

Survey of Peer-run Organizations That Have Programs Serving Individuals with Behavioral Health Conditions and Criminal Justice Histories

A Project of The College for Behavioral Health Leadership's Peer Leaders Interest Group, The Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion and the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse

The United States has less than 5 percent of the world's population, but it has [almost a quarter of the world's prisoners](#). And [more than half of them have a mental health problem](#), according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. People who live with mental health challenges are [less likely to be released on bail](#), and have [longer jail and prison terms](#). Even when they are released, they are more likely to incur [technical probation violations](#). And this doesn't even take into account how difficult it is for people coming out of jails and prisons to [get jobs](#) and [housing](#), which are essential to finding their way back to normal lives.

Because of the enormous need, this survey was developed to identify peer-run programs/services that serve individuals with behavioral health conditions who are returning to the community from jails and prisons. [Peer-run organizations have been, and continue to be, leaders](#) in providing cutting-edge, recovery-oriented mental health services and supports; so there is much to learn from their – that is, your – experience.

After these programs are identified, a document will be developed that will include:

- programs doing this work,
- guidelines for program design and/or advocacy initiatives,
- policy recommendations derived from the survey along with interviews of services, and
- an appendix, including:
 - a bibliography,
 - organizational contacts,
 - usable resources,
 - a dissemination and impact plan.

We would be grateful for your participation! Because this survey is lengthy, it has been designed so that you do not have to complete it at one sitting; you can save your work and come back to it before submitting it. In addition, we have posted a pdf online so that you can see all the questions before you begin.

If you are willing to fill out the survey online, please complete it by December 23, 2015. And thank you for your help!

Name of Peer-run Program: _____

Address: _____

Person Completing the Survey: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Part One: Describe Your Program Serving Individuals with Behavioral Health Conditions and Criminal Justice Involvement

1. How did you identify the need for the program?
2. Where has the program been implemented?
 - a. Describe the community.
 - b. Describe the setting for the program.
3. How do you identify individuals to serve? For example, do you receive referrals from your local behavioral health program? From elsewhere?
4. How many individuals with behavioral health conditions and criminal justice involvement were served by your program in the last fiscal year?
5. Describe the demographic make-up of the population served.
6. How do you promote people's engagement in the community? Do you offer assistance with: Employment? Housing? Education? Family connections (according to people's wishes)? Financial management? Connection to behavioral health providers? Connection to community recreational activities? Connection to a faith-based community of their choice? Please provide as much detail as possible.
7. Describe the key elements of the program.
8. Describe the staffing requirements of the program, including staff qualifications.
9. Describe the kind of supervision that your program/service uses.
10. Do you encourage and/or support peers with behavioral health conditions and criminal justice involvement to:
 - a. Join peer-run organizational groups?
 - b. Contribute to the peer-run organization in other ways?
 - c. Mentor other individuals with behavioral health conditions and forensic histories who are new to the community?
11. Do you go into jails and prisons to work with people before their release? If so, how is this arranged?
12. What training is offered to staff to provide these services? Please describe.
 - a. To do this work, do you employ forensic peer specialists and/or peer specialists without a forensic background?
13. Describe any barriers you faced in the implementation of the program and how you overcame them or how they changed the program.
14. What is the overall cost of your program?
15. Where does your funding come from?

Part Two: Describe Your Partnerships

1. Do you partner with local community behavioral health programs? Yes () No () If yes, please describe.
2. Do you partner with jails and/or prisons? Yes () No () If yes, please describe.
3. Do you partner with local probation offices? Yes () No () If yes, please describe.
4. Do you partner with local faith-based organizations or other human services organizations?

Yes () No () If yes, please describe.

5. Do you have other partners? Yes () No () If yes, please describe.

Part Three: Outcomes and Follow-up

1. Please describe the benefits of the programs you have initiated.
2. What data, if any, do you have on the effectiveness of your services?
3. What issues or concerns, if any, have been raised?
- 4. Can we contact you for more information and/or to discuss your program in more depth?**
5. Do you know of other peer-run organizations that address the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health issues? If so, how can we contact them?

Part Four: Materials

Can you share any materials that help you to inform people about your program, and to welcome to your community, and serve, individuals with behavioral health conditions who are coming out of jails and prisons? These might include:

1. a written program description,
2. any intake or program note forms,
3. any collaborative agreements related to the program,
4. any guidance documents provided to staff who are working with criminal justice-involved individuals, and/or
5. any other materials.

Part Five: Training

1. Would training be required for other groups wishing to implement the program/service?
2. Can your organization provide technical assistance to other groups wishing to replicate your program/service?
3. Have you developed fidelity criteria for replication of the program/service? Can you provide them?
4. Please provide links to additional materials and resources that would be of aid for those wishing to replicate or adapt the program/service. Please email them to Susan Rogers (srogers@mhasp.org).

Thank you!