



From Court To Community:
The Missing Link In Engagement
TAKE ACTION TODAY
Presented By:
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Learning Objectives

- ❖ By The End Of This Training, Participants Will:
 - ❖ Understand The Important Role Of Peer Recovery Specialists In Justice Settings
 - ❖ Explain How Lived Expertise Improves Engagement And Trust
 - ❖ Identify Ways Peers Bridge Gaps Between Courts, Treatment, And The Community
 - ❖ Explore Integration Into Probation, Drug Courts, And Community Supervision
 - ❖ Review Data And Outcomes Linked To Peer Support Services

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Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration
(SAMHSA)

- ❖ Defines Recovery As A Process Of Change Where People Improve Their Health And Wellness, Live Self-Directed Lives, And Try To Reach Their Full Potential
- ❖ SAMHSA States That Recovery Is Supported By Four Core Areas: Health, Home, Purpose, and Community

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Substance Use & Justice System Reality

- ❖ Many Participants Cycle Through Incarceration And Return To Use
- ❖ Traditional Approaches Alone May Not Address Recovery Barriers
- ❖ Participants Often Distrust Systems Due To Trauma And Stigma
- ❖ With Recovery Support It Creates Hope, Connection, Encourages Accountability, And Addresses Stigma
- ❖ Peers Model Long-Term Recovery And Successful Reentry

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Peer Recovery Specialists Definition & Core Role

- ❖ Individuals With Lived Expertise In Recovery
- ❖ Often Have Lived Expertise With Justice Involvement
- ❖ Provide Mentorship, Advocacy, Support, And Accountability
- ❖ Connect Participants To Treatment And Community Resources
- ❖ Walk Alongside Participants Through Recovery And Reentry

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Lived Experience Matters

- ❖ Peers Relate In Ways Systems Cannot
- ❖ Peers Reduce Shame And Stigma
- ❖ Participants Are More Likely To Open Up To Someone Who Has Been There
- ❖ They Help Normalize Setbacks While Encouraging Accountability
- ❖ Peers Create Hope Through Visible Recovery
- ❖ Recovery Becomes Believable And Attainable

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More Than Presenters: WE DO RECOVER

- ❖ From Active Substance Use Disorder To Active Recovery
- ❖ From Participant To Professional
- ❖ From System-Involved To System Supporter
- ❖ Helping Others Navigate What We Once Lived

Today, WE Sit On The Other Side, But Will NEVER Forget What It Felt Like To Be In That Seat!



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About Kelsey Driskell, CPRS

- ❖ Person With Lived Expertise Of Addiction, Being Unhoused, And In The Justice System
- ❖ Active In Recovery Since 6/6/21
- ❖ Perry County, IL Drug Court Graduate 9/7/22
- ❖ Leadership In Training
- ❖ Site Supervisor Of Take Action Today's Recovery Resource Center In Carbondale, IL.
- ❖ Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Of First Circuit Courts In Jackson County & Williamson County Drug Courts



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About Chris Murphy, PRS

- ❖ Person With Lived Expertise Of Addiction, Incarceration, And Being Unhoused.
- ❖ CPRS in Kentucky, Completed CRSS/CPRS Program Through SIU School Of Medicine (Soon To Be Certified in IL)
- ❖ Site Supervisor Of Take Action Today's Recovery Resource Center In Marion, IL.
- ❖ Peer Recovery Specialist In Williamson County Drug Court
- ❖ Owner Of An LLC That Operates Sober Living Houses In Kentucky



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The Power Of Peer Connection

- ❖ Peers Have The Ability To Build Rapport Quickly Due To Lived Expertise
- ❖ Participants Feel Accepted And Supported Without Fear Of Judgement
- ❖ Trust Increases Honesty And Engagement
- ❖ Peers Improve Communication Between Participants And The Treatment Team
- ❖ Strengthens Retention In Programming

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Bridging The Gaps: Court, Treatment, Community

