

Executive Summary

Recovery as a Quality System (RQS)

A Coordinated, Measurable, and Scalable Approach to Recovery

The Core Problem

Significant investments have been made in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery services. Yet outcomes remain inconsistent due to a fundamental issue:

The system is not functioning as a system.

Current challenges include:

- Fragmentation across providers, agencies, and community supports
- Limited coordination between clinical care and long-term recovery services
- Inconsistent measurement of outcomes beyond treatment episodes
- Lack of accountability at the system level

Clinicians deliver high-quality care. Policymakers allocate substantial resources. However:

Without coordination, measurement, and continuous improvement, outcomes are limited.

The RQS Solution

Recovery as a Quality System (RQS) transforms recovery from a series of disconnected services into:

A coordinated, measurable, and continuously improving system of care

RQS integrates clinical treatment, peer support, and community resources into a unified framework that supports individuals across the full recovery journey.

How the System Works

1. Coordinated System Architecture (Hub-and-Spoke)

A central **RQS Hub** connects and coordinates:

- Treatment providers
- Peer Recovery Specialists

- Recovery Community Centers
- Courts / AOC
- Housing, employment, and community supports

This creates:

Continuity across the entire recovery pathway—not just within treatment episodes

2. Standardized Outcome Measurement (Recovery Capital Index – RCI)

RQS introduces a longitudinal measurement model that tracks:

- Clinical stability
- Functional improvement
- Social determinants of recovery

The **RCI** enables:

- Real-time progress tracking
 - Data-informed clinical decisions
 - System-wide accountability
 - Alignment with value-based payment models
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3. Workforce Development & Integration

RQS establishes a structured workforce model:

- Expanded and integrated role for Peer Recovery Specialists
 - Tiered training and certification aligned with quality principles
 - Clear role definition across clinical and community settings
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4. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

Using proven quality methodologies:

- System performance is continuously measured
- Data drives decision-making
- Processes are refined over time

The system improves as it operates

Impact Across Stakeholders

For Clinicians

- Improved continuity of care
 - Better patient engagement and retention
 - Integration of peer and community supports
 - Access to meaningful outcome data
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For Policymakers & Funders

- Clear, measurable system performance
 - Improved return on investment
 - Alignment with value-based payment models
 - Scalable, replicable framework
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For Communities

- Stronger integration of services
 - Increased recovery stability
 - Reduced system cycling (treatment, relapse, re-entry)
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Strategic Advantages

RQS delivers:

- **Accountability** → measurable outcomes across the system
 - **Efficiency** → reduced duplication and better coordination
 - **Scalability** → adaptable across regions and states
 - **Alignment** → supports emerging healthcare and funding models
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Implementation Approach

RQS is designed for phased deployment:

1. **Pilot Implementation (Regional or State-Level)**
2. **Validation of Outcomes and System Performance**
3. **Scaling Across Broader Systems**

Why This Matters Now

Healthcare and public systems are shifting toward:

- Outcome-based funding
- Integrated care models
- Accountability for long-term results

RQS provides:

A practical, ready-to-implement framework that aligns clinical excellence with system performance

Conclusion

The challenge is no longer access to services.

The challenge is whether those services function together as a system.

RQS answers that challenge by creating:

A recovery system that is coordinated, measurable, and continuously improving—capable of delivering sustained outcomes at scale.
