

***Recovering Lives* Documentary**

Produced by Beacon Health Options, Connecticut



The Goals: The documentary film, *Recovering Lives*, follows the lives of three of the 800,000+ families and individuals in Connecticut's Medicaid program who are supported by the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP) and its administrator, Beacon Health Options. In producing the film, Beacon had a number of goals:

Goal #1: To present three unique stories as a window into the lives of the thousands of individuals we serve.

Goal #2: To promote the value-added relationship component of the services Beacon provides. This unique attribute can't be quantified or described, but can only be experienced by seeing and hearing it. This connection is supported by our commitment to lived experience in all levels of our organization, not just by those staff who identify as peers.

Goal #3: To showcase three primary intervention models Beacon utilizes in supporting Connecticut families:

- 1) Eligible individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) under age 21 utilize our Peer/Care Coordinator model designed to address their unique needs and to connect them with appropriate services in their communities;
- 2) Eligible families with children under age 18 with complex behavioral and/or mental health challenges utilize the nationally recognized Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) model, implemented by Beacon and community providers. This service is comprised of an Intensive Care Coordinator and a Family Peer Specialist utilizing the Wraparound Practice Model; and
- 3) High utilizers of emergency departments and medical detox with diagnoses of substance use disorders may participate in an initiative that highlights our Adult Peer/Intensive Care Manager model. The individual in this story also utilized Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), an intervention found to be effective for those recovering from opioid addiction, an epidemic in CT and throughout the country.

Goal #4: To illustrate the company's core competencies in our work with individuals. As demonstrated in these real-life vignettes, the work is relationship-focused, recovery-oriented, person-centered, strength-based, holistic, culturally competent, coaching oriented, and affiliation/community-focused.

The Filmmaker: Jeff Bemiss is a Connecticut-based filmmaker who was Oscar short-listed in 2003 for his film, *The Book and the Rose*. He has won numerous awards for documentary filmmaking including *Coaching Colbern* about a young man with Fragile X Syndrome, and a series of short films for the Kate Foundation on Rett Syndrome. He is currently filming *Death in Madison County*, a documentary exposing the plight of immigrants who perished while crossing into this country, and forensic scientists' efforts to identify their bodies to inform families.

The Film Title: The film is entitled *Recovering Lives* to reflect the dual perspectives of Beacon staff and the individuals we serve. When "Recovering" is used as a verb, the title describes the Beacon staffer's commitment to recovering the full potential of peoples' lives. When "Recovering" is used as an adjective, the title refers to individuals living recovery, a journey which is ongoing, non-linear, and with no definitive destination.