From Court To Community:
The Missing Link In Engagement
TAKE ACTION TODAY
Presented By:
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&
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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 Expertise 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! 7

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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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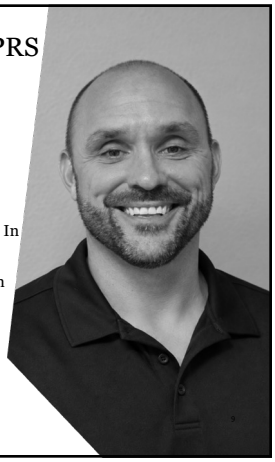
About Chris Murphy, CPRS



- Person With Lived Expertise Of Addiction, Incarceration, And Being Unhoused.
- CPRS in Kentucky & Illinois. Site Supervisor Of Take Action Today's Recovery Resource Center In Marion, IL.
- Certified Peer Recovery Specialist In First Circuit Court of 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 Trauma

- 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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First Circuit Court Of Jackson County Drug Court est. 2020

Participant Outcome	Number	Percentage
Successfully Graduated	8	22.2%
Unsuccessful	18	50.0%
Active Participants	10	27.8%
Total	36	100%

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First Circuit Court Of Williamson County Drug Court est. 2019

Participant outcome	Number Of Participants	Percentage
Graduates	23	50.0%
Unsuccessful	13	28.3%
Currently active	10	21.7%
Total	46	100%

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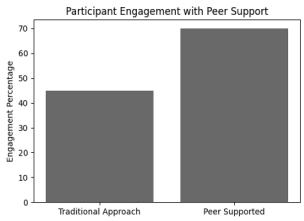
Peer Support Strengthens Participant Engagement By:

- Building Trust
- Reducing Stigma
- Inspiring Hope
- Addressing Barriers
- Encourages Accountability, Self-Determination, And Continued Participation In Recovery



Key Takeaway: Peer Support Bridges The Gap Between Structured Treatment Requirements And Meaningful, Person-Centered Recovery.

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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

- 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 At" Actually Look Like To You?
- How Do We Distinguish Between A Participant Who Is Unwilling To Engage And One Who Is Struggling With Trauma, Mental Health, Or Instability?

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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

- Treatment Courts Have The Ability To Hold Individuals Accountable, But They Also Have The Opportunity To Change Lives. The Question Is: Are We Simply Focusing On Getting Participants Through The Program, Or Are We Helping Them Build A Life They No Longer Feel They Need To Escape From?
- What If The Missing Piece Wasn't Another Resource, But A Relationship With Someone Who Truly Understands What They're Going Through?

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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
- First Circuit Courts Probation Department Record

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