



**Foundation *for*
Opioid Response Efforts**

09/15/22

Lessons Learned in Community-Based Recovery Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Renewal House

Ballad Health

University of Miami / IDEA Exchange

RTI International



Introduction



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Ken Shatzkes, PhD
Program Director
Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts



Follow ongoing updates on our website:
<https://www.ForeFdn.org>

Agenda

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1. **Welcome and Webinar Logistics**
Ken Shatzkes, PhD (FORE)
2. **Renewal House's Telehealth Treatment Project**
Savak Millis, LPS-MHSP (Renewal House)
3. **PEERhelp: Programming - Education - Employment - Recovery**
Casey Carringer, MBA (Ballad Health)
4. **Rapid Implementation of Peer Navigator-led Telemedicine for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Response to COVID-19**
Hansel Tookes, MD, MPH (University of Miami / IDEA Exchange)
5. **Evaluation of FORE's COVID-19 National Emergency Effort**
Jessica Cance, MPH, PhD (RTI International)
6. **Question and Answer Session**

Webinar Logistics

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1. The webinar is being recorded and will be available on www.ForeFdn.org shortly after the session ends.
2. Presentation slides will be made available for download on our website.
3. Please use the “Q&A” found at the bottom of your Zoom screen.
 - If you have a similar question, please upvote using the thumbs up button on the question.
 - We will read as many questions live as time permits.
4. There will be a brief survey immediately following the webinar. Please provide us with feedback!

FORE Grantee Portfolio

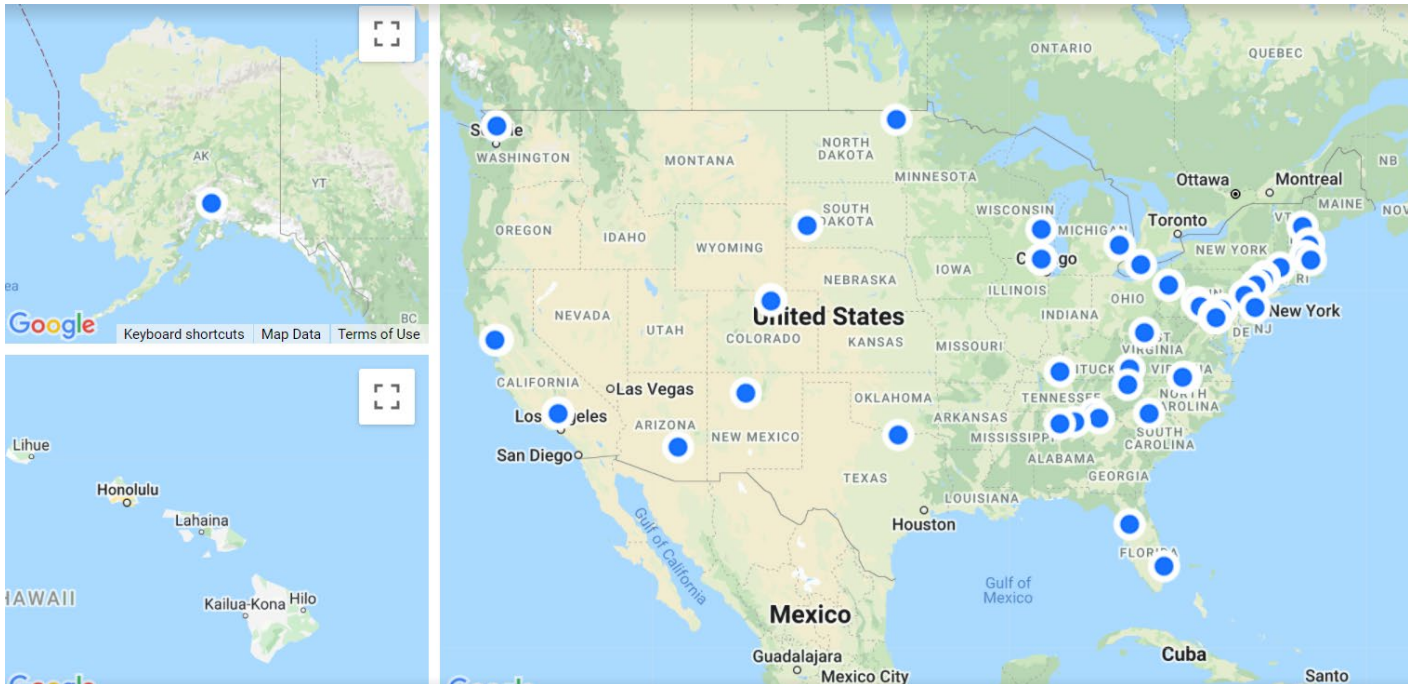
Grants to
date:

67

Amount
awarded:

\$30.8M

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See all FORE Grantees on our website:
<https://www.ForeFdn.org/Our-Grantees/>

FORE's Grantmaking Programs

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Access to Treatment



\$10.1 Million in Grants to Improve Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

March 12, 2020

COVID-19 Response



FORE Announces Second Wave of COVID-19 Response Grants – Bringing Total Emergency Funding to Nearly \$1 Million

October 21, 2020

Innovation Challenge



FORE Announces \$4.8 Million in Grants That Support Innovative Solutions to Ending the Opioid Crisis

February 01, 2022

Prevention



FORE Announces \$10.9 Million in Grants to Prevent Opioid and Substance Use Disorder in Children and Families

March 22, 2022

See all FORE Grantees on our website:
<https://www.ForeFdn.org/Our-Grantees/>

Recent Request for Proposals

Community-Driven Responses to Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose Mortality

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Request for Proposal

To help CBOs enhance their ability to deliver services addressing the opioid crisis, particularly in hardest hit communities.

CBOs have the trust of those they serve and understand what it takes to reduce barriers to opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, yet they struggle to find flexible funding needed to strengthen capacity and build key partnerships.

FORE is aiming to support a cohort of CBOs who can use capacity building funds to enhance and expand the services they provide in their community to address OUD and Overdoses.

Resources

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Foundation for
Opioid Response Efforts

July 2021
Grantee Spotlight

Using Hard-Won Wisdom to Help Others Coping With Opioid Addiction: An Interview With Three Peer Recovery Coaches

In addition to commissioning a [qualitative study](#) of peer recovery coaches, FORE is funding a number of organizations that employ people with lived experience of addiction and recovery in innovative ways. We spoke with peers at three of those organizations to learn more about their work and what would make them even more successful. Each works with a different population. In

Access to Treatment

Issue Brief: Improving Access to Treatment and Recovery Supports for Younger Generations

February 4, 2021

Read how three FORE grantees are working to help adolescents and young adults access opioid use disorder treatment and support ser...



COVID-19 Response

Webinar: The Role of Peer Recovery Coaches and Navigators During the COVID-19 Pandemic

May 28, 2020

Join Julia Felton, PhD, Jessica Magidson, PhD, Karen Fortuna, MSW, PhD, Sadie M. Smith, MSW, Dwayne Dean, ICPR, CPRS, RPS, and Kri...

