

14th Annual Reducing Recidivism & Reentry Conference
Creating Healthy Relationships – Building Supportive Communities
Hotel Captain Cook | Anchorage, Alaska

Thursday, March 7, 2019

8:00 am

Welcome, Morning Address

8:30 am – 10:00 am Session 1

The Intersection of Substance Use, Trauma and Incarceration

Christina Love, Training Project Specialist for The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Through the power of storytelling, Christina Love will give the audience an in-depth examination of the relationship that trauma has to substance use, mental illness, suicide, and incarceration. She will explain how trauma and co-occurring issues, societal abuse and oppression lead to multiple barriers for people seeking help. Her story is one of recovery, resiliency, and the power of authentic connection. Christina's personal experience dives to the depths of incomprehensible demoralization and grave harm to resurface with a one-word sentence of hope; anyone can recover, no matter what!

10:15 am – 11:45 am Session 2

What you need to know about MAT for Opioid Use Disorder: The Evidence about Effectiveness, Cost, Safety and Diversion

Dr. Sarah Spencer D.O.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) can be a highly effective treatment to reduce relapse, mortality, criminal activity and disease related costs. This lecture will discuss the science of opioid addiction and how MAT treats OUD. We will discuss common questions and misconceptions about MAT, including relapse, recidivism, length of treatment, polysubstance use and diversion concerns. We will also review the most recent studies and outcomes from the nationwide movement to incorporate MAT into the criminal justice system.

11:45 am – 12:15 pm

Lunch Networking – Lunch provided

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm

Lunch and Learn Session - Pay for Success

Monica Gross, Senior Associate, Agnew Beck Consulting.

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1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Session 3

Focusing on the Future: Implementing the Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model with Youth and Young Adults

Jennifer O'Neal, BHS TIPS, Denali Family Services TIP Supervisor, Teagan Presler BA, CDC & Melanie Santos, Peer Support Specialist Supervisor, Denali Family Services

Transitional aged youth face unique challenges, and the goal of working with this population is to help them make the successful transition into adulthood. In order to be successful with transitional aged youth, services providers must be able to engage young people, ensure services that are coordinated, non-stigmatizing, trauma-informed, developmentally-appropriate, and provide appealing supports and services to the young person. The services should also include family members and informal supports the youth identify. The Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model is an evidenced supported model that utilizes these traits to focus on improving real-life outcomes for youth and young adults (14-29) with emotional/behavioral difficulties and their families.

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Session 4

The Science of Traumatic Stress: Trauma's Impact on the Brain as a Pathway to Understanding Behavior

Joshua Arvidson, MSS., LCSW, Director of the Alaska Child Trauma Center and Child and Family Services at ACMHS

Improving our understanding of the impact of traumatic stress can help us better understand the experiences, responses and behaviors of individuals impacted by trauma. This is critical for understanding persons interfacing with the justice system, as prevalence data show very high (nearly universal) rates of trauma exposure in this population.

3:45 pm – 5:15 pm Session 5

Community-Based Reentry Centers – Should Your Community Have One?

Cathleen McLaughlin, J.D./M.B.A., Director, Partners Reentry Center

Since its creation 2013, Partners Reentry Center (PRC) has developed into a robust community-based reentry center. The 2 primary goals of PRC is to reduce Alaska's recidivism rate and to enhance public safety. Any community, no matter how big or small, can provide community-based reentry services. PRC is one model that can be replicated at various levels in all Alaskan communities, if the community has the will to have a reentry process.

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8:00 am

Welcome, Morning Address

8:15 am – 10:15 am Session 6

Reentry Coalition Round-up

Alaska has a robust network of providers working with individuals releasing from prisons and jails across the state; however, many communities identify coordination and collaboration as a key challenge. In an effort to increase stakeholder engagement and to address the multifaceted needs of individuals involved with the criminal justice system, community-based reentry coalitions are operating in eight locations across the state. Reentry coalitions consist of community members and those with lived experience who have an interest in reducing recidivism, improving lives for those released from a correctional facility, and increasing public safety. A key responsibility of coalitions is to assess community needs and to work with the community to address service gaps. Learn about the unique characteristics and needs of each reentry coalition, gain insights into new initiatives, and receive updates about current coalition projects.

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Session 7

Holistic Defense Model

Quinlan Steiner, Public Defender Agency; Nikole Nelson, Alaska Legal Services; Megan Newport, Protective Services Specialist II, Bethel, AK

The Holistic Defense Model, based out of Brooklyn New York, has been implemented in a smaller community clear across the country ~ Bethel, Alaska. Holistic defense differs from the traditional public defense model that emphasizes criminal representation and courtroom advocacy. In this model, public defenders work in interdisciplinary teams to address both the immediate case and the underlying life circumstances — such as drug addiction, mental illness, or family or housing instability — that contribute to their clients contact with the criminal justice system. Learn how the holistic defense model approach is improving case outcomes and reduces recidivism by better addressing clients' underlying needs and reasons for criminal justice involvement.

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Lunch Networking – Lunch provided

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12:30 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch and Learn - Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Grant

Shane Barnabie, DOLW

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm Session 8

Utilizing Peer Support in Alaska to Promote Hope, Build Rapport and Establish Trust

Panel: Susan Musante, Social Services Program Officer and Supervisor of Recovery Services and Supports with the Dept. of Behavior Health; James Savage, Peer Support Specialist with Cook Inlet Tribal Council; Chet Atkins, member of Partners Reentry Center FOCUS Peer Support group; Moderator; Ron Wilson, Board Chair, Alaska Therapeutic Court Alumni Group ~ Venus Woods

Peer Support is an evidence-based practice designed to empower individuals in to stay engaged with the recovery process in order to reduce the likelihood of recidivating. Peer Support training, oversight, and fidelity to recovery competencies are important elements of successful programs. In this session we will hear from Peers in our community who promote hope by sharing their lived experience with those they are supporting. Attendees will also learn about current developments within Peer Support, including updates about a state certificate for Peer Support.

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm Session 9

Coordinated Reentry ~ Housing

Brian Wilson, Executive Director, Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness; Mike Sanders, Fairbanks Housing & Homelessness Coalition Coordinator; Heidi Carson, Director of Housing, Covenant House Alaska

Housing is an essential component in reducing recidivism and an individual's wellbeing but is not always as connected with the justice system as is needed for successful outcomes. This panel will present an overview of different housing interventions in Alaska, how they are performing, and how communities are successful in reducing recidivism rates. Panelists will also discuss housing programs for juveniles and transition-aged youth and identify current successes and challenges with service delivery.

*Conference Agenda is subject to change