

# The Active Ingredients in Recovery Community Centers

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4<sup>th</sup> town hall style seminar in the NIDA-funded series on recovery community centers (RCCs) and how these RCCs can support persons treated with medications for opioid use disorder

Recovery Seminar on 2/19/21



RECOVERY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

# Part of a larger effort



- NIDA-funded R24 program
- **Goal:** To advance the science on recovery community centers (RCCs) to support persons treated with medications for opioid use disorder
- **Specific Aims:**
  - *Engage RCC stakeholders in research-advancing activities* such as seminars, funding, advisory board meetings, and hands-on support.
    - *RCC stakeholders* = anyone who contributes to or can benefit from the support RCCs can provide
  - *Disseminate tools and products* that facilitate research on RCCs



# Steering Committee Members



The Steering Committee is made up of scientists, clinicians, RCC leadership and persons with lived experience from multiple organizations and institutions from across the US.

## Principal Investigators:



John F.  
Kelly



Bettina B.  
Hoepfner



Robert D.  
Ashford



Patty  
McCarthy



Julia  
Ojeda



Sarah E.  
Wakeman



Brandon  
G.  
Bergman



Lauren A.  
Hoffman



Amy A.  
Mericle



Philip  
Rutherford

# Congratulations to Tom Hill!

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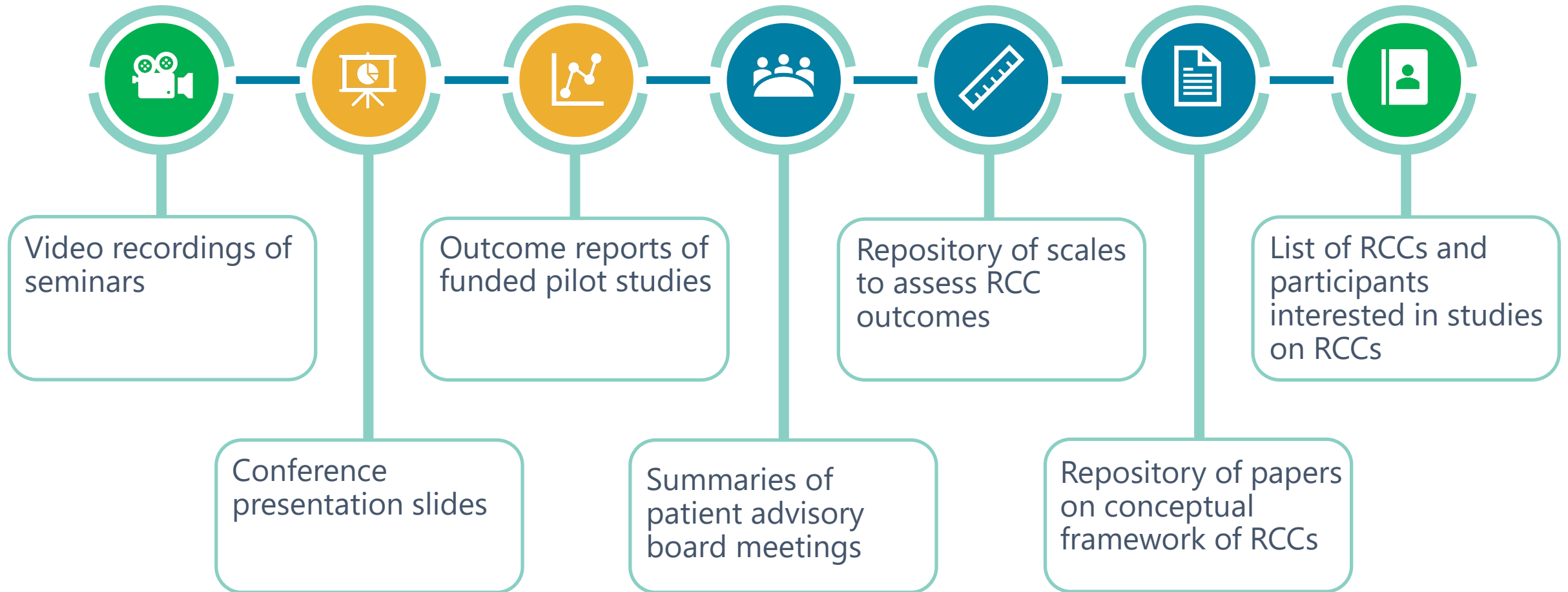
- Tom Hill, presenter at our 2<sup>nd</sup> seminar and former steering committee member, has accepted a position as Senior Policy Advisor for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.





