



# COSSAP Year in Review 2022: Training and Technical Assistance Providers Highlight Their Most Impactful Products

## Catching Up With COSSAP, December 2022

The training and technical assistance (TTA) providers that support the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grantees produced a host of impactful products in 2022 that, taken together, not only enhanced the efficiency and reach of the grantees' work but pushed the fields of treatment and prevention forward demonstrably. Publications, toolkits, guides, webinars, podcasts, videos, mentor programs, special web pages: across all formats, TTA providers' scholarship, expertise, and outreach defined the cutting edge of comprehensive community responses to substance use challenges, enabling the grantees to adopt new practices in core COSSAP approaches such as law enforcement and first responder deflection, peer support, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), overdose prevention, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Listed below are resources that TTA providers produced for COSSAP which they identified as their most impactful during 2022.

### Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.

#### Legal Brief: *Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails*—

Jails are facing wrongful death lawsuits and other litigation for inadequate medical care, resulting in large financial settlements or judgments against counties, jail administrators, staff, and health care providers. This task is

especially pronounced in instances of acute withdrawal from substances that, left unaddressed, can result in serious health complications and death. This legal brief provides an overview of key legislation and significant court cases related to substance withdrawal, as well as

steps for jails seeking to create a comprehensive response to substance use disorder (SUD).

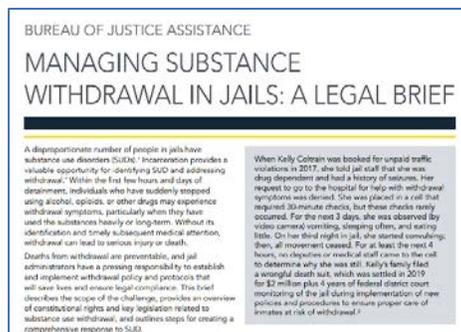
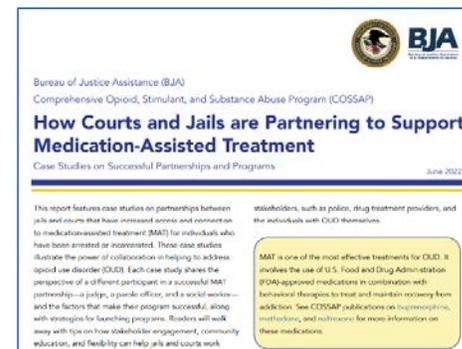
#### Publication: *How Courts and Jails Are Partnering to Support Medication-Assisted Treatment*—

The Americans with Disabilities Act can help protect people in recovery from opioid use disorder (OUD) who are not engaging in illegal drug use, including those who are taking legally prescribed medication to treat their OUD, from

discrimination. Research indicates that starting treatment for OUD during incarceration is more effective than referral to treatment at the time of release and reentry. This publication illustrates the power of collaboration in helping to address OUD. It features case studies of partnerships between jails and courts that have increased access and connection to MAT for individuals who have been arrested or incarcerated.

#### Fact Sheet: *Screening for Substance Use Disorders in Jails*—

Crimes are often committed by individuals who are under the influence of substances, and SUDs are common among people in jail. This fact sheet introduces administrative, clinical, and nonclinical jail staff to substance use disorder (SUD) screening instruments and their use in jail settings.



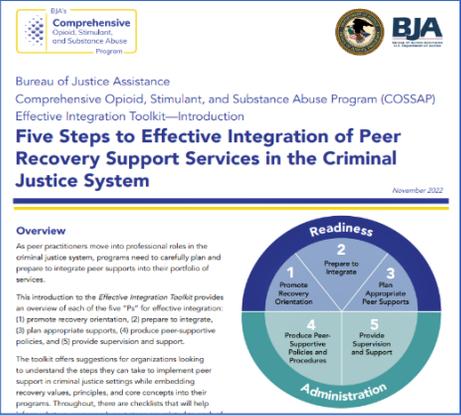
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### Altarum

#### Publication: *Five Steps to Effective Integration of Peer Recovery Support Services in the Criminal Justice System*

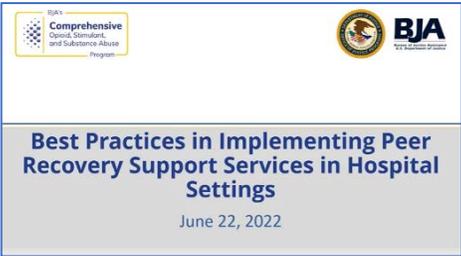
As peer practitioners move into professional roles in the criminal justice system, programs need to carefully plan and prepare to integrate peer supports into their portfolios of services. The toolkit offers suggestions for organizations looking to understand the steps they can take to implement peer support in criminal justice settings while embedding recovery values, principles, and core concepts into their programs.



