specifically for students in recovery. She has assisted the student organization "Friends of Recovery" to be reestablished on the Tempe campus serving in an officer capacity when not at work. Hannah's commitment to health promotion and prevention can be seen through her commitment to inclusion. Her desire to live in a

	community where everyone feels they belong. I hoped to have demonstrated her commitment by sharing how through her role as a Wellness Coordinator Hannah has been able to support student in recovery while enhancing the environment to be recovery friendly. This is why I nominate her for the youth/young adult award.
Describe the advocacy issues the nominee is most passionate about.	Hannah Jackson is a student who is majoring in Neuroscience and is passionate about the human brain and what impacts its ability to function. After attending a national conference addressing collegiate recovery support in the Summer of 2022, Hannah was inspired to not only address substance misuse, but she also wanted to celebrate the lives of her peers who are in recovery and enhance an environment of support. While she herself is not a person in recovery, the conference highlighted the need for allies to support her peers who are in recovery and made the revitalization of ASU's Collegiate Recovery Program her passion project throughout the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semester. As a Sun Devil, Hannah materialized the following words into action, "As Sun Devils we take care of ourselves, each other, and our community" by assuming fundamental responsibility to student in recovery.
Describe the quality and quantity of the nominee's contributions toward advancing recovery (i.e., launched advocacy campaign, organized town hall meetings, started an organization, speaking tour, writing, etc.).	Hannah believes in a world that is recovery centric. Over the past school years, she has revamped the ally training program for faculty, staff, and students and was a presenter across Arizona State University. She was a driver in the reinstatement of the Friends of Recovery Student Organization. She worked to enhance belonging through the creation of interactive well-being events specific for students in recovery. Revitalized the social media sites for @ASUrecoveryrising.
Awards and Honors (if any)	ASU, Pitchfork Award Nominee