- ❖ Peers Help Participants Navigate Complex Systems And Available Resources
- ❖ Coordinate Communication, Referrals, And Connections To Community Resources
- ❖ Provide Individualized Recovery Support One-On-One Tailored To Each Unique Individual To Support Basic Needs
- ❖ Provide Support And Encouragement During Transitions
- ❖ Reduce Barriers Related To Transportation, Housing, Employment, And Other Necessities

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Peer Support In Action

- ❖ Empower Participants To Take Ownership Of Their Recovery
- ❖ Encourage Meaningful Engagement In Treatment And Recovery Goals
- ❖ Build Trust And Strengthen Communication With The Treatment Court Team
- ❖ Address Barriers And Support Participants' Readiness For Positive Change

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Extending Peer Support: Beyond The Courtroom

- ❖ Support Probation Officers Through Engagement
- ❖ Help Reduce Participant Resistance
- ❖ Assist Participants With Appointments And Goals
- ❖ Promote Stability And Pro-Social Supports
- ❖ Encourage Long-Term Recovery Planning

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Key Functions Of Peer Support

- ❖ Recovery Coaching
- ❖ Resource Navigation
- ❖ Crisis Support
- ❖ Mentoring And Advocacy
- ❖ Connection To Recovery Communities
- ❖ Encouragement And Accountability

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Trauma-Informed Peer Support: Understanding The Person Behind The Behavior

- ❖ Many Justice-Involved Participants Have Experienced Trauma
- ❖ Peers Models Empathy And Non-Judgement
- ❖ Trauma-Informed Approaches Improve Engagement
- ❖ Participants Feel Safer Asking For Help
- ❖ Supportive Relationships Reduce Isolation

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Reducing Recidivism: Long-Term Recovery Support Matters

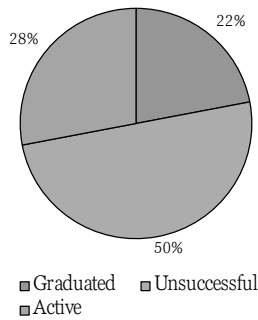
- ❖ Recovery Support Increases Stability
- ❖ Participants With Support Networks Have Stronger Outcomes
- ❖ Decreased Return Of Use Often Means Decreased Likelihood Of Reoffending
- ❖ Peers Help Maintain Motivation After Graduation
- ❖ Recovery Becomes Sustainable Through Community Connection

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Outcomes

First Circuit Court Of
Jackson County Drug
Court
36 Total Participants

- ❖ Participants Working With Peers Are Significantly Less Likely To Reoffend
- ❖ Recovery Support Services Improve Treatment Engagement
- ❖ Programs With Collaborative Approaches See Stronger Outcomes

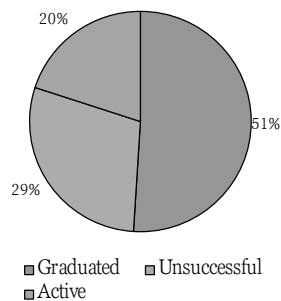


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Outcomes

First Circuit Court Of
Williamson County
Drug Court
45 Total Participants

- ❖ Unsuccessful Outcomes Can Involve Challenges Such As:
 - ❖ Continued Substance Use
 - ❖ Disengagement
 - ❖ Housing Instability
 - ❖ Transportation Barriers
 - ❖ Mental Health Needs
 - ❖ Difficulty Meeting Program Requirements



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❖ Research Shows:
❖ Peer Support Improves Participant Engagement
❖ Participants Report Higher Trust And Motivation
❖ Recovery Coaching Increases Treatment Retention
❖ Peer Support Programs Improve Connection To Recovery Communities
❖ Participants Feel Less Isolated And More Hopeful

Peer Support Impact

Approach	Engagement Percentage
Traditional Approach	45
Peer Supported	70

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Challenges Participants Face: Common Barriers To Success

