



Partnership for a  
Drug-Free New Jersey

In Cooperation with the Governor's Council on Alcoholism  
and Drug Abuse and the NJ Dept. of Human Services



**NJCARES.gov**  
New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies

# Highlighting Addiction Recovery

## September 8, 2022



The Partnership For A  
Drug-Free New Jersey  
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# Featured Presenters



**CDR Karina D. Aguilar, DrPH, MSW, CPH**  
**Assistant Regional Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental**  
**Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Region II Office**

Commander Karina D. Aguilar serves as the Assistant Regional Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Region II Office, where she works to advance SAMHSA's mission through the promotion of evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery efforts. Prior to joining the SAMHSA Regional team, CDR Aguilar worked in the HHS - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) and served as the regional program consultant for the Title X Family Planning Grant Program. In this role, she supported the Region II grantees in providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventative health services.



**Mary Beth O'Connor, Esq.**

Mary Beth O'Connor has been sober since 1994. She also is in recovery from abuse, trauma, self-harm, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety. Professionally, six years into her recovery, Mary Beth attended Berkeley Law. She went on to work at a large firm, then litigated class actions for the federal government. In 2014, she was appointed a federal administrative law judge, a position from which she retired early in 2020. Her history and recovery are chronicled in her memoir "From Junkie to Judge: One Woman's Triumph Over Trauma and Addiction." Mary Beth is a director, secretary and founding investor for She Recovers Foundation and also serves as director for LifeRing Secular Recovery. She develops relationships with other organizations, such as Women for Sobriety.

# Office of Recovery

Karina D. Aguilar, DrPH

Assistant Regional Administrator, Region II

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# History of Recovery at SAMHSA

- SAMHSA has long history in supporting recovery, recovery supports, and the inclusion of people with lived experience
- 1970's ADAMHA – Community Support Program
- 1980's – Monthly Conference Call of Consumer/Ex-patient leaders; Alternatives Conference; Peer-Operated Services Demonstrations; Mental Health Block Grant and PAIMI Legislation; Recovery Month
- 1990's – Recovery Community Services Program; Consumer & Consumer Supporter TA Centers; State Consumer Networks; Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health; First Consumer Affairs Specialist Hired; Consumer Operated Services Program; CMHS NAC Subcommittee on Consumer/Survivor Issues

# History of Recovery at SAMHSA

- 2000's – President's New Freedom Commission; CMS Medicaid Funding of Peer Workers; Recovery to Practice; Voice Awards; Wellness Campaign; CMHS and CSAT Offices of Consumer Affairs
- 2010's – Building Communities of Recovery; BRSS TACS; RCSP Statewide Network; Targeted Capacity –Peer to Peer Recovery; Transforming Lives via Supported Employment; Peer Recovery Center of Excellence
- 2020's – First Person in Recovery as Acting Assistant Secretary; Office of Recovery Announced

# Recovery Support

- President Biden's FY23 Budget
  - Proposed 10% set aside for recovery support in the State Block Grants
  - Increases in State Opioid Response Grants
  - Increases in Discretionary grants & TA
- Raising the recovery profile across the government
  - State of the Union - Unity Agenda
  - Cabinet Appointees



# Promoting the Value of Recovery



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 identified four major dimensions that support a life in recovery: health, home, purpose and community.



# SAMHSA's Office of Recovery

## OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that recovery is a guiding principle in SAMHSA's policies, programs, and services;
- Promote the involvement of people with lived experience throughout agency and stakeholder activities;
- Identify health disparities in high risk and under-served populations and ensure equity for recovery support services across the nation;
- Foster relationships with internal and external organizations in the mental health and substance use recovery field;
- Promote training and public education opportunities on recovery;
- Explore opportunities to partner with the philanthropic and private sectors to support innovative programming to address disparities and advance recovery transformation;
- Support states, communities and tribes/tribal organizations on implementation of recovery support services, working with the Peer Recovery Center for Excellence.



