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Substance Abuse Teleconference
February 25, 2010

Presented by: Monique Bourgeois-Executive Director
Association of Recovery Schools

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- ▶ Receive public funding – 88% (n=15)
- ▶ Of the 15 schools receiving public funding, the ratios of public-to-private funding were:
 - 75-100 percent: 8
 - 50-75 percent: 4
 - 25-50 percent: 1
 - Data not provided: 2
- ▶ Median: 80% public funding
 - 5 charter schools
 - 9 alternative schools

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Additional Characteristics of Recovery High Schools

- Average 19 students per school (range 2–46)
- Student tenure: mean 232 days (just over 7.5 months), range 0–1440 days (4 yrs)
- Gender: 54% Male, 46% Female
- Parents/Guardians: 54% two-parent family in home
- Educational Attainment: 55% have at least one parents with college degree
- Demographics vary by school/community

Note: Student Survey (n=321)

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- ▶ 75 Staff Surveys
 - 46 Full-time teachers
 - 7 Part time teachers
 - 17 professional staff
 - 5 Others (administrators or support)
- ▶ 83% Full time
- ▶ Equal number male and female
- ▶ Median 4 years in current school
- ▶ 8 Years median experience

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- ▶ 17 are "professional staff", 5 are admin and support
- ▶ 8 (36%) have formal training in AODA counseling
- ▶ 4 (18%) Licensed or Certified AOD Counselor (5% of all staff surveyed)
- ▶ 5 (24%) Licensed Mental Health Professionals

NOTE: n=22

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- StepUP students were largely able to maintain sobriety.
- Students endorsed a sizeable amount of assets and social supports.
- Screens for mental health problems endorsed at a considerable rate, with significantly more current students screening positive for ADHD, gambling problems, and depression compared to alumni.
- Overall, ratings by students indicated that they were highly satisfied with the program – including the role of the program in the recovery process.

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- ▶ The Association of Recovery Schools advocates for the promotion, strengthening, and expansion of secondary and post-secondary programs designed for students and families committed to achieving success in both education and recovery.
- ▶ The Association of Recovery Schools exists to support such schools which, as components of the recovery continuum of care, enroll students committed to being abstinent from alcohol and other drugs and working a program of recovery.

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- ▶ All secondary and post-secondary students have access to a recovery high school or collegiate recovery community.
- ▶ Standards of academic and recovery practices are identified and implemented.
- ▶ All eligible recovery schools are ARS members.
- ▶ Recovery schools are seen as valued, necessary, and adequately funded parts of both the education and treatment systems.
- ▶ ARS operates as a financially viable and autonomous organization.

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- ▶ The Association of Recovery Schools was launched in 2002 when the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) brought together representatives from 13 high schools and 3 colleges to discuss recovery-based education.
- ▶ Annually, thereafter, the Association of Recovery Schools has held a conference.
- ▶ Membership has grown consistently each year since inception.

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- ▶ Annual conferences since 2002 – CSAT funded the first conference in 2002 from their discretionary funds
- ▶ Awarded a “knowledge dissemination” grant for \$60,000 from CSAT in 2004 for the conference at Rutgers
- ▶ Led a hearing at the 2005 Addiction, Treatment & Recovery Caucus
 - Included collaboration amongst member schools
 - Day on the Hill outreach to Legislators
- ▶ Participation in the writing of articles for a special edition of the Journal of Groups in Addiction & Recovery (2007)
- ▶ Multiple presentations at JMATE (Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness)
- ▶ Working with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), U.S. Department of Education and Center for

Substance Abuse Treatment

- ▶ Highlighted in CNN Special "Addiction: Life on the Edge" (2009)

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- ▶ Created a DVD titled "Recovery: A Beacon of Hope" (2007)
- ▶ Collaboration with Addiction Technology Transfer Center on the 2009 Recovery Month Essay Contest "In My Own Words..."
- ▶ Partnering with researchers to expand on information regarding recovery schools
 - Texas Tech University (Amanda Baker)
 - NIDA qualitative study (Andrew Finch)
 - University of MN (Deborah Lloyd)
- ▶ Provided direction, technical and procedural assistance to multiple recovery school programs and potential programs across the country
- ▶ Working with member schools to collect data at multiple sites which will eventually lead to the establishment of evidence based models for the Department of Education and Department of Public Health
- ▶ Established advocacy partnerships with multiple national organizations (FAVOR, Join Together, ATTC) and state organizations (MAAP)

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