

MRN Report for SAC Meeting 2/1/2012

- MRN is in the process of setting up statewide distribution lists since our move in November. We are exploring several communication options. We are also giving our website a facelift. We are in the process of change and MRN is flourishing.
- MRN is being considered for a grant that would fully engage MRN in becoming an active and effective participant in health reform implementation. If awarded, we will be the model used to educate other members of the Association of Recovery Community Organizations, which is nationwide. This grant would allow MRN to establish research on the number of individuals who will become eligible for coverage under the Affordable Care Act who have an addiction history. We will work collaboratively with state partners and will advocate supporting policies that encourage the enrollment and retention of people with addiction and their family members. Only one pilot state will be chosen to receive this grant. If obtained, we will be asking you to collaborate with us in our statewide educational efforts.
- MRN is one of the many partners who were asked to participate and assist in planning the Heroin town hall meetings in Cole County. Project HOPE (Heroin overdose prevention and education) is being put on by the JCPD, the Cole County Sheriffs Dept. and many other community partners. MRN members who are in personal recovery from a heroin addiction and those who have lost a child to a heroin overdose will be speaking. The first presentations took place Jan. 25 in Jeff City (a morning and evening program) with over 150+ law enforcement in attendance. Future presentations are being planned for Feb. 9th and March 8th. If you would like to duplicate this effort, just let us know and we can help facilitate. JCPD has set up a dedicated website www.jeffcityhope.com and the hotline is 573-635 HOPE (4673). It has gotten lots of media exposure and recovery has gotten a lot of exposure. The St. Louis website is www.not-even-once.com
- MRN members provided public testimony at the Senate Appropriations Hearing on Jan. 10 and at the House Appropriations Hearing on Jan. 19th. Eight MRN members provided testimony. I would like to thank Joe Hahne and Percy Menzies, SAC members, for traveling to Jeff City to educate the legislators on pathways to recovery. (Ask Joe and Percy to say a few words.)
- MRN will be hosting our Advocacy Day on March 28 in Jefferson City at the Capitol. We encourage and invite each of you to attend. More information will follow on the MRN website www.morecovery.org.
- Distributed SAMHSA's new definition of recovery. The definition is the product of a year-long effort by SAMHSA and a wide range of partners in the behavioral health care community and other fields. This definition captures the essential, common experiences of those recovering from mental disorders and substance use disorders. The new working definition- A PROCESS OF CHANGE THROUGH WHICH INDIVIDUALS IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH AND WELLNESS, LIVE A SELF-DIRECTED LIFE, AND STRIVE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. SAMHSA has delineated 4 major dimensions that support a life in recovery: Health, Home, Purpose and Community.
- MRN has been promoting the DMH Consumer Conference, planned for August 12-14. If you know of someone who would be a good presenter, contact Carol Dickneite at DMH. MRN will again be offering scholarships to consumers to attend.