[Recorded Webinar](#) | [Slides](#) | [Q&A](#)



EXPLORING PEER RECOVERY COACHES REPORT ON QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Prepared for The Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)

Prepared by:

Robyn Rapoport | Executive Vice President
Rob Manley | Associate Research Director
Aubri Kaufman | Moderator



MAY 2021



Webinar Presenters

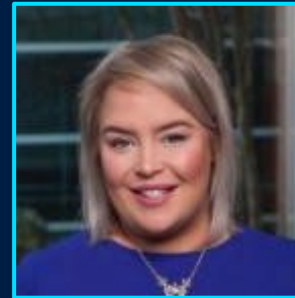


09



Savak Millis, LPC-MHSP

Director of Programs
Renewal House (Tennessee)



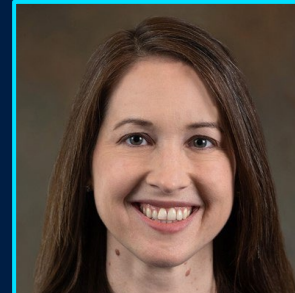
Casey Carringer, MBA

Director of Clinical Engagement
Ballad Health



Hansel Tookes, MD, MPH

Associate Professor
University of Miami Miller School of
Medicine / IDEA Exchange



Jessica Cance, MPH, PhD

Senior Research Public Health
Analyst
RTI International

Renewal House's Telehealth Treatment Project



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Savak Millis, LPC-MHSP

Director of Programs
Renewal House (Tennessee)



Pamela Sessions, MSW

Chief Executive Officer
Renewal House (Tennessee)



WE TREAT THEM
BOTH.



renewal
HOUSE

Renew the whole person. Restore a life.

SPECIALIZED ADDICTION TREATMENT FOR WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

Project Overview

Goal

- To expand treatment access for women of low income with substance use disorders, through overcoming treatment barriers created or further complicated by COVID-19.

Program/Activities

- Provide free-of-charge virtual treatment groups utilizing evidence-based programs: 1) Nurturing Parenting for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery; and 2) Dialectical Behavior Therapy.
- Check in with clients individually to assess challenges and concerns, and to provide community provider referrals.
- Increase access to treatment and healthy recovery supports through the implementation of new technology and telehealth platforms.

Target Population

- Women age 18+, especially focusing on pregnant and postpartum women
- Outreach to rural communities with limited treatment options

Achievements to Date

Process Measures

- The project connected Renewal House with **67** community partners across the state.
- Increased the agency's ability to provide services via telehealth to more than **87** clients.
- Allowed **92** mothers and children in Renewal House's long-term, comprehensive Family Residential Program increased ability to connect with healthy recovery supports, family members and offsite children.
- In addition, the project enrolled **41** women in the telehealth treatment program and started a telehealth group for female inmates in the Davidson County Jail!
 - Renewal House has sustained the partnership with the Davidson County Sheriff's Office; a relationship that would not have been possible without FORE's assistance.

Achievements to Date

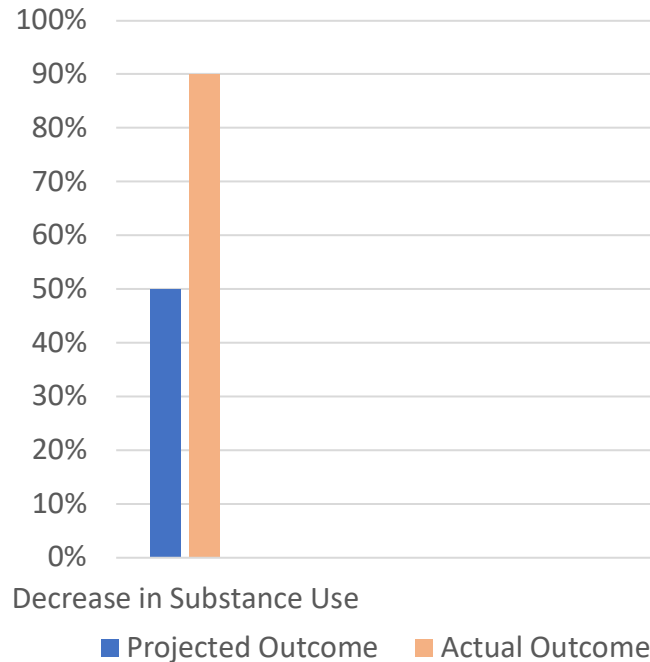


12 program graduates
(attended at least 8 weeks
of group)



3 clients regained custody
of their child/ren

DAST Scores



14



45% of clients who graduated continued to participate past their graduation date, indicating the clients found significant value in their experience in the groups

Lessons Learned

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- Internet challenges especially in rural areas continue to be a struggle.
- Phone service in rural areas is often a struggle.
- A virtual platform for signing documents is almost a necessity.
- Even during virtual meetings childcare is a barrier.
- Develop a protocol for virtual sessions/groups before starting:
 - Where the client can sit (no laying in the bed)
 - What you can and can not wear (no pajamas, or reveling clothing, etc.)
 - Who can hear and see the client's screen (maintaining confidentiality)
 - What do you do if a client presents as suicidal, homicidal (have a protocol)
 - No sessions in a moving vehicle
 - Does the camera need to be on?
- When you remove transportation as a barrier to treatment it remains a barrier for establishing a support network and attending meetings.

Our clients are resilient!!

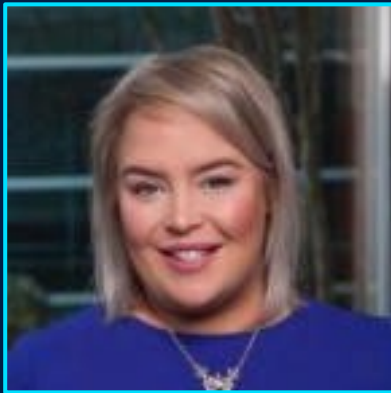
The Opportunities are limitless...

- Nurses for Newborns
- Hope Clinic for Women
- DHS
- DCS Davidson
- DCS Mid Cumberland
- Meharry Community Newsletter
- Vanderbilt Women's Center
- Vanderbilt Team Hope (NICU and NAS births)
- Davidson County Safe Babies Court
- Coffee County Safe Babies Court
- Families Free
- Comprehensive Community Services Treatment
- CAADAS
- TAADAS Newsletter
- Magellan
- Maternal Mortality Stake Holders
- Health Disparities Taskforce Meeting
- Mercy Health Care
- Neighborhood Health
- Project Return
- Tennessee Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Magdalene House
- Samaritan Recovery Community
- Journey Pure
- Mental Health Cooperative
- Strong Well/ 180 Health Partners
- Mending Hearts
- Grace Place
- Davidson County Sherriff's Dept.
- Tennessee Prison for Women
- Posted on TN Recover App
- Posted on other social media: Facebook, Instagram, etc
- BHG- Davidson County
- Oxford House
- Marty Walker- State of TN
- Montgomery County- The Center for Family Development
- Montgomery County Public Defenders Office
- Smith County Drug Prevention Coalition
- The Next Door
- Davidson County Health Dept.
- Montgomery County Health Dept- WIC
- Christian County Health Dept.
- A Mother's Love (Aspell Recovery Center)
- Dryer County Booking
- Tennessee Early Intervention Services (TEIS)
- Omni Vision
- Montgomery County DCS
- Weakley County Prevention Coalition
- Regional Overdose Specialist
- Western Ky Medical Center
- CMCSS Communications Dept
- TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- TN Department of Correction
- Matthew Walker Center
- Meharry University MAT Clinic
- Buffalo Valley
- Kid Central
- Nashville Recovery
- Nashville Addiction Clinic
- Family and Children's Services
- Helen Ross McNabb
- Hope Homes Recovery
- Chell's Place
- Salvation Army
- Franklin Co. Re-Entry Program
- Cedar Recovery
- Tennessee RED LINE

Ballad Health's PEERhelp: Programming - Education - Employment - Recovery



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Casey Carringer, MBA

Director of Clinical Engagement
Ballad Health

Who is Ballad Health?



