S2S – NJ Connect for Recovery

The number of statistics on the Internet, evening news and newspaper print are plentiful. But there’s another set of digits the public also should know – it’s a phone line for individuals addicted to painkillers and opioids and for family members of a loved one who lives with the addiction.

Operated by a call center, NJ Connect for Recovery employs certified drug and alcohol counselors as well as family peer specialists (those who have lived experience and specialized training to work with others) who counsel those affected by the opioid epidemic.

“Many people who are feeling isolated or ashamed may find it easy to take this first, least invasive step, which is to make a phone call,” said Robert Kley, Chief Operating Officer of the Mental Health Association in New Jersey.

For those who are addicted, the staff can offer talk about entering recovery and what to expect. They also can provide names of centers and assist with getting people connected to local resources as well as offer advice on navigating systems – health system, hospital system and sometimes legal system.

For families, counseling about issues that affect the family is provided.

Bilingual workers who are culturally sensitive and knowledgeable are on staff as well.

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey formed a partnership with the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the NJ Attorney General’s Office to provide this call line, which is a free, confidential service.

The toll-free number for NJ Connect for Recovery is (855) 652-3737. It is staffed from 8am to 8 pm, seven days a week. Messages can be left during off hours. A TTY line for the deaf and hard of hearing is at (877) 294-4356. Visit [www.njconnectforrecovery.org/material](http://www.njconnectforrecovery.org/material).

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