



September 28, 2016

Riverside County
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Thomas J. Peterson
(951) 538-6791
tomjpeterson@rcmhd.org

Richard Bolter
(951) 737-2962

Recovery event on Friday showcases transformed lives, bright futures for former substance abusers

Richard Bolter knew in 2001, after another arrest for methamphetamine, that he faced hard time in a state prison. He had lost numerous jobs as well as the trust and respect of family and friends. Years of substance abuse and hard life left him dispirited and resigned to a future behind bars. His family bore the burden, too, especially his daughter, who had to assume family responsibilities that included her own home-schooling.

But that changed when Bolter was offered the opportunity to participate in Riverside County's Drug Court Program while he awaited sentencing. He entered treatment, enrolled at San Bernardino Valley College in 2003 and graduated with a certificate in Drug and Alcohol Studies in 2006. He not only got a diploma and new start on life, he got the chance to graduate alongside his daughter, who had entered college with him.

Today, Richard works as a supervisor in the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program at Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health, where he implements programs and guides recovery efforts by people who, like himself, are turning their lives around. Their stories will be celebrated at Recovery Happens 2016 on Friday (9/30). The community-based event recognizes National Recovery Month and brings people in recovery

together with local non-profits and service providers to deliver the message that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people do recover.

The event takes place at the RUHS Behavioral Health Campus, 2085 Rustin Ave. in Riverside. A welcome and opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m., followed by a recovery walk and a recovery countdown. Motivational speaker and community leader Bishop Brian D. Goins, Sr. of Victory Worship Center in Riverside will provide remarks at 1 p.m., followed by the presentation of Counselor of the Year awards at 2 p.m. There will be human foosball, sports activities, Karaoke, children's events, a dunk tank and other fun throughout the day.

Bolter will be available for interviews before and after the event, as will others who are celebrating recovery.

For other event information or information about RUHS Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse programs, contact Thomas Peterson, senior public information specialist, at (951) 538 – 6791. The department delivers mental-health and substance-abuse services to more than 54,000 people at 50 locations across Riverside County each year. For more information, visit www.rcdmh.org/Substance-Use-Programs.