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- Newly merged health system created to address the most critical healthcare needs of communities in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia
- Made possible through active state oversight through a Certificate of Public Advantage/Cooperative Agreement (COPA/CA)
- 15,000+ team members; 4th largest employer in TN; \$2.17B Revenues 9th Largest Healthcare Organization in the United States.
- Facilities/Services:
 - 21 hospitals (107k admissions; 478k ED visits; 2.8M OP visits)
 - Long-term care facilities
 - Outpatient addiction treatment facility
 - Outpatient services
 - Home care and hospice services
 - Retail pharmacies
 - Comprehensive medical management group (800 providers; 250 locations)



PEERhelp's Vision and Mission



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Mission:

PEERhelp seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals in treatment and recovery from substance use disorder by addressing their health-related social needs through tailored social support, resource navigation, and advocacy.

Vision:

PEERhelp envisions that all people returning from incarceration or treatment for substance use disorder will have a seamless reentry into society by having the necessary resources and opportunities to succeed, therefore reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder and recidivism in the Appalachian Highlands.

Nothing About Us Without Us



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- PEERhelp is designed to be an inclusive program for people in recovery. The program employs 12 Certified Peer Recovery Specialists with over 20 years of incarceration experience.
- PEERhelp is a program that embodies the belief that everyone has a right to be involved in their own recovery process.
- Diversified staff:
 - LGBTQ+ community
 - Ethnic/racial diversity
 - Young adults
 - Various pathways to recovery





Trainings



Community
Navigation



Warmline

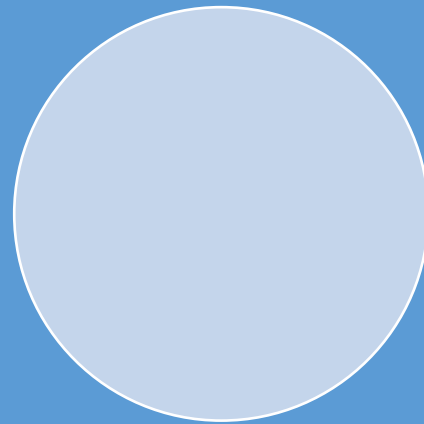
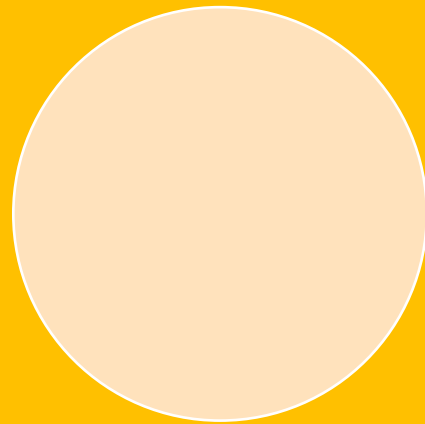


Recovery
Meetings





Trainings



What is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS)?



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- A person in recovery at least 12-24 months (lived experience) from substance use disorder or mental health challenges
- Evidence-based practice
- Community Service Boards (CSBs) offer peer services
- Certified by Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) or The Virginia Certification Board
- 500-hour internship required



CPRS Internship Program



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- In 2019, a study was conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University at the request of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.
- The study addressed why the number of trained Peer Specialists was increasing but the number of certified peers did not increase at the same rate.
- The barrier identified was the lack of options to obtain the 500 contact hours necessary for certification.
- COVID-19 significantly increased these barriers due to limitations imposed by potential volunteer sites

FORE Funding



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- Provided opportunity to stand-up internship program
- Expanded CPRS training to create volunteer pipeline
- Provided funding to train peers in recovery meeting facilitation
- Provided equipment to setup volunteer workstations across region
- Services expanded – warmline and virtual recovery meetings supported those in recovery or seeking recovery during COVID-19

40+ interns served to date

- Expand hours of operation for warmline
- Facilitate virtual recovery meetings
- Free peer support services to community partners
- Responding to emails through the PEERhelp jail account

Trainings Offered



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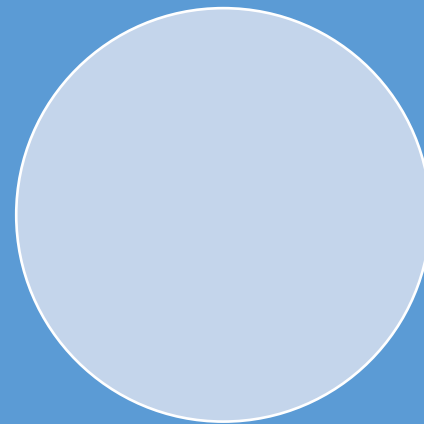
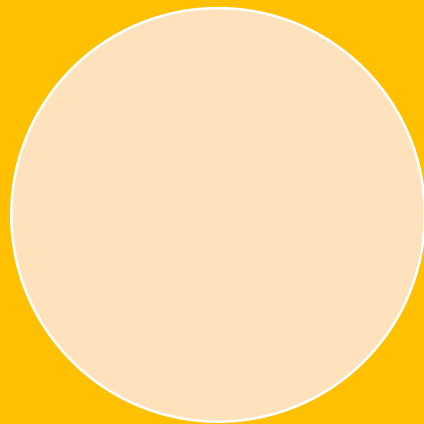
- **Narcan trainings:** 130+ individuals trained
- **Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) trainings:**
 - 120+ peers trained in the SWVA and NETN region
- **Workplace Excellence Series:**
 - Offering in two jails, serving 100 + individuals



