

Calling On Governor Andrew M. Cuomo And The State Legislature To Promote And Support Health And Safety Standards In Sober Homes And/Or Addiction Recovery Residences Consistent With National Association Of Recovery Residences (NARR) Standards

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, and Roberts)

Legislator Carl Belfiglio and Legislators Allen, Fabiano, Gerentine, Heppner, Lapp, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Maloney, R. Parete, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro offer the following:

WHEREAS, no community in Ulster County, New York State or across the nation has been immune to the debilitating and devastating effects of the Heroin and Opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognized the need to act locally and unanimously adopted Resolution No. 371 of 2014, Establishing the Ulster County Coalition Against Narcotics (UCAN), to research and make recommendations on ways to address the growing issue of Heroin and Opioid use, abuse and overdose; and

WHEREAS, combatting this crisis has also been a primary focus of Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, according to the report by the New York State Heroin and Opioid Task Force released June 9, 2016, New York has seen a 222 percent increase in admissions to OASAS certified treatment programs among 18 to 24 year olds for heroin and other opioids; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that more than half of individuals who received treatment will resume drug use following discharge, most often in the first ninety (90) days, as a result of exposure to previous environments and triggers; and

WHEREAS, secure, safe, sober housing on the continuum of care is a critical part of successful long term recovery for individuals suffering from substance use disorder, especially upon release from treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, in its first report issued to the Ulster County Legislature, UCAN included a recommendation to adopt a resolution calling upon New York State to immediately enact standards of care for sober homes and/or recovery residences; and

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WHEREAS, across the country the National Association of Recovery Residences (NARR) has twenty (20) state affiliate organizations, with five (5) more emerging, responsible for certifying recovery residences that meet the national standard; and

WHEREAS, only state funded homes in New York State are currently regulated, leaving many of these alleged safe havens uncontrolled, dangerous environments which contribute to a continuing cycle of addiction and foster opportunities for tragic consequences; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature calls upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and OASAS to approve at least one NARR affiliated credentialing entity for the purpose of developing and administering a voluntary certification program for addiction recovery residences in New York State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature calls on Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to enact rules and regulations that stipulate that any service provider licensed in New York State shall not refer a current or discharged patient to a recovery residence unless the recovery residence holds a valid certificate of compliance provided by the state approved NARR affiliated credentialing entity or entities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature supports the empowerment of the Commissioner of the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to create such programs and training necessary to encourage the implementation of NARR standards, including supervision requirements and exit plans, in all Sober Homes and/or Addiction Recovery Residences in New York State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, the New York Association of Counties, the Chair of the New York State Joint Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction, the Chairs of the Senate Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Health, and Housing, Construction and Community Development Committees, the Chairs of the New York State Assembly Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Health, and Housing Committees, and all of the Ulster County representatives of the New York State Legislature,