# Resources on website:

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# Funding for Pilot Studies

## OVERVIEW:

This pilot study mechanism is funded by an R24 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (R24DA051988).

The goal of this pilot study mechanism is to stimulate and support new research on delivering recovery support to persons seeking or in recovery from a substance use disorder via recovery community centers and research that advances the science to that end.

## THE AWARD:

- Up to \$30,000 per award
- Approximately 3 awarded per year
- Covers direct costs of the study (e.g., data collection activities, equipment, research assistant support)

## ELIGIBILITY:

- Your proposed project must address the role of recovery community centers in supporting persons who were or who are in or seeking recovery from a substance use disorder or advance the science to this end (including but not limited to: perceptions around MOUDs, linkages from clinical sites to RCCs, etc.). Studies focusing on persons who are or have been maintained on medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are particularly encouraged.
- You may be a faculty member, research scientist, post-doctoral research scholar or graduate student from any academic or health care institution in the United States. Black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) are especially encouraged to apply.
- You must document how you will share your findings (e.g., conference presentations, clinicaltrials.gov registration, published papers, etc.) and allow the findings from your pilot work to be shared by the

## Research

[Advancing the Science on Recovery Community Centers](#)

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[Funding for Pilot Studies](#)

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[Funding for Conference Travel](#)

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[Repository of Useful Scales/Measures and Conceptual Papers](#)

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[Linkage for Scientists and RCCs](#)

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[Hands-On Support](#)

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[Seminar Series](#)

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[Participate in Research](#)

# Funding for Conference Travel

## OVERVIEW:

These scientific conference travel awards are funded by an R24 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (R24DA051988) to help defray costs of conference registration, travel, and attendance.

The goal of these conference travel awards is to support presentations at national conferences that inform the scientific field about recovery community centers (RCCs) and how they may support persons seeking or in recovery from substance use disorder. We hope that by presenting more information on RCCs to the scientific community, we can stimulate research interest in them. Presentations in diverse scientific fields are encouraged (e.g., psychology, public health, addiction, social work, epidemiology, etc.). Of particular interest are presentations that focus on persons who were or who are being maintained on medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

## THE AWARD:

- \$1000 award (per presentation, with up to four presentations within a single symposium)
- 16 awarded per year
- ~4 awarded per quarter
- Award can be used to cover the cost of conference registration, travel, attendance, or peripherals associated with presenting virtually.

## Research

[Advancing the Science  
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## Travel Award Application

Thank you for your interest in the scientific conference travel award!

The goal of this award is to support presentations at national conferences that inform the scientific field about recovery community centers (RCCs) and how they may support persons using medications for Opioid Use Disorder. We hope that by presenting more information to the scientific field that we can stimulate research interest in diverse scientific communities (psychology, public health, addiction) in recovery support via RCCs.

This conference travel award is funded by an R24 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (R24DA051988) and can help defray costs of conference registration, travel, and attendance. The award is \$1000 per presentation, with up to four presentations within one symposium. Our goal is to fund approximately 16 awards per year, where multiple presentations may be grouped in a single symposium (four per quarter).

To apply, simply complete this survey. You can apply at any time.

To be eligible for the travel award:

- Your conference proposal must address the role of recovery community centers in supporting persons who were or who are being maintained on medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder **or** advance the science to this end. (Including but not limited to: perceptions around MOUDs, linkages from clinical sites to RCCs, etc.)
- You may be a faculty member, research scientist, post-doctoral research scholar or graduate student from any academic or health care institution in the United States. Black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) are especially encouraged to apply.
- Proposals that are part of a symposia (i.e., oral presentation) on the topic of recovery community centers for individuals with opioid and other substance use disorders are preferred but not required. Multiple individuals within the same symposia are encouraged to.