Trainings

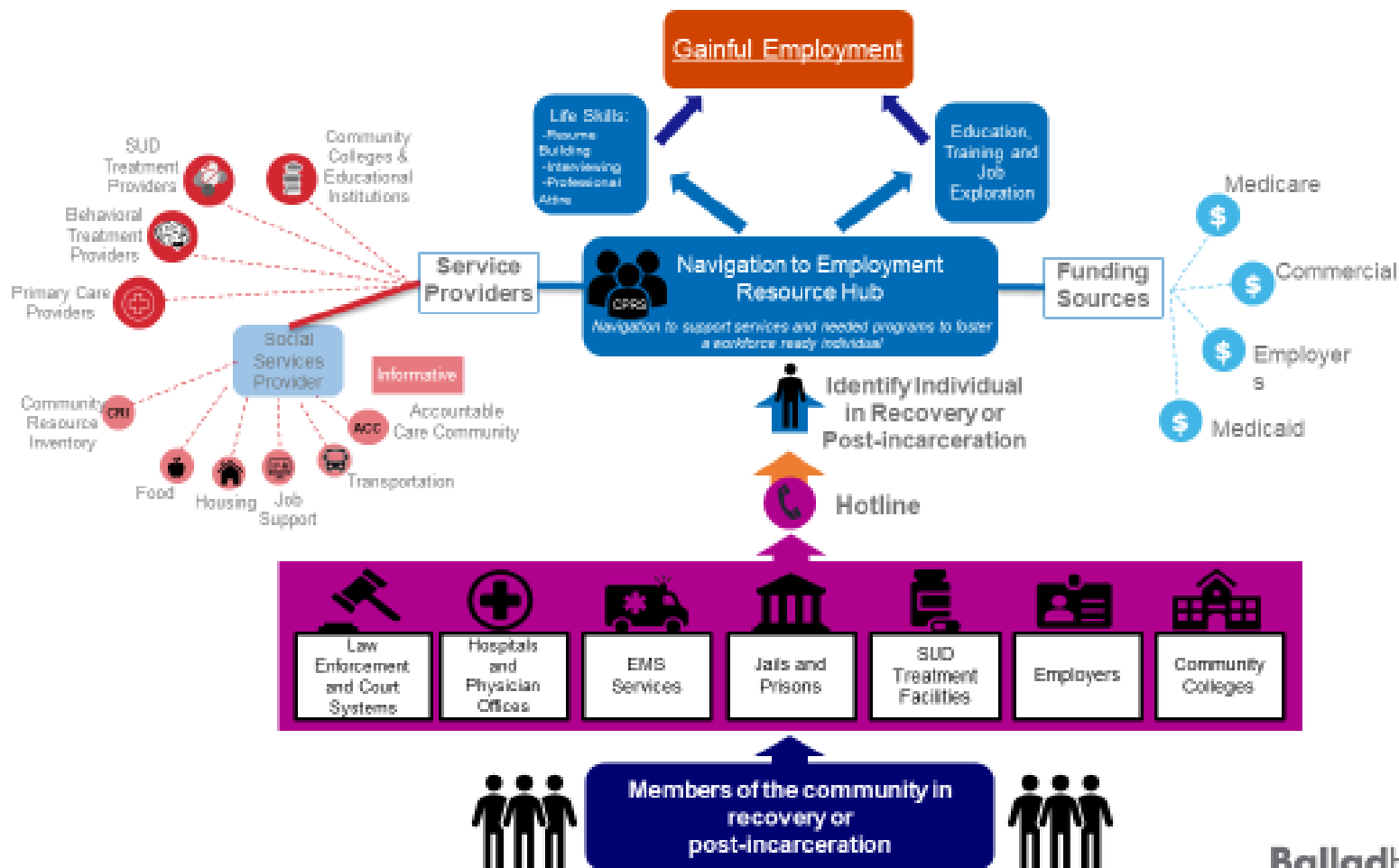


Community
Navigation





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BalladHealth.

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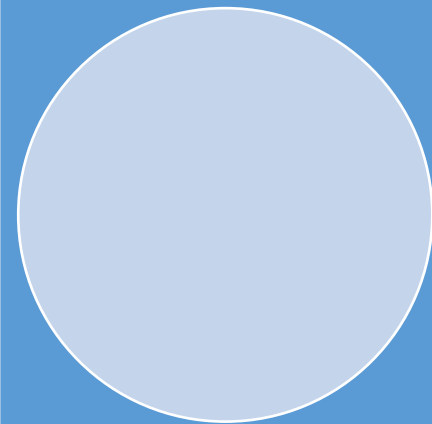
Trainings



Community
Navigation



Warmline





Support help line for people living with substance use issues

Calls to the peer line are answered by Certified Peer Recovery Specialists who have experienced substance use issues and mental health challenges in their lives. They have a deep understanding of what you are going through and are here to provide emotional support, comfort and referrals to resources. All calls are confidential.

Call if you are experiencing:

- Substance use issues
- The need for recovery support
- Life challenging issues
- Problems with family or friends
- Loneliness
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Other emotional or mental health challenges
- Second chance employment

If you are in crisis or considering suicide, call the 24-Hour Respond Crisis Hotline at 800.366.1132.

Call us:

**Monday-Sunday
8 a.m.-Midnight**

877.PEERHLP
(733.7457)





Trainings



Community
Navigation



Warmline



Recovery
Meetings



Recovery Meetings



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- **Diversified Recovery Meetings:**
 - SMART Recovery
 - Living Free Faith-Based Recovery
 - Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
 - Pathways to Recovery (Self-Help Workbook)
 - Narcotics Anonymous
 - LGBTQ+ (Open Meeting)
 - Food Service/Bar Industry Staff (Open Meeting)
- **Various Classes & Training:**
 - Workplace Excellence Series
 - Contingency Management
 - Botvin Life Skills
 - Parenting & Family Classes



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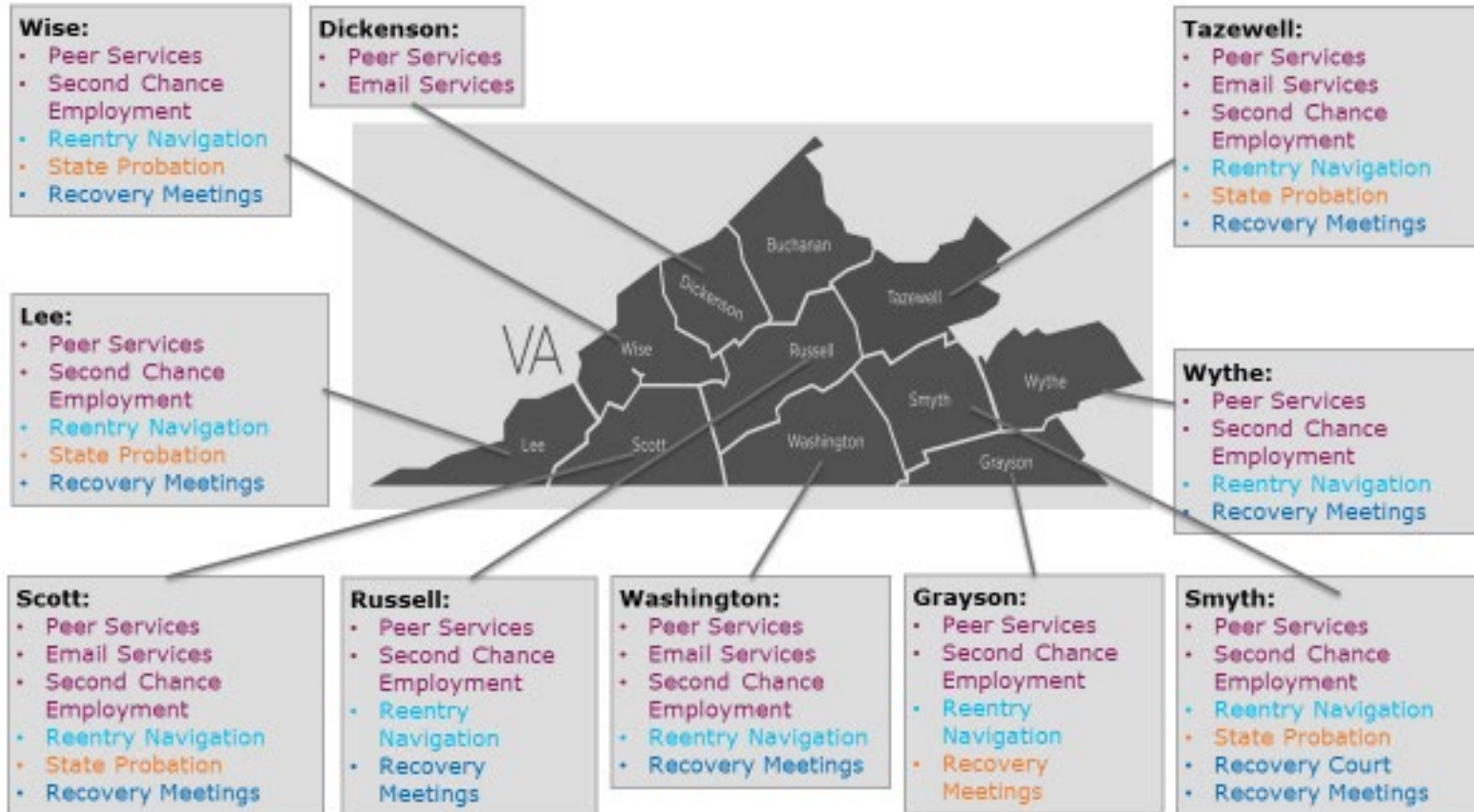
TN Services Map:





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VA Service Map:



Lessons Learned:



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- Community collaboration is a MUST
- “Nothing about us without us”
- Passion, but practice patience
- Be adaptable and flexible
 - Had to move jail services to virtual due to COVID-19

Rapid Implementation of Peer Navigator-led Telemedicine for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Response to COVID-19



