

February 5, 2016

Marsha Baker
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Division of Services Improvement
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1 Choke Cherry Road
Room 5-1124
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Baker,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Friends of Recovery-Vermont's application for SAMHSA's FY 2016 Targeted Capacity Expansion Peer-to-Peer grant. The proposed project will significantly enhance the capacity of Vermont's older adult peer support workforce to deliver quality services. Vermont's population has the second-oldest median age in the country. Furthermore, senior substance misuse is growing at an alarming rate. These two factors make it clear to me that we must train an older adult peer workforce to support their senior peers. This is a crucial element in a Recovery-Oriented System of Care that must be addressed in order to fully integrate peer-to-peer support services into the unique systems that serve senior Vermonters.

FOR-VT's work has afforded new opportunities for recovery support services to be integrated into community-based programs. Now we must also focus on one of our largest recognized health disparities: care for older Vermonters. FOR-VT has taken a lead role in educating policymakers, providers and the recovery community about recovery support services and has a long history of engaging the peer community in advocacy and education activities.

I fully recognize the value of creating a workforce development program for older adult peer support providers, and I wholly support FOR-VT's proposal to integrate the evidence based Whole Health Action Management (WHAM) curriculum and the evidence based Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) into a comprehensive Older Adults Recovery Project.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to support FOR-VT in this proposal, and I am confident that the project staff and partners will successfully complete all project activities in accordance with the guiding principles of recovery.

Sincerely,

Phil Scott

Lieutenant Governor of Vermont