

Project Engage: How to Integrate Peer Recovery Coaches into the ED and Inpatient Setting

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a little step
may be the beginning
of a great journey

Our Experiences

- Emergency Department Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS)
 - 2 Certified PRS that cover 10 hours a day, 7 days per week
 - Engage with individuals in with overdose or substance use disorder (SUD) related illnesses
 - All hands on deck but know the limits and don't be afraid to ask for help



Our Experiences



- Inpatient PRS
 - 1 Certified PRS just added for inpatients at SMMC
 - Have a conversation with patients, supports them in their decision, and links them to recovery resources of their choice
- Immense Value
 - Remains a point of contact for patient/family
 - PRS engaged with 104/107 patients from Sept 2018 to Jan 2019 with majority being linked to services of some kind

Supervision

- Recovery Point
 - Background check
 - Random drug screenings
 - Provides cell phone and laptop computer
- St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC)
 - Contractual employees at SMMC
 - Check in with Addiction Nurse Specialist daily
 - Check in with ED Charge nurse
 - Peer recovery specialists are in recovery themselves
 - Self-care first!
 - Use supervisor as a support when necessary



Skills

- Boundaries
- Ethics
- Self-Care
- Be mindful of cultural differences
- Work independently
- Find a way to build a rapport
- Think on your feet



Lessons Learned Along the Way

- There is no “one size fits all” method to recovery
- Open mind
- Things are not always going to go as you plan



Resources, Collaboration, & Transportation



How can you make this work?

- Administrative will
- Champion staff
- Stigma reduction
- The proof is in the pudding
- No cookie cutter answer
- It is possible



