Learning from Lived Experience: Understanding Barriers to Recovery

What We Learned
TiR created an unprecedented opportunity to bring people together to discuss what individuals, families, communities, and providers experience as they confront the opioid overdose crisis. TiR identified many accomplishments, including:

- Centering lived experience
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of multiple pathways
- Breaking down silos
- Establishing common ground
- Strengthening key innovative points, identifying treatment gaps, and expanding the continuum of care to ensure long-term support
- Enhancing workforce development and provider education
- Informing and influencing policy

Through the process, TiR identified five top priorities for action:

1. Strengthening community-based organizations as an integral part of recovery
2. Building awareness of the roles of different agencies and expanding collaborations to increase access and avoid duplication
3. Strengthening community-based organizations to address equity, improve care for people with substance use disorder
4. Addressing the complex challenges that drive disparities in health care
5. Advocacy and policy reform

Where We Are Headed
TiR will continue to support the high level of engagement and impact of its network, focused on membership expansion, advocacy, and long-term planning and agility to meet the changing nature of the epidemic. To address its priorities for action, TiR will embark on a new phase of work to 2023 to strengthen and uplift community-based organizations that meet the needs of residents in ways that are culturally responsive. Too often, these organizations are excluded from funding opportunities and decision-making networks, exacerbating racial and other inequities that drive disparities in health care. To address these challenges by providing meaningful organizational development opportunities to address equity and improve care for people with substance use disorder.

By the Numbers

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<th>Top priorities identified</th>
<th>Statement of Principles established</th>
<th>Regional meetings across the state</th>
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Materials

Priority for Action: Statement of Principles
Case Study
Learning from Lived Experience
Towards a Unified Vision

Importance of Facilitated Dialogue
TiR engaged in intentional, and sometimes difficult, conversations to understand how unique perspectives and experiences shape conclusions about the "right" pathways to recovery. TiR laid the foundation for what has become a lasting coalition evolving to meet the needs of the changing epidemic.

Background
Despite the urgency of the opioid overdose crisis, long-standing divisions about how to support people with opioid use disorder. To disrupt this, we brought together a Change Team of 44 diverse stakeholders spanning peer, clinical, policy, family, and community roles, to create TiR, guided by facilitated discussions, in convened over 100 people wanting to end the overdose crisis to exchange diverse viewpoints, build a shared vision, and identify collective action to ensure that a full range of treatment and recovery options are available to all.

What Is TiR?
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Priorities for Action

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Quotes
After one particularly challenging conversation, a participant reflected that “It is hard to hate up close.”

— TiR participant

The regional meetings across the state had never been done and they helped us all to see the challenges that are being faced throughout every population.

— Sydney Durand, The Phoenix and Change Team member

It is important for people from all disciplines to get involved and be part of the conversation to move forward.

— John McLaughlin, opioid Foundation and Change Team member

We work in silos, but we don’t realize it.

— Regional Dialogue Meeting participant

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