❖ Employment Challenges
❖ Housing Instability
❖ Transportation Barriers
❖ Mental Health Concerns
❖ Family Conflict And Stigma
❖ Fear Of Failure Due To Barriers

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How Peers Help Address Barriers

❖ Assist With Transportation Planning
❖ Help Locate Housing And Employment Resources
❖ Support Communication With Providers
❖ Encourage Attendance And Participation
❖ Provide Emotional Support During Setbacks

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The
Power
Of
Hope:
Recovery
Capital

- ❖ Peers Help Participants Believe Change Is Possible
- ❖ Hope Improves Motivation And Resilience
- ❖ Recovery Capital Includes Relationships And Support Systems
- ❖ Connection Is Critical For Long-Term Recovery

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Collaboration is Essential

- ❖ Peers Complement, Not Replace, Clinical Staff
- ❖ Strong Communication Improves Outcomes
- ❖ Court Teams Benefit From Multiple Perspectives
- ❖ Collaboration Creates Continuity Of Care

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Professional Boundaries

- ❖ Peers Maintain Ethical Boundaries
- ❖ Confidentiality And Professionalism Matter
- ❖ Self-Care Is Essential In Peer Work
- ❖ Peers Model Healthy Recovery Behaviors

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Recovery
Community
Connections:
Community-
Based Support

- ❖ Support Groups And Recovery Meetings
- ❖ Recovery Community Organizations
- ❖ Faith And Community Partnerships
- ❖ Employment, Education, And Housing Supports
- ❖ Long-term Recovery Planning

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Benefits
to
Systems

- ❖ Improved Participant Engagement
- ❖ Better Communication And Accountability
- ❖ Reduced Return Of Use And Recidivism
- ❖ Stronger Treatment Retention
- ❖ Enhanced Collaboration Across Systems

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Implementation Strategies:
How to Integrate Peer Support

- ❖ Include Peers In Staffing Meetings
- ❖ Develop Clear Peer Roles And Expectations
- ❖ Provide Supervision And Training
- ❖ Build Partnerships With Community Agencies
- ❖ Use Peers Across Phases Of Supervision

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Best Practices: Effective Peer Programs

- ❖ Use Trained Peers With Lived Expertise
- ❖ Provide Trauma-Informed Supervision
- ❖ Prioritize Participant-Centered Approaches
- ❖ Encourage Ongoing Recovery Support
- ❖ Measure Outcomes And Engagement

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Interactive Discussion: Questions for the Audience

- ❖ If You Were Struggling And Had Lost Hope, Who Would You Rather Hear From: Someone Who Studied Recovery, Or Someone Who Lived It?
- ❖ What Would Change If We Stopped Asking, “What’s Wrong With You?” And Started Asking, “What Happened To You, And How Can We Help?”
- ❖ What Does “Meeting Someone Where They Are” Actually Look Like To You?

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Key Takeaways: Important Messages

- ❖ Peer Support Creates Trust And Connection
- ❖ Lived Experience Strengthens Engagement
- ❖ Collaboration Improves Participant Outcomes
- ❖ Recovery Support Bridges Systems And Communities
- ❖ Long-Term Recovery Requires Ongoing Support

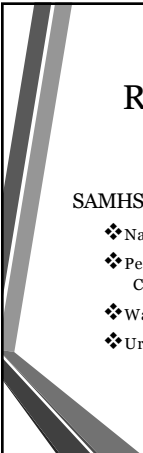
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Closing Reflection: Final Thoughts

- ❖ Recovery IS Possible
- ❖ Connection Changes Outcomes
- ❖ Participants Deserve Support, Dignity, and Hope
- ❖ Peer Support Strengthens Courts, Treatment, and Communities

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References & Data Sources

SAMHSA – Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards

- ❖ National Association of Drug Court Professionals (All Rise)
- ❖ Peer Recovery Support Specialists in Adult Drug Treatment Courts: National Survey
- ❖ Washington State Drug Court Outcome Studies
- ❖ Urban Institute Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation

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