

## Building a Peer Workforce to Support Harm Reduction and Wellness

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## Faculty Disclosure

- *I have no financial relationships to disclose*

## Educational Need/Practice Gap

- *Overdose-related health issues and deaths will continue to occur throughout Kentucky. Many of these could be avoided if there were more interventions put in place by both law enforcement and public health agencies.*
- *Law enforcement and public health will have to work together at the local, regional, and state level to effectively address the current drug epidemic in Kentucky.*

## Objectives

Upon completion of this educational activity, you will be able to:

- **Objective 1:** Identify basic components of a recovery-oriented system of care and explain the importance of lived recovery experience
- **Objective 2:** Articulate ways a peer workforce can enhance clinical practice, harm reduction services in particular
- **Objective 3:** Describe appreciative activities that can lead to transformational community conversations and change

### Expected Outcome

- *Students will have a better understanding of the importance of people with lived recovery experience in helping individuals, families and communities get and stay well*



### Who We Are



- For over 20 years GCSA has been a voice of recovery in Georgia.
- We provide advocacy, training, education, and peer recovery support services.
- We ensure the peer voice is heard, "Nothing about us, without us."
- From 1 employee to 44, all with lived recovery experience.
- From 1 peer-run RCO to 38 across the state.
- Think of us as the Home Depot of Recovery, "You can do it, we can help!"

### What We Do



- We are a diverse community of individuals in recovery who organize and mobilize recovery communities and the peer workforce statewide.
- The way we see it, there are three major challenges that individuals and communities face:
  - isolation,
  - stigma, and
  - extremely limited resources.
- We support the restoration and wellness of individuals, families, and communities.

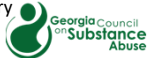


**What is a Recovery-Oriented System of Care?**

A ROSC places the person at the center of their lives as the expert and values lived recovery experience as a guide that demonstrates hope, with a focus on self-direction, person-centeredness, community support, many pathways,

Shifting from a **Crisis-oriented**, professionally directed, acute-care approach with its emphasis on isolated treatment episodes.

Moving toward a **Recovery-focused** approach that provides long-term supports and recognizes the value of lived recovery experience.




- **Eighty-five percent** of the respondents in a recent study\* reported a family history of addiction, with an average of two previous generations with SUD history.
- **90%** had at least one adverse childhood event.
- Over **83%** experienced household dysfunction, **78%** experienced abuse, and **55%** suffered from neglect.
- **107,00 people died** of opiate overdose in this country over a one-year period

\* Patient Journey Map: Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Experiences. Addiction Policy Forum. (2022).

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- **Over 30%** percent of participants cite **stigma** as a significant barrier during the process of finding help and treatment.
- **Trauma often experienced** during active addiction, including physical violence and sexual assault.
- **Bright spots** during the care phase include friendly engaging staff, peers/recovery coaches, and having employment & housing (recovery capital).
- **Creating a positive, supportive social network** is a dominant feature of successful recovery, along with avoiding individuals, places, and other triggers that present memory and physical cues to resuming substance use.

\* Patient Journey Map: Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Experiences. Addiction Policy Forum. (2022).

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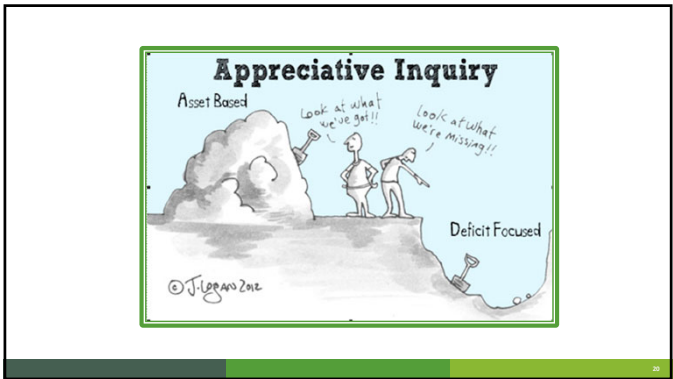
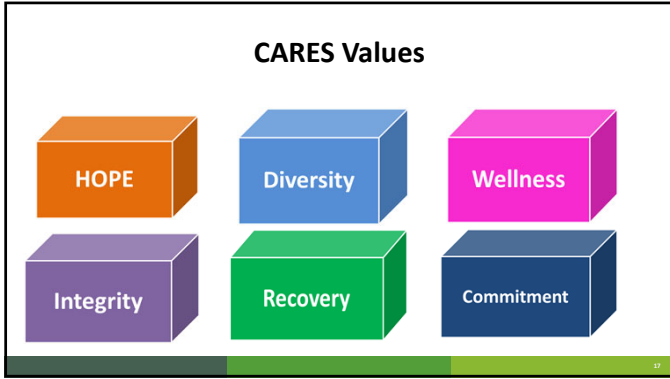


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## Building a Peer Workforce



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### Appreciative Recovery

1. What's working to support recovery?
2. What could be better?
3. What gives you hope?

### RCO Development through Symposiums

- Cultivation of Recovery Champions
- Listening Sessions
- Symposium Planning
- Symposium
- Recovery Community Visioning



### The RCO Team Works with Communities

- To organize focused conversations about recovery
- To foster local collaborative relationships for continued development of communities that are recovery-focused



### RCO Network Learning Collaborative



## CARES WARM LINE

Call or Text  
1-844-326-5400

 Georgia Council on Substance Abuse  
Are you interested in receiving a call from A CARES  
Warm Line Peer Recovery Coach for a check in?



Rural Communities Opioid Response Program



**AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY**



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



What does the world need?



What are you good at? What do you LOVE?



**Thank you!**  
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