We will notify you via email within two months of you submitting your application.

For questions, please contact Hazel Simpson at [recoveryseminars@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:recoveryseminars@mgh.harvard.edu) or the PIs of the R24 directly, Dr. Bettina Hoepfner, at [bhoepfner@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:bhoepfner@mgh.harvard.edu) and Dr. John Kelly at [jkelly11@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:jkelly11@mgh.harvard.edu).

### Logistics

**First name:**

\* must provide value

**Middle initial:**



# Recovery Happenings

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- New digital Recovery Coaches training, curriculum trainings, and digital recertification trainings to be offered to recovery coaches in Massachusetts. See more here: <https://careersofsubstance.org/>
- RCCs in MA will participate in a state-wide, 3-year evaluation and science-advancing process, run by Dr. John Kelly and his team at the Recovery Research Institute.
- If you have recovery happenings you would like to share, please email [recoveryseminars@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:recoveryseminars@mgh.harvard.edu) and we will post them on website!





# Demographic Questions



## Who are you? Check ALL that apply.

- Recovery community center (RCC) participant
- Recovery community center (RCC) staff / leader
- Clinician
- Prescriber (of medications for opioid use disorder)
- Recovery support staff / peer worker / volunteer
- Scientist (including scientists in training)
- Recovery advocate
- Healthcare decision maker (e.g., hospital leadership, department of health, etc.)
- Person with lived experience (regarding recovery)
- None of the above

## What is your gender? Select one.

- Male
- Female
- Transgender Male to Female
- Transgender Female to Male
- Other

## What is your race? Select ALL that apply.

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian
- Other

## Do you identify as Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Hispanic or Latino
- Yes, Hispanic or Latino



**CCAR**

“Active Ingredients” of a  
Recovery Community  
Center

Phil Valentine  
Brian Robbins  
Rebecca Allen



# Organizational Culture

# CCAR

1





# Foundational Principles



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- Recovery First!
- You Are In Recovery If you Say You Are
- Focus on Potential, not Pathology
- Multiple Pathways
- Err on the Side of the Recoveree
- Err on the Side of Generosity

# CCAR Organizational Building Blocks

3





# Recovery Community Center Culture



4

- Recovery First!
- Honor All Pathways
- Non-Judgmental
- Competent enough to “embrace all”
- Service
- Connection to self & others
- Staff/Volunteers/Community

# 5 CCAR Recovery Community Centers

5



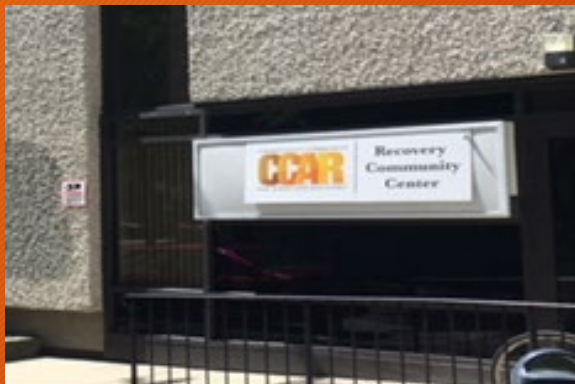
**713 Main Street  
Windham, CT 06226**



**198 Wethersfield Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06114**



**1435 Chapel Street  
New Haven CT 06511**



**430 State Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605**



**102 Norman Street  
Manchester, CT 06040**



# Atmosphere

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- Recovery-oriented “Sanctuary”
- Place of belonging
- Inclusion
- New Beginning/Second Chance
- Supportive
- Hope
- Healing
- Faith
- Positive

***LOVE***



# Impact

7

- How do you know people get better?
- Define better
  - Individual
  - Family
  - Community





# What do you think is the best measure of an RCC's impact?

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- # of people using RCC
- # of hours people spend at RCC
- Proportion of people who sustain non-problematic substance use
- Proportion of people who are satisfied with recovery progress
- BARC-10
- Quality of life assessment (with a standardized scale)
- Proportion of people who attain concrete goals (e.g., job, housing, education, etc.)



# Thank you!



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