# Recovery Summit 2022: A National Gathering



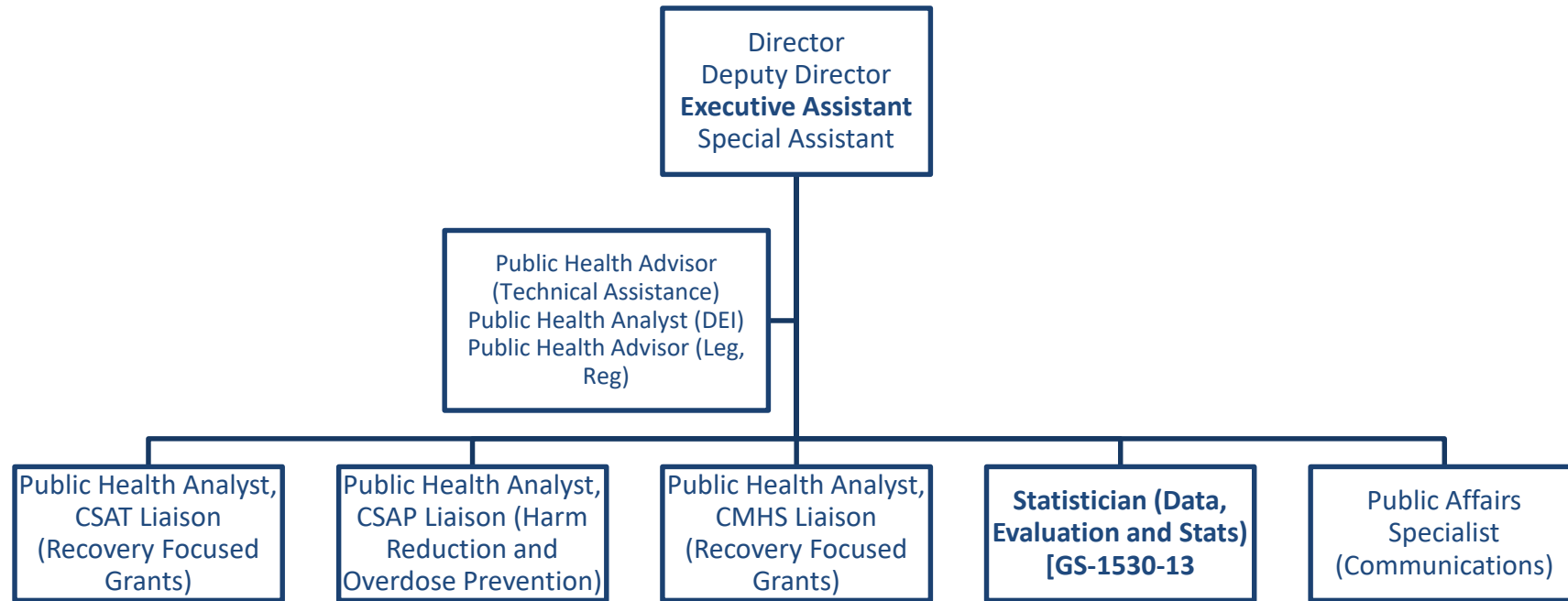
## Focus:

- Review SAMHSA's recovery definition which includes the four dimensions and principles.
- Operationalize that definition into specific strategies that weave a vision for the Office of Recovery at SAMHSA and across the federal government.

## Themes:

- Peer Recovery Support Services
- System Transformation

# Office of Recovery Proposed Staffing



Initial hires are in bold

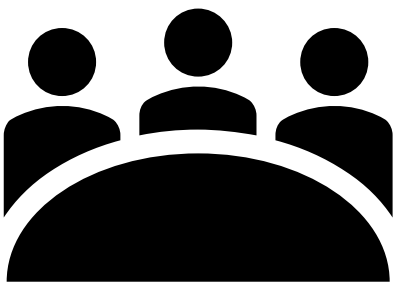
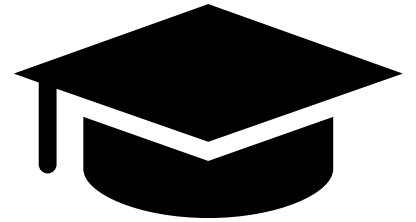
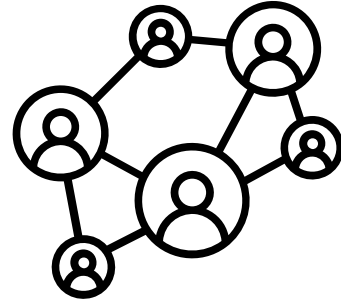
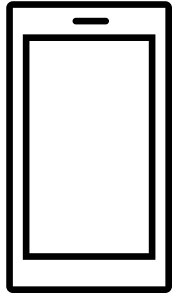


# Peer Recovery Center of Excellence



The Center's strategies for training and technical assistance are organized into the following core areas of focus:

- Clinical integration of peer support workers into non-traditional settings;
- Building and strengthening capacity of Recovery Community Organizations;
- Enhancing the professionalization of peers through workforce development;
- Providing evidence-based and practice-based toolkits and resource information to diverse stakeholders
- [www.peerrecoverynow.org](http://www.peerrecoverynow.org)