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#### Webinar: *Best Practices in Implementing Peer Recovery Support Services in Hospital Settings*

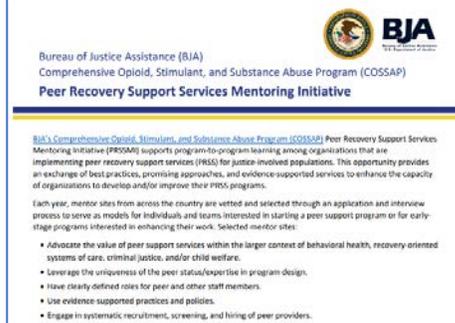
Peer recovery support services (PRSS) are increasingly offered across diverse community, criminal justice, and health care settings to address opioid, stimulant, and other substance use disorders. With a goal of strengthening programmatic outcomes and advocating for greater programmatic implementation, the Bureau of Justice Assistance's COSSAP has begun focusing on the evaluation of peer programs. This webinar explores the implementation of peer supports within two hospital settings from both an individual hospital and a hospital network perspective.



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#### Brief: *Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative – Mentor Sites*

COSSAP's Peer Recovery Support Services Mentoring Initiative (PRSSMI) supports program-to-program learning among organizations



Each year, mentor sites from across the country are vetted and selected through an application and interview process to serve as models for individuals and teams interested in starting a peer support program or for early-stage programs interested in enhancing their work.

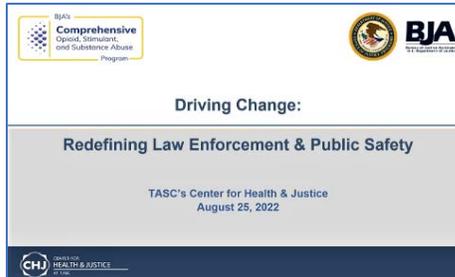
- Advocate the value of peer support services within the larger context of behavioral health, recovery-oriented systems of care, criminal justice, and/or child welfare.
- Leverage the uniqueness of the peer status/expertise in program design.
- Have clearly defined roles for peer and other staff members.
- Use evidence-supported practices and policies.
- Engage in systematic recruitment, screening, and hiring of peer providers.

that are implementing PRSS for justice-involved populations. This opportunity provides an exchange of best practices, promising approaches, and evidence-supported services to enhance the capacity of organizations to develop and/or improve their PRSS programs. Each year, mentor sites from across the country are vetted and selected through an application and interview process to serve as models for individuals and teams interested in starting a peer support program or for early-stage programs interested in enhancing their work.

#### Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)

#### Webinar: *Driving Change: Redefining Law Enforcement & Public Safety*

This webinar offers innovative solutions designed to change the culture of policing into one in which reform reflects equity, high competence, and—most of all—confidence as the ever-changing needs of communities are addressed. It features panelists who highlighted three main objectives centered on redefining the roles law enforcement and public safety agencies have and how both can work together with other organizations to address the stimulant and opioid crisis alongside racial and ethnic disparities in policing.

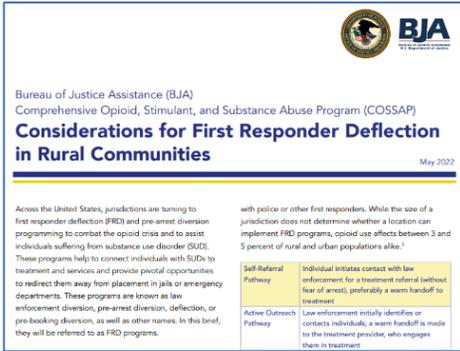


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**Brief: *Considerations for First Responder Deflection in Rural Communities***—Across the United States, jurisdictions are turning to first responder deflection (FRD)



and pre-arrest diversion programming to combat the opioid crisis and to assist individuals suffering from SUDs. These programs help connect

individuals with SUDs to treatment and services and provide pivotal opportunities to redirect them away from placement in jails or emergency departments. The purpose of this brief is to explore challenges faced by rural jurisdictions in the implementation of FRD and the innovative responses that have been developed by them.

