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MEDIA ALERT

Virtual Public Roundtable: Opioid Recovery and the Workforce

Workforce Alliance Partners with Rep. Sean Scanlon to Highlight
Recovery Job Training Initiatives with Special Guest Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz

WHAT: A roundtable discussion of state leaders, experts, and those taking advantage of opioid addiction recovery job training initiatives for jobseeker and employers.

WHERE: Tuesday, September 29 from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
<http://bit.ly/RecoveryWorksSept29>

Following greetings and brief introductions of the panelists Workforce Alliance Communications Director Ann Harrison will serve as moderator for this roundtable conversation and take questions from attendees.

WHO:

- Special Guest: Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz
- Rep. Sean Scanlon (Guilford and Branford) – led the legislature's effort to combat Connecticut's opioid epidemic and became a leading voice on issues of mental health and addiction
- Allyson Quinn – Peer Recovery Specialist leading the Workforce Alliance Recovery Works job training and services initiative. Allyson is a certified recovery coach and a person who is in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder
- Janine Giardino – CCAR's Recovery Coach Academy trainee
- Rebecca Allen – Director of Recovery Support Services at Connecticut Community For Addiction Recovery (CCAR), a training partner with Recovery Works, an organization that strives to end discrimination surrounding addiction and recovery, open new doors and remove barriers to recovery
- Ashley Dwyer – Member Assistance Program Director for Local 478, International Union of Operating Engineers and a Recovery-Friendly Employer
- Bill Villano – President and CEO of Workforce Alliance, whose organization is offering Recovery Works job training and services to people affected by the state's opioid epidemic

DETAILS:

September is National Recovery Month, an observance to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with mental and substance use disorders to live healthy and rewarding lives.

[Recovery Works](#) is a new, federally funded job training and services initiative aimed at getting people affected by the state's opioid epidemic back into the workforce. The goal of Recovery Works is to connect those struggling with addiction to essential services that work best for them as they prepare for new careers.

Funded by a Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker grant to address the opioid crisis, Recovery Works is open to [Connecticut residents](#) who are impacted by opioid addiction themselves or by someone they know. Eligibility includes being unemployed 6 months or more, laid off or about to be laid off, or no longer are self-employed. Employers may access tools to create a Recovery-Friendly workplace as well as wage subsidies to provide paid on-the-job training to new hires.

Workforce Alliance is one of five workforce boards in the state creating a comprehensive, community-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce. Recovery Works Peer Recovery Coordinators are located or will soon be in each region.

For every person who dies of an overdose, there are many more who can still recover if they get the help they need. That's been more of a challenge since the state shut down in March due to COVID-19, closing shelters and soup kitchens, leaving hundreds of thousands of people out of work, and canceling in-person meetings.

There were 531 overdose deaths in Connecticut from January through May, compared to 435 during the same period last year, according to the state Department of Public Health, an increase of 22%. At that rate, the state is on track to surpass last year's record total of 1,200 overdose deaths.

About Workforce Alliance

Workforce Alliance is the policy and oversight organization responsible for creating a comprehensive, community-wide response to the challenges of building a highly skilled workforce in South Central CT, which comprises 30 towns. Board members include business owners, local elected officials and community leaders in order to meet changing local needs and shifting national economic and workforce trends. Workforce Alliance oversees four American Job Center South Central CT locations in New Haven, Meriden, Middletown and Hamden. For more information visit workforcealliance.biz

South Central CT includes 30 towns: Bethany, Branford, Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Old Saybrook, Orange, Portland, Wallingford, West Haven, Westbrook and Woodbridge.

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