



What's in a Name?

The Roles of Peer Specialists

Welcome and Introductions



Welcome

- Timothy Jeffries, Senior Policy Advisor, BJA
- Diana Williams, Project Manager, Altarum
- Elizabeth Burden, Technical Assistance Director, Altarum
- Sadé Richardson, Analyst, Altarum
- Erin Etwaroo, Analyst, Altarum

Panelists

- Melissa Thompson, Recovery Coach for Centerstone Reentry
- Nancy McConnell, Chief Operating Officer/Program Director for Rebel Recovery FL



Panelist 1: Melissa Thompson, Recovery Coach for Centerstone Reentry

Melissa is a person in long-term recovery with a clean date of June 8, 2014, after having served time for a possession charge. She has two children.

Melissa was able to focus on recovery during her incarceration and extended that focus upon her release.

Melissa was invited to the Peer Recovery Coach Training in Austin, Indiana in 2016. She then applied for Centerstone after completing the training.

Panelist 2: Nancy McConnell, Chief Operating Officer/Program Director at Rebel Recovery FL

Nancy McConnell is a Florida native who has spent the past 10 years working in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health field while pursuing her education goals. She is an alumnus of Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University where she received her Master of Social Work degree and earned membership in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Phi Alpha Honor Society. Nancy is a Certified Master's Level Addiction Professional, (MCAP), Certified Recovery Peer Support, (CRPS), and a certified trainer in the "Helping Others Heal" curriculum and Wellness Recovery Action Plan, (WRAP).

In 2016, Nancy was asked to serve on the Palm Beach County Heroin Overdose Task Force which led to the formation of Rebel Recovery Florida as one of Palm Beach County's first Peer led agencies. As the Chief Operating Officer and Program Director for Rebel Recovery, Nancy has the opportunity to create, develop, and implement all programs that are currently being utilized. These include Peer Supportive services, outreach in the community that includes Naloxone distribution, educational trainings, and the latest endeavor of building a Recovery Community Organization, (RCO).

Nancy has a deep-rooted passion for advocacy for people directly impacted by substance abuse due to her many years of personal experience. She is a devoted advocate for Women's issues, Criminal Justice reform and developing trauma informed practice. Nancy is a firm believer in Harm Reduction and continuously fights for basic Human Rights and social reform for the community that she serves. Nancy currently is a member of the Florida Certification Board Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Faces and Voices Criminal Justice and Recovery Policy Committee.



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More About Centerstone Reentry



- The combined Centerstone is the nation's largest provider of community-based behavioral health services and an emerging industry leader.
- Locations in Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and a military services clinical provider network in 50 states serve over 200,000 individuals and families annually
- Programs offered: Psychiatric evaluation and management, Crisis intervention, Individual and family therapy, Intensive outpatient treatment (addiction), Life skills training, Care coordination, Health, recovery, and employment coaching; Peer recovery services, Permanent and transitional supportive housing, Residential treatment (addiction and mental health), and Therapeutic Foster Care



More About Rebel Recovery



- Headquartered in Palm Beach County, Rebel Recovery Florida, Inc. serves people personally affected by drug use. Whether a person is actively using drugs, entering recovery, in long term recovery, or a loved one affected by problematic drug use, we are committed to supporting you with love, compassion, empathy, and understanding. We bring support, advocacy, low threshold engagement, and education to the Florida communities. Every person is unique, and we strive to ensure person centered, participant driven support is at the forefront of all our services.
- From our Board of Directors to our staff, our organization was founded by and is operated by people with direct lived experience with drug use and recovery. We are a peer led organization. Rebel understands the need for peer to peer connection and support and it is reflected in our programs. It is why we have fought to ensure low threshold access to services throughout Palm Beach County and the state of Florida.
- Programs: Certified Recovery Peer Support, Harm Reduction, Community Outreach, Case Management, Educational Trainings



firestarter **advocate** **mentor** **community**
COACH **RECOVERY** **peer** **health**
interventionist **worker**
supporter **promotora** **bridger**
specialist **helper** **counselor**
navigator



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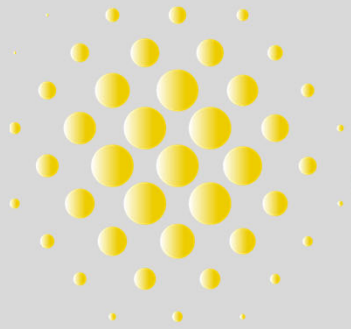
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Dialogue Questions

- What is one thing you have learned about being a peer recovery coach that surprised you?
- What are some of the challenges you experience when working with peers? Ethical/boundary issues?
- How do you seek support for yourself in this work?
- What can programs/ organizations do to better support peer specialists in the work that they do?

Questions?





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