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Hansel Tookes, MD, MPH

Associate Professor

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine /
IDEA Exchange



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New & current patients can be prescribed Suboxone via telephone

To request a free appointment, visit:

tinyurl.com/IDEAtelehealth

For more information:

Call or Text: **786-505-6780**

Email: **docsideaexchangeclinic@gmail.com**




FORE

BRIEF REPORT

Open Access



Implementation of a medical student-run telemedicine program for medications for opioid use disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic

Marcus Castillo¹, Brianna Conte¹, Sam Hinkes¹, Megan Mathew¹, C. J. Na¹, Ainhua Norindr¹, David P. Serota², David W. Forrest³, Amar R. Deshpande¹, Tyler S. Bartholomew^{4*}  and Hansel E. Tookes²



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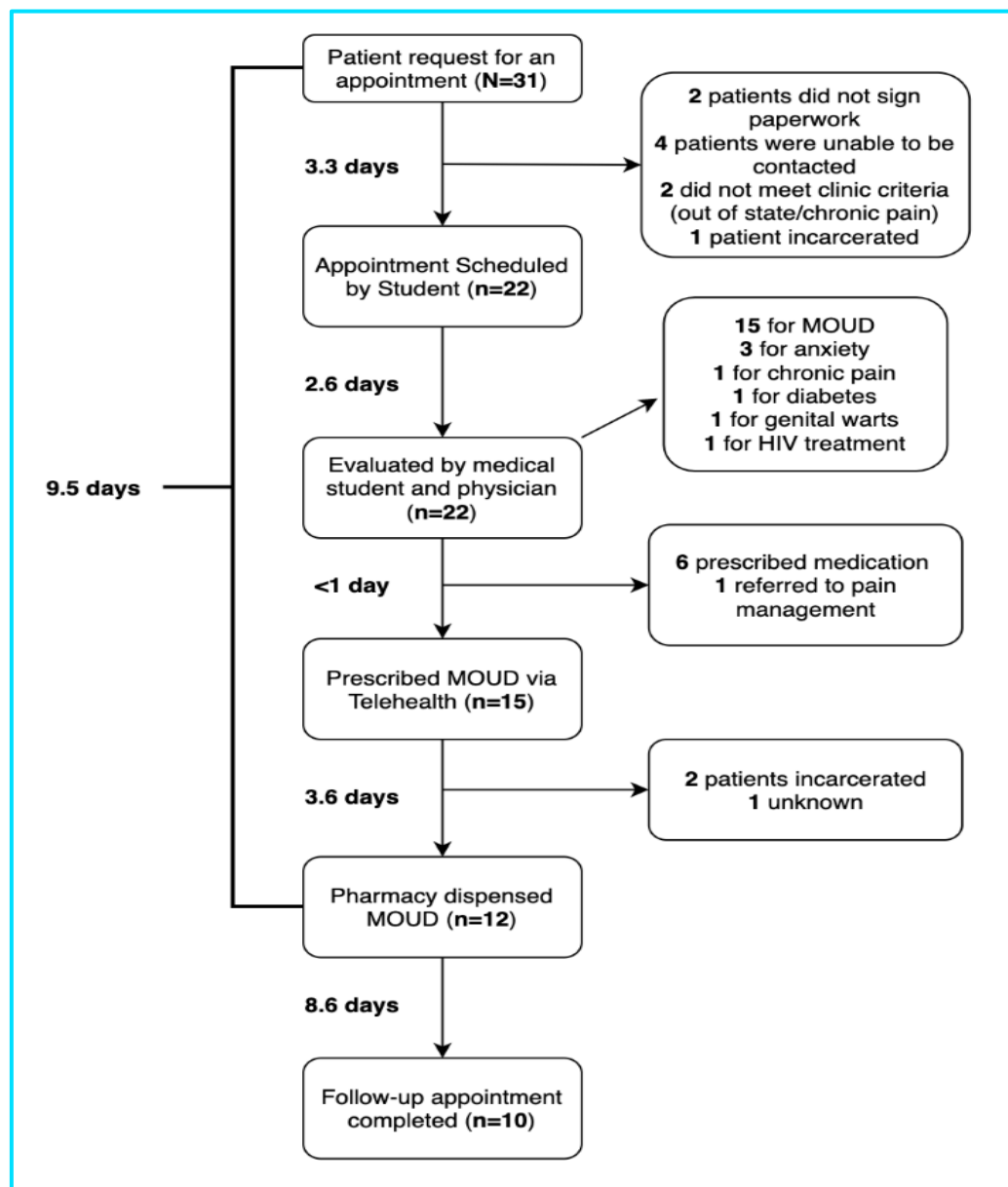
Table 1 Descriptive statistics of those accessing telehealth during COVID-19 (N = 22)

| Characteristic | N (%) |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Age (median, IQR) | 35.5 (33–51) |
| Biological sex | |
| Male | 14 (67) |
| Female | 7 (33) |
| Race/ethnicity | |
| White non-Hispanic | 9 (43) |
| Black non-Hispanic | 4 (19) |
| Hispanic | 8 (38) |
| IDEA SSP participant | |
| Yes | 11 (52) |
| No | 10 (48) |
| Current injection drug use | |
| Yes | 10 (50) |
| No | 10 (50) |
| Substances injected (n = 10) | |
| Heroin | 8 (80) |
| Fentanyl | 5 (50) |
| Cocaine | 2 (20) |
| Other (ketamine) | 1 (10) |
| Self-reported HIV status | |
| Positive | 3 (14) |
| Negative | 16 (76) |
| Unknown | 2 (10) |
| Self-reported HCV status | |
| Positive | 8 (38) |
| Negative | 10 (48) |
| Unknown | 3 (14) |



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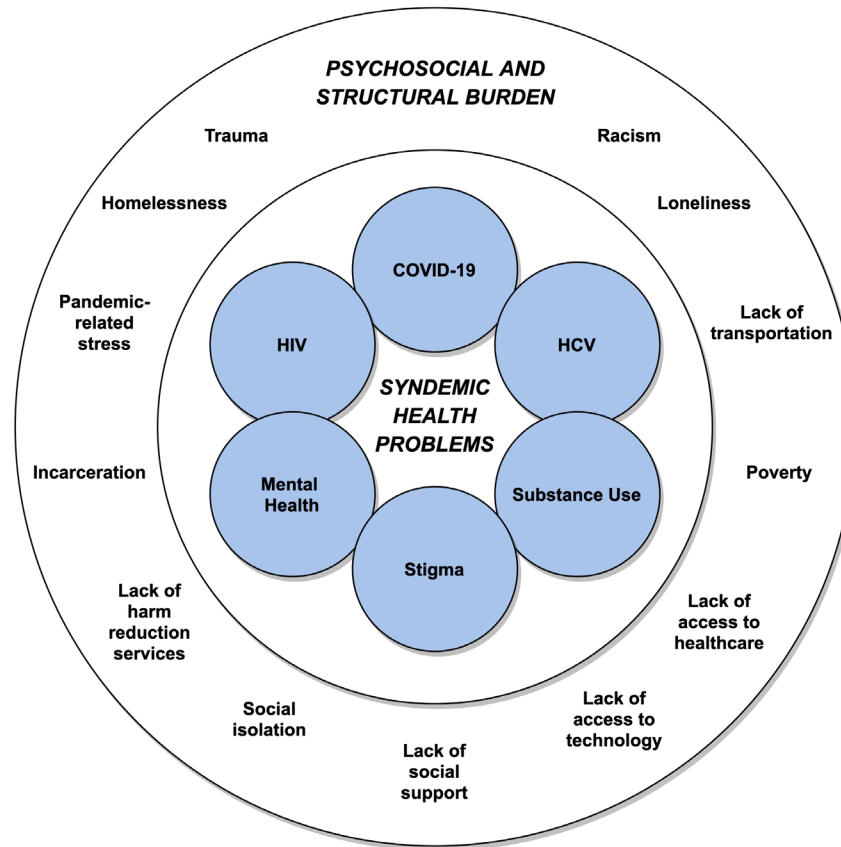
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What Barriers Exist to Healthcare in PWID?

