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From: Masser, Michelle
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 9:40 AM
To: Harris, Laura
Cc: Melissa Velez-Morales
Subject: FW: Gov. Christie to Speak About Addiction, Treatment for National Recovery Month This Morning, 9/27

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VIDEO (click the image above to watch): For National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, the New Jersey Reentry Corporation visited Woodhaven Lumber, a lumber and millwork company that has hired 13 clients from NJRC's Ocean County site. Several are in recovery or treatment and are leading successful lives. The NJRC extends a sincere thank you to Woodhaven for providing its clients with tremendous career opportunities and supporting them in their commitment to sobriety, work, and family.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GOV. CHRISTIE TO SPEAK ABOUT ADDICTION TREATMENT, RECOVERY,
AND REENTRY TO COINCIDE WITH NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH**

TRENTON (Sept. 27)— Addressing the importance of recovery, treatment, and employment in New Jersey, **Gov. Chris Christie** will speak during a press conference to coincide with National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, an effort that was proclaimed by President Barack Obama. It will take place on **Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 11:30 a.m. at the Outer Office of the State House, 125 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608.**

Christie will be joined by **Jim McGreevey, former New Jersey Governor and current Chairman, NJRC, Rich Wilder, and Joe Earley, both clients from NJRC Ocean County.**

Gov. Christie has been a leader in promoting the importance of addiction treatment and abolishing stigma surrounding addiction. In 2014, he created the Facing Addiction Task Force to push for treatment and prevention in fighting the drug addiction crisis. Jim McGreevey is among the Task Force's renowned members.

"With gratitude to the leadership and vision of Governor Christie and the hard work of NJRC staff, we are fully operational at our newest Toms River NJRC site," said **John Koufos, Executive Director, NJRC.** "In addition to providing basic needed services including addiction treatment, housing referrals, and employment and training, we are working closely with the Ocean County Board of Freeholders and embarking upon providing Medication-Assisted Treatment to assist addicts in their recovery."

Medication-Assisted Treatment combines behavioral therapy and medication to treat substance use disorders, such as opiate addiction. An example is Vivitrol, a form of naltrexone, which is prescribed to individuals and administered via injection. It treats alcohol dependence and also prevents opioid dependence after an individual has completed detox.

While clients are still incarcerated they will receive an initial Vivitrol injection, which will serve as an opiate antagonist to block cravings of opiates and alcohol. Vivitrol attaches to the neural receptors in the brain, thereby inhibiting the experience of opiate effects.

"This has been a tremendous partnership with the addiction treatment provider community, the freeholders, Ocean County government, and NJRC in providing state of the art treatment in accordance with best practices," said McGreevey.

NJRC's newest site in Toms River is able to thrive because of these partnerships. At NJRC's four sites in Ocean, Essex, Hudson, and Passaic Counties, the program has achieved a 19.7 percent recidivism rate, while providing for a 62.76 percent employment rate among participants.

"A key component of reducing recidivism of offenders is to have a program in place that can help to streamline services available to ex-offenders," said **Freeholder Director John P. Kelly, Ocean County, who serves as Director of Law and Public Safety**. "We are providing a second chance, the ability to start again, get treatment for mental illness and drug addiction, receive training so they can become gainfully employed in order to support themselves and reintegrate into the community in a positive way."

Woodhaven Lumber in Ocean County has hired 13 of NJRC's clients and is supportive of their dedication to work, sobriety, and family. The management at Woodhaven Lumber works with each client's schedule to ensure they can attend intensive outpatient treatment and Drug Court during the work week.

Rich Wilder is one of NJRC's Ocean County clients who was hired at Woodhaven Lumber. He struggled with heroin addiction in the past, which ultimately led to an arrest. Wilder said his arrest was a turning point for him.

"The people that do want to change need some type of outlet. If it wasn't for NJRC's program, I think I'd be having a much harder time getting to where I got so quickly," said Wilder. "And this type of stuff needs to be in my life. I need to work; it gives me a sense of purpose, and it keeps me busy. You need help coming home. You don't want to just be thrown out there with nothing."

"I'm grateful for the program," said Joe Earley, an NJRC Ocean County client who was also hired at Woodhaven. "It helps me stay sober and able to work."

"We're trying to give people a chance. People make mistakes, people have come upon hard times, and they shouldn't be punished forever," said **Laura Brown, Human Resources Manager, Woodhaven Lumber**. "It's not always easy to find good employees who come to work every day, and we want them to succeed and move up. Someday I see Rich [Wilder] on the sales counter. I want him to advance, along with all of our employees."

In **Ocean County, Prosecutor Joseph Coronato** has made it a priority to combat New Jersey's opioid crisis and provide individuals with tangible opportunities to overcome addiction.

"We have expanded statewide diversion initiatives by setting a strong foundation of partnerships to combat the horrific opiate crisis death toll. We are battling a 'synthetic storm' where those battling addiction must be captured and afforded comprehensive detox, rehabilitation and recovery options," said Coronato.

Prosecutor Coronato's strategic plan includes education and prevention, strong law enforcement in finding and incarcerating drug dealers, administering Narcan, and providing addiction treatment. Coronato established several initiatives to combat the crisis, which include **Ocean County Drug Court, the Recovery Coach Program, and the Heroin Abuse Recovery Program (HARP) or "Angel" program**.

Through the **Recovery Coach Program**, individuals who are administered Narcan after being taken to the emergency room by a first responder are then referred to a detox

facility, followed by a rehabilitation program. RWJBarnabas Health offers this program.

The **Angel Program** allows individuals struggling with opiate addiction to turn themselves in to the police department with the opportunity to get placed in a treatment facility free of charge, or to establish a treatment plan. It is a partnership between the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Manchester Police Department, Brick Police Department, NJRC, Integrity House, and Preferred Health.

"These pro-active programs inspired with the experience and vision of law enforcement have produced great success to date. With the support of the Governor we hope to expand our success beyond Ocean County's borders," Coronato stated.

About the New Jersey Reentry Corporation

The New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) is committed to providing critically needed services to court involved individuals to empower them to achieve healthy self-sufficiency, thereby reducing recidivism and fostering safer communities. Working with private employers and public agencies, the NJRC strives to maximize the training and employment of this discrete population.

With a statewide network of reentry sites in Hudson, Essex, Passaic, and Ocean Counties, the NJRC aims to provide seven critical services to clients: 1) Addiction treatment, 2) Sober transitional housing, 3) Training and employment, 4) Medicaid registration and linkage to healthcare through federally qualified healthcare centers and hospitals, 5) Motor Vehicle Commission identification, 6) Legal services working through the New Jersey State Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, and 7) Mentoring working with faith-based and professional associations.

Please click on the following links to learn more about:

- [Proposed Vivitrol Program at the Ocean County Jail: Continuum of Care](#)
- [NJRC's Employment and Treatment Report \(Summer 2016\)](#)

[More NJRC Recovery Month Stories](#)

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