



A Letter from the CEO

Friends:

As I write this letter, we've just recently learned of the additional \$37 million in funding added to the State budget just before it passed on April 1st. Clearly, a step forward for the people who will access addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services as those funds are added to the OASAS budget!

FOR-NY thanks everyone in the Recovery community who joined us in advocating for additional funding to establish the community-based Recovery Supports Services that are so desperately needed. **Thank you** to the hundreds of friends who traveled from throughout the state to participate in FOR-NY's Advocacy Day on February 2nd. **Thank you** to everyone who contacted their legislators to encourage support of increased Recovery funding. **Thank you** to the FOR-NY Board of Directors for their continuing commitment to our cause. Your voices had an enormous impact! And, **thank you** to FOR-NY Director of Policy, Stephanie Campbell, for her tireless dedication to fighting for added funding support. In just the last few months, FOR-NY has held many meetings with our lawmakers in the Capital, traveled to meet with elected officials in communities throughout the state; spoken at three Senate Heroin & Opioid Addiction Task Force hearings, the Press Conference on the release of the Assembly Minority Heroin & Prescription Drug Task Force report, provided guidance and support to several local Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs), and so much more. Throughout the effort, Stephanie has been a face and voice for Recovery, and a remarkable example of what life in Recovery looks like.

And, of course, we need to **thank** to Governor Cuomo, and both the NYS Senate & Assembly for this significant investment in addiction services and increase in the OASAS budget. **Thank you** especially to Senate Majority Leader Flanagan, Senate Finance Committee Chair Young, Senate Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee Chair Amedore, Senator Murphy, Senator Ortt, Assembly Speaker Heastie, Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chair Farrell, Assembly Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee Chair Rosenthal, and the members of the Assembly Minority Heroin & Prescription Drug Task Force.

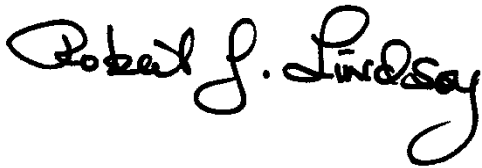
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While FOR-NY is profoundly grateful for the significant increase, we also know that it is not nearly enough to establish the community-based Recovery support services needed and necessary in every county across New York. As such, we remain steadfast in our commitment to work on behalf of the Recovery community to ensure there's a Recovery Community Organization (RCO), Recovery Community Center (RCC), Recovery Coaches, and Family Support Navigators in every one of New York's 62 counties.

Some examples of our recent efforts to demonstrate the power and promise of Recovery can be found in this issue of Recovery Talk.

To date, nearly 1700 people have completed the FOR-NY "**Recovery Needs Survey**," the results of which we look forward to sharing with you in a future issue. And, plans are underway for both a Family Recovery Forum and a Youth Recovery Forum in New York City, more Anonymous People screenings, and a statewide Recovery conference, co-sponsored with ASAP, to be held in Troy, New York beginning on the evening on August 31st and concluding on the evening of September 1st. Mark your calendars! We'll be sure to share more information once all the details are finalized.

I hope you'll enjoy this issue of **Recovery Talk**. Interested in writing or reading about one of the many pathways to Recovery or a Recovery-focused topic we haven't covered? Willing to share your own Recovery story with our readers? Contact FOR-NY's Director of Communications, Susan Murphy at SMurphy@FOR-NY.org. We'd welcome your contribution.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Lindsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R".