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## Creating Recovery Ready Communities



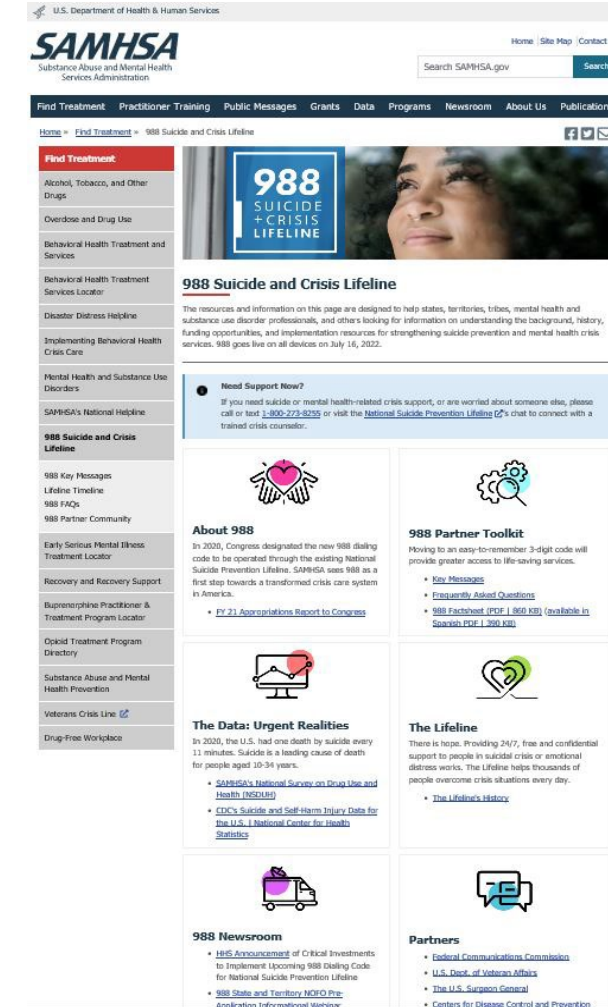


# Recovery Innovation Challenge



## ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR 988 RESOURCES

- URL: [www.samhsa.gov/988](https://www.samhsa.gov/988)
- ABOUT 988
- PARTNER TOOLKIT
- DATA
- LIFELINE HISTORY
- MORE TO COME OVER TIME



## PARTNER TOOLKIT ASSETS AS OF AUGUST

- FACT SHEET (English and Spanish)
- KEY MESSAGES
- FAQs (Adding others as needed over time)
- E-NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE
- LOGOS & BRAND GUIDANCE
- SAMPLE RADIO PSA SCRIPTS
- 988 SLIDE DECK

The screenshot displays the SAMHSA 988 website. The top navigation bar includes links for Find Treatment, Practitioner Training, Public Messages, Grants, Data, Programs, Newsroom, About Us, and Publications. Below this, a breadcrumb trail shows the path: Home > Find Treatment > 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline > 988 Key Messages. A sidebar on the left lists various resources under the 'Find Treatment' heading, including Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs; Overdose and Drug Use; Behavioral Health Treatment and Services; Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator; Disaster Distress Helpline; Implementing Behavioral Health Crisis Care; Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders; SAMHSA's National Helpline; 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; 988 Key Messages; 988 Timeline; 988 FAQs; 988 Partner Community; Early Serious Mental Illness Treatment Locator; Recovery and Recovery Support; Buprenorphine Practitioner & Treatment Program Locator; Opioid Treatment Program Directory; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Prevention; Veterans Crisis Line; and Diversion Workbooks. The main content area features a large image of a woman's face with the 988 SUICIDE + CRISIS LIFELINE logo overlaid. Below the image, the '988 Key Messages' section explains the purpose and vision of the Lifeline. A 'Need Support Now?' box provides contact information for crisis support. The 'About 988' section details the history and mission of the Lifeline. A '988 Partner Toolkit' section highlights the availability of various resources, including a Frequently Asked Questions document and a 988 Factsheet in PDF and Spanish PDF formats. The 'Need for 988' section discusses the importance of the Lifeline in providing crisis support.



# Thank You

SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance use and mental illness on America's communities.

Karina D. Aguilar, DrPH  
Assistant Regional Administrator, Region II  
(NJ, NY, PR, US Virgin Islands and  
the Federally Recognized Tribes in the Northeast)

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1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727) • 1-800-487-4889 (TDD)



## UPCOMING WEBINAR

# Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day

**11 a.m. Thursday, October 6, 2022**

**Register at [KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/events](https://KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/events)**