



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FIRE FIGHTERS



ADVANCED RECOVERY  
SYSTEMS  
an advanced approach to patient care

# IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE — HELP IS HERE**

Exclusively for IAFF members

**24/7 Call Center (855) 900-8437**



**Residential Treatment Facility**  
Addiction • Substance Abuse • PTSD

[www.IAFFRecoveryCenter.com](http://www.IAFFRecoveryCenter.com)



Designed with fire fighters in mind, the Center's surroundings, facility and furnishings reflect the familiar look of the firehouse so treatment takes place in a comfortable setting. The 15-acre campus includes a state-of-the-art gym and other features that encourage physical activity so members can continue a fitness regimen as a way to help with their recovery and return to the job they love.

The Center will also be used to train and educate peer support members, conduct additional research and develop needed protocols for fire departments to address behavioral health concerns.



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## EXCLUSIVELY FOR IAFF MEMBERS

Our union has a strong history of being the leader in the fire service for advocating for the health and safety of our members.

We have made it a priority to raise awareness of behavioral health issues and reduce the stigma associated with asking for help. We also want our members who struggle with addiction and co-occurring conditions, such as substance abuse, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, to have the necessary support and access to resources.

We have partnered with Advanced Recovery Systems, a leader in behavioral healthcare management and addiction treatment, to build a residential treatment facility – the IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery – exclusively for IAFF members.

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*Understanding the behavioral and physical effects of the job is critical to keeping you safe so you can continue to keep our communities safe.*

*— IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger*



**1 IN 5**

**FIRE FIGHTERS  
AND PARAMEDICS  
WILL SUFFER  
FROM PTSD AT  
SOME POINT IN  
THEIR CAREER**

## **BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO RECOVERY**

Tragedy and trauma are an everyday reality for fire fighters and paramedics, and can lead to behavioral health issues, including addiction, substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder, a potentially disabling condition that can impact one in five fire fighters and paramedics at some point in their career. A host of additional behavioral health issues can also emerge, including anxiety, depression and even suicide.

The Center of Excellence gives IAFF members the specialized treatment they need in taking the first steps toward recovery and return to the job.



*The most challenging part of the job isn't physical. It's seeing things the human mind wasn't designed to see. There are people that you won't be able to help, or situations you won't be able to mitigate. That is the most frustrating and mentally challenging thing about being a fire fighter.*

— *Chuck Talbott, member, Yarmouth, MA Local 2122 and 27-year veteran of the fire service.*

### **Our Mission**

To offer treatment for successful recovery and help IAFF members return to the job.

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**92 PERCENT**  
OF FIRE FIGHTERS  
SAY STIGMA IS A  
BARRIER TO SEEKING  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
TREATMENT.

## **IT'S NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS**

*If you want help, ask for it. Asking is the hardest part. You have to get over your own pride if you want to get better.*

— Mike James, member, Burlington, ON Local 1552 and 24-year veteran of the fire service.

The Center of Excellence is the first-of-its-kind addiction treatment facility to also address post-traumatic stress disorder. IAFF members receive specialized treatment plans from medical professionals who understand the fire service culture and the unique pressures of the job.

IAFF members will feel as though they are among their brothers and sisters — because they are.

## **RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE**

The Center offers multiple levels of treatment:

- Detox
- Intensive inpatient and residential care
- Medical monitoring
- 12-step meetings

## **AFTERCARE**

The recovery process doesn't end upon leaving the Center. Focused on creating sustainable, long-term success, our team develops a comprehensive aftercare plan that also connects clients with medical and clinical professionals to help them upon returning home.

## OUR STAFF

At the IAFF Center of Excellence, patients form relationships with doctors, nurses and other clinicians who will help them on their way to recovery. During treatment, it is our goal to deliver the highest-quality care possible. That's why we've chosen senior staff with extensive experience and a commitment to care.

### Dr. Abby Morris, Medical Director

A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Morris is responsible for all inpatient care, training and future planning and for developing a continuum of care that will follow each client throughout their stay at the center. Previous to her appointment to the IAFF Center of Excellence, Dr. Morris was the Medical Director of a 24-bed inpatient facility that treated addiction and behavioral health disorders.

### Dr. O'Tilia Hunter, Clinical Director

Dr. O'Tilia Hunter, PhD, NCC, LCPC-S, LCADC-S, is a licensed clinician in the State of Maryland and Washington, DC. Dr. Hunter has worked in the human service field for 30 years, and is the founder of Spiritual Inclusion Theory, which takes a look at the benefits of spirituality as a coping mechanism for individuals. Her specialties include substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, palliative care, grief counseling, behavioral and mental health issues, as well as relationship and marriage counseling.

### Tim Craig, Operations Director

Tim is an administrator and consultant with more than 30 years of experience in healthcare and human services. He has an extensive and varied background in behavioral health, with a focus on the provision of services to individuals with substance use disorders. He has served as the director of several treatment programs, and as an administrator within multiple health systems. Tim received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, and a Masters in Social Work and a Certificate in Social Administration from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.