

Recovery Idaho

Mr. Wuelfing divided participants into seven random groups, and rearranged them each day of the meeting. In just three days, the workshop developed the major components of an RCO.

First, participants worked on a concise *vision statement* that would provide stakeholders a goal to work towards and could be easily remembered.⁹ In one hour, participants wrote draft vision statements, shared their thoughts, and voted for the most preferred statement. They then used the consensus method to add to and revise it. This was the ultimate statement:

Vision Statement

We envision an Idaho where Recovery is understood, valued, and supported to promote healthy communities.

Next, participants worked on *core values*, or foundational principles that would guide the work of staff and volunteers. CCAR, for instance, does not impose any one pathway to recovery. Other core values include “erring” on the side of the recoveree and “being generous.”¹⁰

Each group was invited to develop six statements of principle, and these were then shared with the entire workshop. Using the same voting process, participants selected the core values below:

Core Values

- You are in recovery when you say you are.
- Support all pathways to recovery.
- Focus on recovery potential, not pathology.
- Everyone has a strength to share.
- Recovery is a gift. Expect to pay it forward.
- The path of recovery is life-long.
- Ongoing community support is vital to successful outcomes.
- We support the wellness of the full person.

At the start of the second day, an impromptu discussion occurred on what exactly the RCO’s *role* would be in the recovery community. Would it function as a State or individual organization? Would it “call the shots” or serve an advisory role for member organizations? Participants agreed on this statement:

Role in Idaho’s Recovery Community

Umbrella organization overseeing a network of recovery centers through its vision statement, mission statement, and core values, while recovery centers act according to their own communities’ needs.

⁹

¹⁰ Ibid.