Figure 1. Adapted syndemic conceptualization of HIV, HCV, and COVID-19 among people who inject drugs



Adapted from Shiao S et al. *AIDS Behav* (2020). Singer M. (John Wiley & Sons, 2009).

What is Tele-Harm Reduction

- Telehealth-enhanced
- **On-demand** services
- **Low-barrier** access to MOUD, ART and HCV cure
- Mobile phlebotomy
- Harm reduction counseling and medication management
- Telehealth mental health/substance use disorder services
- Delivered via an SSP, integrated with the provision of evidence-based naloxone and injection equipment



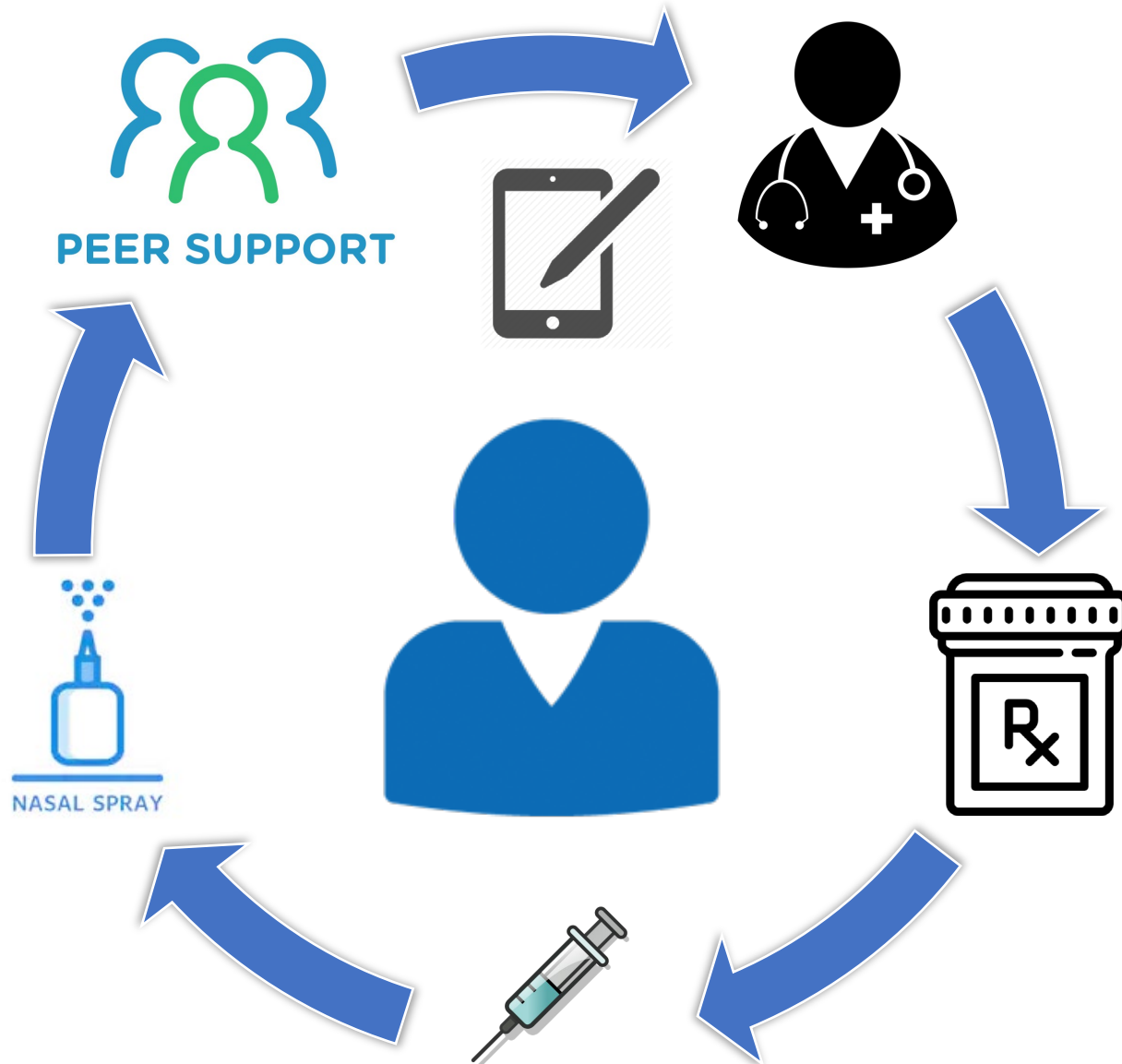
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What is Tele-Harm Reduction?



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Integrating Wrap Around Services

BRITE IDEA Clinic

BupRenorphine Initiation and Treatment Experience

The BRITE IDEA Clinic is a program aimed at delivering easy and free access to buprenorphine (SUBOXONE) for people with opioid addiction

In order to qualify people must meet the following criteria:

1. Have opioid addiction and be interested in recovery. Opioids include fentanyl, heroin, and prescription painkillers
2. Enrolled as a participant of IDEA Exchange
3. Cannot have health insurance including Medicaid, Medicare, Ryan White, and commercial insurance*

To continue in the BRITE IDEA program patients must:

1. Complete a 30-minute assessment with our psychologist at enrollment and every 6-months
2. Complete follow up appointments with our doctor/student team at least every 4 weeks.
3. Coordinate medication refill pick ups with the IDEA Exchange team
4. Intermittent urine drug testing, as needed

*People with insurance can still obtain buprenorphine prescribed through our clinic, but the BRITE IDEA program can only fund uninsured patients

BRITE IDEA Clinic

BupRenorphine Initiation and Treatment Experience

Obtaining your medications:

1. All dispensed medications will be provided by the IDEA SSP Community Engagement Team. Direct pick-ups from pharmacy will not be permitted
2. Medication can only be dispensed to the participant
3. Call the IDEA team at **786-769-8118** a few days before you run out of meds to coordinate your next refill
4. You are solely responsible for your medication. Early refills will not be permitted

Other BRITE IDEA services:

1. Counseling sessions (walk-in/telehealth) and group sessions (zoom) will be provided every week on Wednesday
2. Let us know if you'd like us to store your medications on-site in our "pill locker" program. You can take a few days at a time if you're worried about it being lost or stolen



| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Monday | 10 AM – 4 PM |
| Tuesday | 12 PM – 6 PM |
| Wednesday | 10 AM – 4 PM |
| Thursday | 12 PM – 6 PM |
| Friday | 10 AM – 4 PM |
| Saturday | 8 AM – 11 AM |
| Sunday | Closed |

Integrating Wrap Around Services

A look at the numbers

- Total BRITE participants in year 1: 161
- Total BRITE participants uninsured: 107
- Total BRITE participants insured: 54 (some started without insurance)
- Total number Doctor (MD) visits in 2021: 253 (uninsured)
- Total number of medication pick-ups by BRITE team in 2021: 325
- 3-month retention: 56%

BRITE IDEA Clinic

BupRenorphine Initiation and Treatment Experience

Qualitative Interviews (n=30)

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- *Theme 1: Participants felt an SSP mobile unit would be a safe, confidential, and comfortable location for receiving MOUD and/or PrEP*
 - “One-Stop Shop”
- *Theme 2: The SSP mobile unit is more accessible than other SUD/HIV treatment facilities, and accessibility could be further enhanced through strategic locations and open hours*
- *Theme 3: Participants desired SSP staff who were caring, non-judgmental, appeared approachable, and had lived SUD experience*
 - Most participants had no racial or ethnic preference



