

An excerpt from the RTP Weekly Highlight newsletter dated...



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The RTP initiative is advancing recovery-oriented practice among and between behavioral health practitioners. As the project continues its third year, the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration—a core component of the RTP effort—are translating to sustainable recovery practices for various disciplines. Six major behavioral health-focused organizations are working together to develop and deliver curricula within their respective professions: psychiatry, psychology, psychiatric nursing, social work, peer support, and addiction counseling. These organizations have developed a collaborative agreement that promotes implementation of recovery-oriented principles and practices throughout the behavioral health field.

*The feature of this Weekly Highlight is a **Joint Working Statement** developed by the RTP professional disciplines to guide their shared work over the course of the project. We think the statement supports a vision that all behavioral health practitioners can embrace and try to live up to. In that spirit, we share the RTP Joint Working Statement with our readers.*

RTP Joint Working Statement

We are committed to shifting the paradigm of our professions to ensure the realization of a recovery-oriented system of care that will stand as a new beacon of hope for persons experiencing or at risk for behavioral health conditions, and their families. A transformed system of care will be based on the core beliefs that prevention works, that services and supports can be effective, that people can and do recover, and that communities benefit from including and valuing the contributions of all members.

The central mechanism for the provision of recovery-oriented behavioral health care is the safe, trusting, and empathic relationship practitioners cultivate with the people they serve. Recovery-oriented relationships are characterized by partnership, by the sharing of power and decision making, and by focusing on people's strengths, interests, aspirations, and the expertise they bring to the relationship in terms of their personal experiences. Recovery-oriented practitioners work hard to awaken and build on each person's sources of power and to elicit and amplify the person's voice, as the person's sense of hope and agency is a primary driver of the recovery process.

Within the context of respectful and collaborative relationships, recovery-oriented practitioners offer people and families access to an array of high-quality, effective, and culturally adept services and supports. Having such options allows individuals to choose those they find most useful in their efforts to heal, grow, and lead self-determined and meaningful

lives beyond the limits of their health conditions and the behavioral health care system itself. Essential to the provision of recovery-oriented care is recognition of the importance of health, home, and a sense of purpose and community in people's lives, and that, based on these common factors, each individual's recovery journey is nonlinear and unique.

Also essential to recovery-oriented practice is attention to the prevalence and impact of trauma in people's lives, which requires providers to understand the dramatic effects of resulting neurobiological changes and to concentrate on identifying and building on available opportunities and resources, or those that can be made available, in the community, to promote living a gratifying life characterized by responsibility to oneself and others. Finally, recovery-oriented care recognizes and integrates the valuable role peers and various forms of peer support can play in instilling hope, role modeling the reality of recovery, and offering concrete and practical assistance, not only for people experiencing or at risk for behavioral health conditions, and their families, but also for behavioral health practitioners from our respective professions.

We look forward to joining together in an interdisciplinary effort to work alongside people in recovery, family members, practitioners, researchers, academicians, policy makers, insurance providers, and many others to realize this shared vision.

For more information about each of the RTP professional discipline awardees, visit their web sites:

[American Psychiatric Association](#)
[American Psychological Association](#)
[American Psychiatric Nurses Association](#)
[Council on Social Work Education](#)
[National Association of Peer Specialists](#)
[National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors](#)

For more information about the overall **Recovery to Practice** project, visit the web site:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/recoverytopractice>

Or the Project Resource Library: <http://www.dsgonline.com/rtp/resources.html>

To receive news and project updates, subscribe to the Recovery to Practice Listserv:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/recoverytopractice/JoinListserv.aspx>