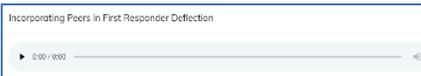
**Recovery Month Podcast Series: *First Responder Deflection***—In the **first podcast**, Safe Project and the



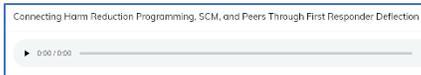
Warm Handoff Program in Waterbury,

Connecticut, explain how to implement harm reduction and deflection programming.

In the **second podcast**, Altarum and Merakey in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, describe the process of incorporating peers into first responder deflection.

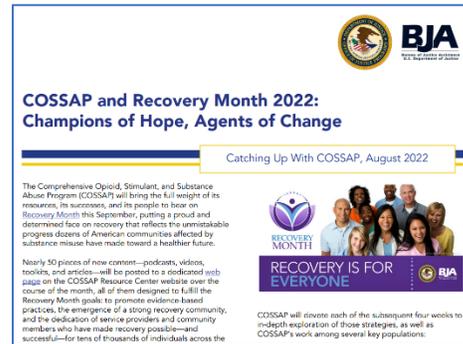


In the **final podcast**, CHJ connects harm reduction programming, specialized case management, and peers through deflection.



## Institute for Intergovernmental Research

**Newsletter Article: "COSSAP and Recovery Month 2022: Champions of Hope, Agents of Change"**—



COSSAP brought the full weight of its resources, its successes, and its people to bear on Recovery Month in September 2022, putting a proud and determined face on recovery that reflects the

progress that dozens of American communities affected by substance misuse have made toward a healthier future. Beginning with a blog post by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon, of the Office of Justice Programs, nearly 50 pieces of new content—podcasts, videos, toolkits, and articles—were posted to a dedicated [Recovery Month web page](#) on the COSSAP Resource Center website, all of them designed to celebrate the dedication of service providers and community members who have made recovery possible for tens of thousands of individuals across the country.

***Champions of Recovery Videos: "That's the Way Recovery Works: One Person in Recovery Helping Another"***—Champions Share Journeys From Isolation to Connection and Far Beyond—Among the resources



posted to the dedicated Recovery Month web page, none captured what recovery means better than the COSSAP *Champions of Recovery* video messages. Viewed together, the 27

Champions messages turned the abstract concept of recovery into something tangible: a story that is told 27 different ways but ultimately describes its subjects' common journey away from isolation, shame, and stigma and toward support, purpose, and reintegration into their communities.

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**[A Practitioner's Guide to Implementation: Next-of-Kin Interviews](#)**—A next-of-kin (NOK) interview provides an in-depth look at how someone lived, their social supports,

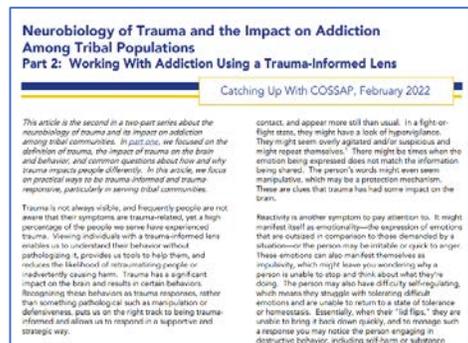


and the circumstances that lead to an overdose death. NOK interviews are tools that overdose fatality reviews (OFRs) can use to expand their understanding of the life experiences of a decedent and identify nontraditional touchpoints or systems that may not be represented by the OFR members. This

toolkit provides readers with information needed to identify, conduct, and report on an NOK interview. The content draws on practice-based knowledge of conducting NOK interviews as part of an OFR.