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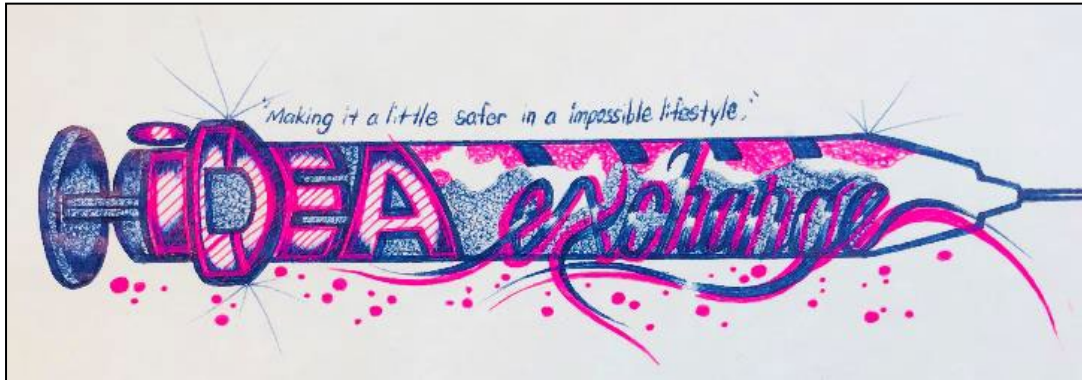
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Acknowledgements



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University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Tyler Bartholomew

Daniel Feaster

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IDEA Exchange Team

External Collaborators

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Florida Department of Health



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Evaluation of FORE's COVID-19 National Emergency



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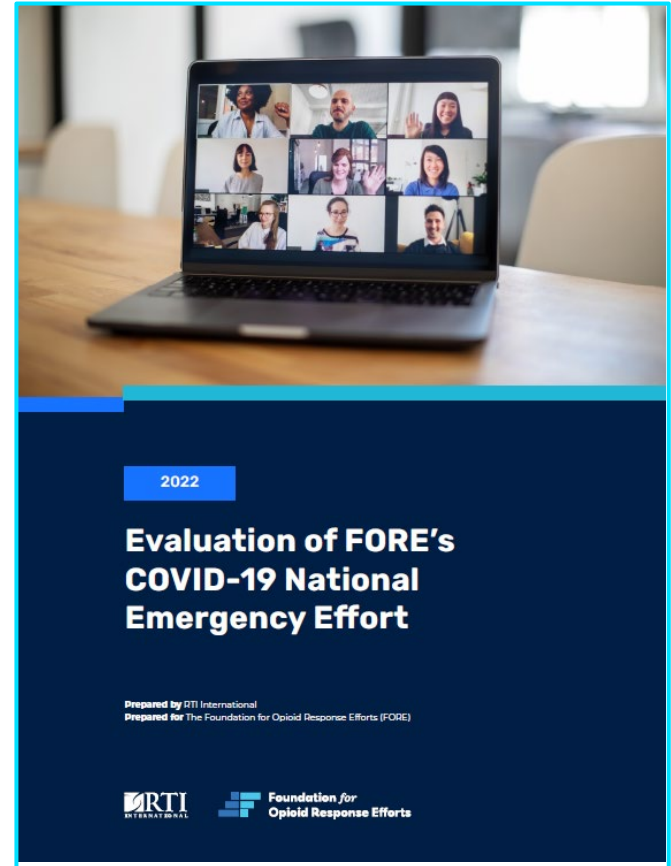


Jessica Cance, MPH, PhD

Senior Research Public Health Analyst
RTI International

Our Approach: Developmental Evaluation

- Identify promising strategies and policies that improve efforts to address the opioid overdose crisis within the context of challenges exacerbated by COVID-19
- Identify common barriers and facilitators to implementing recovery support services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Document the collective successes
- Create a learning environment among grantees and FORE staff



| Grantee Name | Services Supported With Funding | Target Population | Funding Amount | Number Served |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Addiction Policy Forum | App-based recovery support services | People involved in the criminal justice system | \$49,440 | 637 |
| Association of Recovery in Higher Education | Staff summit and ongoing discussion series | Collegiate faculty and staff | \$18,513 | 613 |
| Ballad Health | Peer recovery support specialist training and certification | Rural residents; people involved in the criminal justice system | \$73,614 | 1,763 |
| Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program | In-person and virtual bilingual recovery support services | Urban residents; people of Hispanic ethnicity | \$49,920 | 158 |
| Midlands Recovery Center | Virtual recovery support services | Members of the public; people involved in the criminal justice system | \$45,680 | 372 |
| Renewal House | In-person and virtual recovery support services | Rural residents; pregnant and parenting women | \$54,267 | 40 |
| The Providence Center | Virtual recovery support services | Members of the public; people involved in the criminal justice system | \$62,989 | 118 |
| University of Miami | Virtual recovery support services; counseling for people who inject drugs | Members of minority communities; homeless populations | \$75,000 | 96 |
| Young People in Recovery | Virtual recovery chapter meetings | Youth and young adults | \$50,000 | 37,000 |

Data Sources



Grantee Interviews

Thirteen individuals representing the nine grantees participated in semistructured interviews at two time points.

First round (June through October 2021): focused on organizational characteristics and program characteristics.

Second round (October and November 2021): focused on external policies, evaluation activities of the grantees, and organizational outcomes.



All-Grantee Meeting

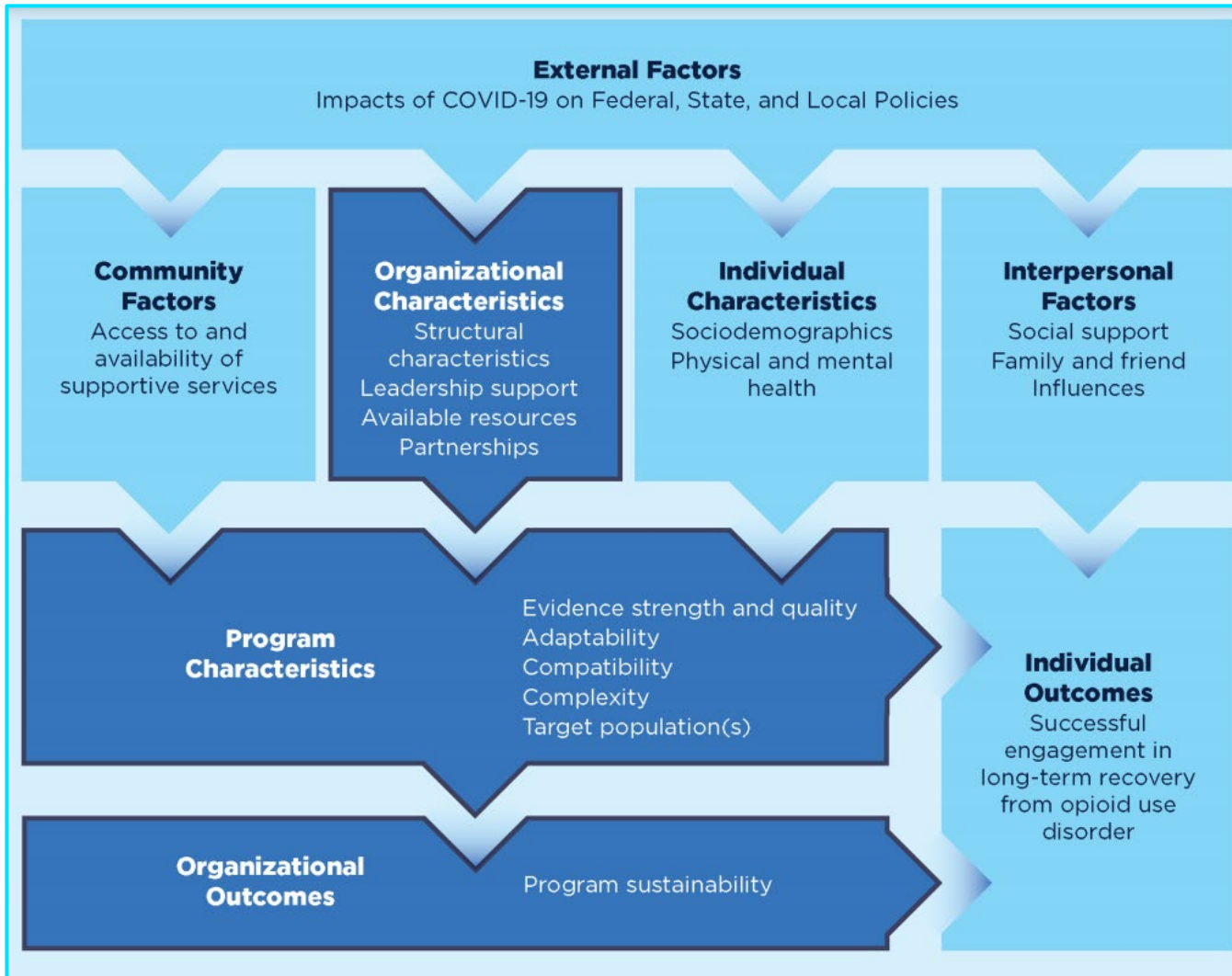
We led an all-grantee meeting in September 2021 that included updates from each grantee and small group discussions on client engagement, evaluation, and sustainability.



