

INTERCEPT 2 TOOLKIT

Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center



YELLOWHAWK
TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

The Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center (Yellowhawk) is a nonprofit organization providing high-quality primary health care for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and other American Indians and Alaska Natives in Oregon's Umatilla and Union Counties since 1996. Yellowhawk's Behavioral Health Department utilizes peer recovery mentors to deliver trauma-informed and culturally responsive substance use treatment and mental health services. Peer recovery mentors conduct outreach in the community, including attending court, seeing clients at the Umatilla County Jail, and participating in monthly parole and probation meetings. Peers offer emotional support to clients during this process; provide transportation to court, as needed; and ensure that Release of Information (ROI) forms are signed and intake packets are completed for Sober Transitional Housing, Oxford House, the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO), Oregon Health Plan, etc. The Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center is supported by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP).



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



**RECOVERY
MONTH**

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BJA's



Comprehensive
Opioid, Stimulant,
and Substance Abuse

Program

CTUIR is a model community in that it participates in its own health care decisions. It was the first tribal group to utilize the Community Health Representative Program (established in 1968) and the first to own its own clinic (construction completed in 1972). Yellowhawk is one of only 5 (out of more than 100) self-governed tribal health centers in the United States to receive national accreditation from the U.S. Public Health Accreditation Board and is a leader in meeting benchmarks established by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1983.

Yellowhawk's mission is to empower its tribal community with opportunities to learn and experience a healthy lifestyle.

Yellowhawk's Tips for Success

- Encourage the use of motivational interviewing (MI) for peer recovery mentors to share their lived experience to build rapport and trust with American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) participants in recovery.
- Utilize contingency management as an evidence-based practice to improve AI/AN participant engagement.
- Provide culturally specific and responsive peer-delivered services and supports.
- Provide initial and ongoing training and clinical supervision, as well as opportunities for personal and professional development that address ethics and boundaries, and appropriate documentation (particularly for coding and billing purposes to ensure program sustainability).
- Train peer recovery mentors about Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2 compliance to protect personally identifiable information and protected health information.
- Encourage or require certification for peer recovery mentors with your local credentialing body to ensure quality peer-delivered services.
- Pay peer recovery mentors a living wage that aligns with the importance of their work. This is an essential recruiting and retention strategy!
- Consistently provide community outreach to potential participants.
- Lead by example! Serve as a role model!
- Be prepared to assist participants with:
 - Applying for benefits.
 - Meeting basic needs such as housing, food, and clothing.
 - Acquiring medical and dental care and psychiatric services and navigating legal services.
 - Pursuing vocational training, education opportunities, and other life skills.
- Establish positive relationships and a network of personal and educational resources through engagement with the court system, law enforcement agencies, and jails.
- Incorporate peer recovery mentors into participant treatment, programming, and organizational planning.
- Intentionally recognize the role of cultural, social, and behavioral factors in the accessibility, availability, acceptability, and delivery of peer recovery services.
- Be open to multiple pathways to recovery.
- Operate from a trauma-informed perspective.

Resources

Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO)
<https://www.mhacbo.org/en/certifications/>

THE CULTURE IS PREVENTION, RECOVERY, AND WELLNESS!

*"I'm still building on my sobriety. I have 634 days! So amazing and really loving this 'new me.' I just keep myself surrounded in prayer and gratitude, full of all the brightest energies."
—Yellowhawk patient*

*"I'm so grateful for your encouraging words. You helped keep my mind right and stop a relapse before it could even be formed. I'm so grateful for our connections here and our shared desire to maintain recovery."
—Yellowhawk patient*