

Join our statewide

Recovery Advocacy Meetings

RICARES is hosting launching Statewide Recovery Advocacy Meetings to provide a forum for recovery community members to discuss important issues. We will offer:

- Training and support for providing testimony on recovery-related matters at the State Legislature and other venues
- Resources for state and national advocacy
- Opportunities to meet with elected officials and stakeholders



Meeting Dates

Choose date and venue that works best for you.

3rd Thursday of each month

- 8:30am - 10:00am
- In-person at RICARES (133 Mathewson St., Providence, RI)
- Light breakfast provided

4th Tuesday of each month

- 2:00pm - 3:30pm
- Virtual
- *No December meeting*



What is Recovery Advocacy?

Recovery advocacy means actively supporting and promoting the process of overcoming addiction and substance use disorders. It encompasses several key activities:

Raising awareness

Supporting individuals

Engaging communities

Fighting discrimination

Sharing personal stories

Improving access to services

Promoting supportive policies

A Note About Recovery Community Organizations

RICARES is an independent recovery community organization. Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) have several unique characteristics that distinguish them from general recovery supportive organizations.

- 1 Authenticity of voice:** RCOs are led by and for people in recovery. They represent the interests of the recovery community directly, rather than through professional intermediaries.
- 2 Governance structure:** RCOs have a majority of board members, managers, staff, and volunteers drawn from the recovery community itself. This ensures that the organization's priorities and decisions are guided by those with lived experience.
- 3 Independence:** RCOs are typically stand-alone, independent nonprofit organizations. While they may collaborate with other entities, they maintain autonomy in their governance and decision-making.
- 4 Focus on community resources:** RCOs emphasize mobilizing individual and community resources to promote recovery, rather than focusing on a particular service or model of care.
- 5 Bridging role:** RCOs are uniquely positioned to bridge gaps between the recovery community and government agencies, the criminal justice system, and other health and human services providers.
- 6 Participatory processes:** RCOs often use participatory decision-making methods, involving both leaders and members in programming and policy decisions.
- 7 Accountability to the recovery community:** The strength and credibility of RCOs come from their direct connection to and accountability to the recovery community they serve.

The key difference is that RCOs are rooted in the principle of **"nothing about us without us,"** ensuring that the recovery community itself drives the organization's mission, activities, and advocacy efforts.