

Our Common Welfare Newsletter Summer 2008



Greetings!

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it. (H.E. Luccock)

Imagine a man lying in a hospital bed, fully bandaged from head to toe, with legs in traction, lying eerily still but surrounded by beeping monitors and other unrecognizable machines. Would you feel overwhelmed with concern for his well-being and wonder how in the world he will overcome this state? Where will all of the critical supports necessary to **regain and restore health and wellness** come from?

One person, one method alone cannot be the solution; it will take a circle of support and an array of resources.

Women in New Recovery's **Our Common Welfare** project is the catalyst for linking individuals in the early stages of recovery to a network of support and array of needed resources to sustain recovery. The OCW Project coordinates services and events that unite and strengthen the recovery community in new and innovative ways. OCW leads recovering individuals and the organizations that serve them to discover solutions within themselves through peer-to-peer recovery support!



Peer-Oriented Solutions

Peer-to-peer recovery support services are just that: **recovery support from people who've been there** and are in a position to share their experience, strength, and hope in many ways. The OCW project is wrapping up a needs assessment and planning period. In fact, many of you participated in community focus groups and have been eagerly awaiting the evaluation report. We prepared two separate executive summaries that outline key findings in each county. Interested in learning more? [Click here to request the executive summary for the Maricopa County or Yavapai County report.](#) Be sure to specify which summary report you wish to receive.

Where We're At

We're now entering the next phase which involves rolling out services to the community beginning with recovery housing providers. Peer-to-peer services will be an integral part of early recovery and prevention activities. Briefly stated, the OCW project:

- engages groups of recovery (halfway) housing owners and managers
- delivers resources, expertise, training and support to these providers so that they are in a better position to support the recovery needs among residents (and market their services to new residents!)
- strengthens the networks of housing providers by supporting the formation of a statewide association

Desired Results

As a result, OCW intends to create community and system-wide change in the depth and breadth of recovery support available to individuals like you and me! The project assists recovery housing providers in becoming more effective, more cohesively prepared to serve and meet the needs of all who desire lasting recovery. We want to help strengthen relationships between community stakeholders, recovery housing providers, and constituents.

How to Get Involved

And yes, there is a role for you! There are many opportunities for involvement from providers, residents, and community stakeholders. You can get involved immediately by attending an upcoming Peer Council meeting to meet a new group of peer leaders and observe the process in action. Peer Council meets at WINR's Mesa site every other Tuesday at 7 PM. [Click here to reserve a seat at an upcoming Peer Council meeting!](#)

You can also join other recovery housing providers in taking advantage of OCW's free technical assistance, training, and other services that will help to enhance living environments and sustain recovery among residents. OCW is also working with recovery housing providers in forming regional alliances and a statewide association of recovery housing providers. *Let us know if you, too, want to get involved!* Examples may include participating in project planning groups, attending training, delivering training, continuing to receive project updates, sharing information with residents, or joining other providers in the formation of a regional and/or statewide alliance.

You'll be Hearing More From Us

Just as you suggested, we will use internet tools to stay in touch, including ongoing e-newsletters and email blasts that keep you informed of project activities, current events, Peer Council meetings, training, and volunteer opportunities.



"In an unfamiliar situation, we are likely to shape our behavior to match that of others."

Phillip Zimbardo

Get Back to Us

It is my sincere hope that you will become involved with the OCW project in some capacity, whether by participating in services, helping to pass along project news and information, or in other ways.

We invite you to join us in our efforts. We look forward to continued communication with you and those you wish to engage, but we need to hear from you: [Confirm your continued interest in receiving ongoing OCW project information, and share your current thoughts, ideas, or questions.](#)

Best,

Patricia Henderson (Patty)

Patricia Henderson is the Founder/Executive Director of Women In New Recovery (WINR), as well as the Director of Our Common Welfare, a project providing peer-to-peer recovery support services for individuals in recovery, and financed in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



Know Someone Who Might be Interested or could benefit from OCW Services?

Forward this newsletter to a friend.

We'll add them to our distribution list later if they so choose.