

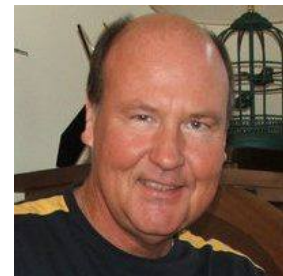
Meet B Here Today's Recovery Carrier Kim Manlove

Today's post is the second in a series of interviews with folks across the nation (and maybe the world!) who live and breathe a life of recovery. Please enjoy this chat with Kim Manlove, director of the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition (IAIC) recoveryindiana.org.

William White defines [recovery carriers](http://www.williamwhitepapers.com) as "people, usually in recovery, who make recovery infectious to those around them by their openness about their recovery experiences, their quality of life and character, and the compassion they exhibit for those still suffering." (www.williamwhitepapers.com, 2012)

When you hear the term "recovery carrier," as it relates to addiction, what does that mean to you? Do you think of yourself as a recovery carrier?

For me it harkens back to my early days in 12 step fellowships when I first heard the phrase Carrying the Message. Obviously the expression at that time was primarily designed to carry the message of the particular fellowship I was attending. Yet almost from the beginning it held a broader connotation for me.



Like many today who suffer from the disease of addiction, I was a poly-substance abuser and found myself, in the beginning, forced to choose between fellowships. I was discouraged to talk about or name my other allegiances in some meetings and frequently chafed at this bit of admonition. That's why in the first few years after entering treatment for addiction I began to introduce myself in all my 12 step fellowship meetings by saying, "my name is Kim and I am in recovery from addiction."

So today, and for many years now, instead of my carrying the message of a particular 12-step fellowship, I carry the message of recovery and am a very proud carrier of recovery!

You work in the field (please give your title and where you work) but obviously do so much more for the cause. Can you describe your other activities and tell me why you do them?

I am Director of the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition. IAIC is the only statewide recovery advocacy organization in Indiana with its primary mission to advocate for those in the substance disorder recovery community. We are engaged in a variety of recovery

support activities as well as the establishment of a statewide recovery advocacy organization involved in training and educating people in recovery about the mental health/behavioral health care system, the process of policy and systems change, and advocacy for recovery.

Prior to my entering into treatment for addiction 11 years ago I worked for almost 30 years as an academic administrator and Dean for the largest public urban university in the State of Indiana. After losing our son David to addiction when he was 16, I left academia to work in the addiction prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery fields. The opportunity to be the statewide public voice for recovery is an extraordinary opportunity for me.

From where you sit, what is the number one issue or challenge recovery carriers must address?

This is an extraordinary time for people in recovery here in the United States. The spread and implementation of evidenced practices for treatment and recovery are changing the landscape of service delivery at a more rapid pace than ever before. The Affordable Care Act is making treatment and recovery services more accessible and forcing states to re-think the integration of the continuum of care more than they have in the past.



Electronic, and social media in general, organizations like Faces & Voices of Recovery and Greg Williams' movie, *The Anonymous People*, in particular, have continued to solidify recovery as a movement in every sense of the word. However, resistance, suspicion and concerns of 12 step fellowships regarding the anonymity issue and the

recovery movement continues to rankle 12 step fundamentalists. While I believe it to be little more than a distraction, we cannot allow their shortsightedness to impede our enthusiasm and the progress of the recovery movement.

Why is the work of recovery advocates so necessary right now?

We have more opportunities today than ever before to bring a face and a voice to all who suffer from the disease of addiction. Historically, by our silence we have allowed others to define us. And indeed there are those who, because of their personal, professional or societal circumstance are not able to be open about their recovery. I believe that those of us who are able to speak out have an obligation to do so. Hopefully by sharing our stories of struggle and rebirth we can serve as an inspiration to some and perhaps empower others to take that step as well.

Where do you see the addiction/recovery field 10 years from now? How about the recovery advocacy movement?

Like our friend William White, I think in 10 years the recovery advocacy movement will spawn more recovery high schools, peer support communities and a vibrant network of recovery coaches. Greater access to treatment will expand opportunities for counseling and training education as well as scholarly research on the disease and treatment of addiction. The solidification of a resilient recovery advocacy movement will mean a stronger voice in the legislative and public policy arena.

But most of all, a vocal but compassionate recovery advocacy movement will be better able to stem the tide of bigotry and shame that too often surrounds those who suffer from addiction today....and I plan to do all I can to make that a reality.

In addition to his work with IAIC, Kim is a founding board member of [The 24 Group](#), a foundation in Indianapolis for those affected by addiction, and is co-chair for [The Partnership at Drugfree.org's](#) National Parent Network.