



Addiction Recovery Institute
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Dear all who supported this year's Carolinas Conference...
(sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, attendees, guests and staff...)

This was the 10th year of this conference and, for me, it was another remarkable experience....being in the presence of such passion and talent—both presenters and attendees—was awe inspiring. I am grateful to all who made it happen! An unknown author said this about making connections: "...there came a moment in the middle of the song when he suddenly felt every heartbeat in the room and after that he never forgot that he was a part of something much bigger." I felt that way in Chapel Hill and hope you did, too.

We wanted to follow up on last year's theme of "Creating Communities of Healers" by focusing on how to integrate those healers into a holistic force to aid patients/clients in their journeys to recovery. Every session with every presenter was intended to do that. I hope you will use your workbook as a tool—utilizing what you learned and experienced to assist you in your work.

I think we ought to change how we refer to what we do, from treatment to recovery. We are in the recovery business whether we are researchers, policy makers, educators, judges, treatment administrators, supervisors or counselor/therapists, doctors, nurses or social workers. If we believe that recovery can happen for each individual client, and we act as if it will happen (while following good therapeutic practices!), then I truly believe our clients/patients will find greater success.

I also hope you will take time to fill out the last page in your conference packet, about making a personal plan to create/support a recovery oriented system of care where you live and work. I have heard that some of you are already working on this. I believe that this effort has the potential to radically change the way we help address the disease of addiction in our communities. Let's make a commitment to stay in touch on how we are doing—sharing our successes and asking for help when needed. Together, as many communities and one large one, we can make a difference—and that is ultimately why we are in this field.

I am grateful to each of you and proud to be your friend and colleague.

Jim Van Hecke

PS --We continue to add material from speakers on our Conference CD—
click on "Online Update" under Conference Presentations.

--Also, please see pictures from the conference at www.addictionrecoveryinstitute.org/ccar