Grantee Progress Reports

Every 6 months, grantees provided FORE with data on their proposed and completed activities, successes, and challenges.

Conceptual Model



Themes: External Factors

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Challenges

- Lockdowns and social distancing regulations
- Increase in opioid overdose deaths

Facilitators

- Federal and state policies, including changes in telehealth regulations
- FORE rapid response funding
- Collaboration with FORE during the development and implementation of programming

“There [were] endless barriers, even before COVID. And then COVID made it nearly impossible.”

“Certain services were shut down and they had passed legislation... that allows 12 step recovery groups and other recovery groups... to be considered an essential service. And the people providing or attending those services are exempt from the state of emergency [lockdown].”

Themes:

Organizational Characteristics

Challenges

- Some of the respondents came from smaller organizations that were less developed organizationally and lacked the resources and staff necessary to effectively implement and evaluate interventions

“...we elevate and require people with lived experiences as part of the program. When you look at a champion, you need someone with lived experience... Someone who is clearly passionate.”

Facilitators

- Staff with lived experience are highly engaged and dedicated to increasing accessing to OUD treatment and recovery support services
- Organizations worked with partners with whom they had a longstanding relationship, reducing time to build the relationship and processes to facilitate the intervention

Themes:

Program Characteristics and Organizational Outcomes

Challenges

- Engagement with Zoom was challenging for staff as well as for people in recovery. Staff required technical assistance to effectively use Zoom for recovery meetings, and Zoom fatigue was apparent after a few months.
 - Despite the fatigue, all grantees plan to continue online recovery and training.
- As is typically the case in program implementation or innovation, funding to efficiently implement can be a challenge. The challenge exists in the initial implementation as well as in sustainability.

“For some of our patients, they’re saying ‘This is great. We love this. We want to do this more’ and then others say ‘hey, I kind of miss being in person. In person is better for me’”.

Recommendations

Include staff with lived experiences

- Staff with lived experiences exhibited strong dedication to their work of increasing access to OUD treatment and recovery support services.
- Centering the roles of employees with past experiences akin to the experiences of those they serve strengthens organizational capacity and impact.

Leverage existing and identify complementary partnerships

- Grantees engaged in service provision more effectively when they built upon longstanding partnerships rather than seeking new ones.
- Grantees were also successful in building complementary partnerships.

Integrate virtual services into pre-pandemic service offerings

- Integrating virtual services into regular service offerings may increase reach to a broader population post-pandemic.

“In speaking of the clients, we were able to provide something for them, with all of the challenges that we have ... To me, that’s the goal, to be able to provide a service that people actually need. And we’re seeing the results of it.”

Recommendations

Continue to build capacity of grantees through both capacity-building grants and learning environments

- General operating funds provided the chance for organizations to improve upon infrastructure in addition to delivering services.
- Fostering a collaborative learning environment or community of practice would benefit all types of organizations.

Establish a mechanism for quick response initiatives

- Reducing time from request for proposals to dissemination of funding allowed for quick response to an emerging public health treat impacting people who use opioids.
- Rapid response funding provided an opportunity for grantees to test innovations in real time.

“But it’s like every day is a new learning experience and overcoming obstacles and tribulation. It can be trying at times. But it’s just awesome, like every day be getting more and more developed.”

Questions?

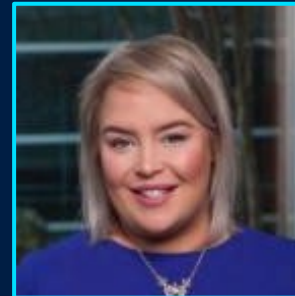


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Take Care of Yourself!
Thank You For Your Work!



About the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts

The Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) was founded in 2018 as a private 501(c)(3) national, grant-making foundation focused on addressing the nation's opioid crisis. FORE is committed to funding a diversity of projects contributing solutions to the crisis at national, state, and community levels. FORE's mission is to convene and support partners advancing patient-centered, innovative, evidence-based solutions impacting people experiencing opioid use disorder, their families, and their communities.

For more information, please visit www.ForeFdn.org.



About Renewal House

Renewal House provides specialized addiction treatment to women and their children. They are the only long-term family residential program in Middle Tennessee that treats women and their children together. Since 1996, Renewal House has served more than 8,000 women and children through their programs.

For more information, please visit <https://www.renewalhouse.org/>.



About Ballad Health

Ballad Health is an integrated community health improvement organization serving 29 counties of the Appalachian Highlands in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Northwest North Carolina and Southeast Kentucky. We're dedicated to improving the health of the people we serve. Their system of 21 hospitals, post-acute care and behavioral health services, and a large multi-specialty group physician practice works closely with an independent medical community and community stakeholders to improve the health and well-being of close to one million people.

For more information, please visit <https://www.balladhealth.org/>.



MIAMI

About the University of Miami

A private research university with more than 17,000 students from around the world, the University of Miami is a vibrant and diverse academic community focused on teaching and learning, the discovery of new knowledge, and service to the South Florida region and beyond. The University comprises 12 schools and colleges serving undergraduate and graduate students in nearly 350 majors and programs. Established in 1925 during the region's famous real estate boom, UM is a major research university engaged in \$324 million in research and sponsored program expenditures annually. While the majority of this work is housed at the Miller School of Medicine, investigators conduct hundreds of studies in other areas, including marine science, engineering, education, and psychology.

For more information, please visit <https://welcome.miami.edu/>.



About the RTI International

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Their vision is to address the world's most critical problems with science-based solutions in pursuit of a better future.

Combining scientific rigor and technical proficiency, RTI delivers reliable data, thorough analysis, innovative methods, novel technologies, and sustainable programs that help clients inform public policy and ground practice in evidence. RTI scales their approach to fit the demands of each project, delivering the power of a global leader and the passion of a local partner.

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