## National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College

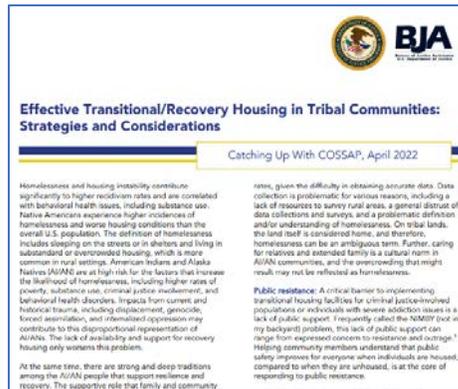
**[Newsletter Article: "Neurobiology of Trauma and the Impact on Addiction Among Tribal Populations: Part 2: Working With Addiction Using a Trauma-Informed Lens"](#)**—Because trauma is not always visible and people



are frequently unaware that their symptoms are trauma-related, it is critical that providers be familiar with trauma's impact on the brain and behavior and what they can do

about it. This article is the second in a two-part series about the neurobiology of trauma and its impact on addiction among tribal communities, with a specific focus on practical ways to become trauma-informed and trauma-responsive.

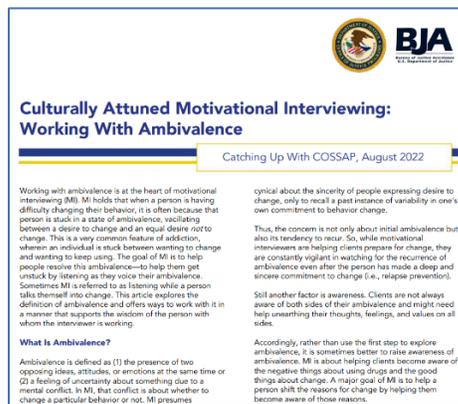
**[Newsletter Article: "Effective Transitional/Recovery Housing in Tribal Communities: Strategies and Considerations"](#)**—Homelessness and housing instability contribute significantly to higher recidivism rates and are



correlated with behavioral health issues, including substance use. American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) are at high risk for the factors that increase the likelihood of homelessness; the lack of

availability and support for recovery housing only worsens this problem. At the same time, there are strong and deep traditions among the AI/AN people that support resilience and recovery. This article is a detailed look at strategies for implementing effective transitional and recovery-supportive housing in tribal communities.

**[Newsletter Article: "Culturally Attuned Motivational Interviewing: Working With Ambivalence"](#)**—Working with ambivalence is at the heart of motivational



having difficulty changing their behavior, it is often because that person is stuck in a state of ambivalence, vacillating between a desire to change and an equal desire not to change. This is a very common feature of

addiction. The goal of MI is to help people get unstuck by listening as they voice their ambivalence. This article explores MI and ways to work with ambivalence that support the wisdom of the individual being interviewed.

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### RTI International

**Webinar: Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl in the United States: Trends and Truths**—Jon E. Zibbell, PhD, a senior public health analyst at RTI International, enhances



understanding of fentanyl overdose risk and offers an evidence-based framework for reducing unwitting fentanyl exposure by demonstrating

how levels of fentanyl toxicity are contingent on specific modes of consumption and pathways of exposure. He also recounts the experiences of people who use fentanyl to describe—from the consumer's point of view—its physiological effects and the types of unique overdose presentations that appear during toxic fentanyl events.

### Recovery Month Video: *A Mother's Journey*—

Justin Phillips, a mother of three who has been in recovery from SUD since 1989, describes her powerful journey of recovery and how her experience informed her response



to her own son's substance use. "One of the things we need to do better is just to be honest and willing to ask for help—and not let the shame and stigma that

exist prohibit us from seeking care and doing whatever we can in our power to help people we love with substance use disorder."

### Newsletter Article: "Increasing Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Jails and Prisons"—

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) play vital roles in reducing the risk of overdose, but people who are



incarcerated can have difficulty accessing them. Buprenorphine, for example, is one of the most common forms of MOUD in jails and prisons, yet it is rarely available. However, recent research shows that access is on

the rise. This article highlights a few key details about the current state of MOUD access in carceral settings and how much has changed in the past 5 years.