

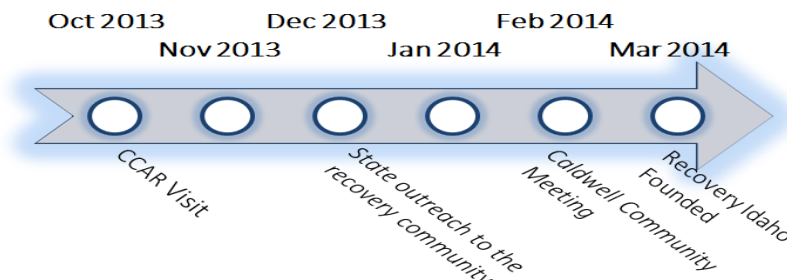
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Launching an RCO

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) initiated an effort to increase support for people in recovery from substance use and/or mental disorders by forming a Recovery Community Organization (RCO) that would expand recovery support services throughout the State and advocate for the recovery community. The project was funded through the State’s Recovery Infrastructure Training for Empowerment Transformation Transfer Initiative (RITE-TTI) grant, which was managed by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD).

Managers of IDHW and selected stakeholders traveled to Connecticut to explore the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)—also an RCO—and concluded that its model could work in Idaho. Showings of *The Anonymous People* were organized in Idaho in order to build interest in establishing an RCO. They then hosted a workshop for nearly 50 participants, with CCAR staff facilitating, to create an RCO. After three days, this group founded “Recovery Idaho.” In addition to Idaho, the States of Connecticut, South Dakota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Wisconsin have used CCAR’s process to develop the foundation for an RCO. However, the Idaho RCO is unique as it will address recovery from both substance use disorders and mental disorders, while the others focused only on substance use disorders.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare contracted with the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) to document these efforts so that other States would have a roadmap to create their own recovery organizations and centers in the future.



Employing the CCAR Model

The Idahoans’ two-day visit to CCAR cemented their interest in adopting CCAR’s framework. The 13-person group—including 2 State legislators and 2 County Commissioners—learned about CCAR’s day-to-day functions, operational structure, activities (e.g., Recovery Oriented Employment Services), and role in the recovery community (e.g., community relations, volunteer management). The tour included questions and answers with volunteers, staff, and CCAR Executive Director Phil Valentine.

Prompted by this meeting, Idaho’s Department of Health and Welfare hosted screenings of the documentary *The Anonymous People* in the Capitol Building, as well as in Caldwell, the county seat of Canyon County. The screenings were part of the State’s efforts to establish an RCO, harness existing community interest and create further momentum for establishing a recovery center in Canyon County.