

Harm Reduction & the Therapeutic Alliance

Thursday, March 23rd, 2023

Start: 1:00 PM ET

End: 3:15 PM ET

Instructors: Andrew Spiers, LSW & Khalil Martin, LSW

Relationships impact outcomes. As such, we know that open and honest communication can lead to increased safety for those engaged in high risk behavior. In this session, we'll explore the bond between provider and participant as one of the primary vehicles for positive change. Centering our approach in authenticity, collaboration, and compassion, attendees will explore strategies for building and maintaining a therapeutic alliance with individuals managing substance use disorders, serious mental illness, and other behavioral health challenges. Presenters will contrast themes of "accountability" and "enabling" with the importance of rapport, empathy, and unconditional positive regard. We will review practical applications of harm reduction skills in clinical interactions and touch on the intersections of harm reduction and abstinence-based recovery models. Presenters will discuss strategies to help individuals explore their relationship to risk behaviors in a manner that emphasizes safety, connection, and bodily autonomy, while decreasing stigma and shame.

Learning objectives:

When attendees return to the workplace, they will be able to:

- Define "accountability without termination" and explain the role of natural consequences in harm reduction practice
- Compare and contrast harm reduction and abstinence-based recovery approaches
- Name three clinical tools for exploring risk behaviors with participants

Target Audience: Social workers, case managers, peer specialists, recovery specialists, therapists, counselors, clinical supervisors, and other helping professionals working directly with individuals managing substance use disorders, serious mental illness, and other behavioral health challenges.

Course Delivery Format: Live webinar

Interactivity: This course will offer real-time polling, group discussion prompts, and 15 minutes of Q&A time.

Social Work Practice Level: This course is appropriate for beginner, intermediate, or advanced BSW/ MSW learners

Social Work Credit Hours Offered: 2 CE credits*

Fees: \$20 general registration; additional \$5 for registration with social work CE credit

Registration includes access to the live event and recording, PDF of slides, and relevant training tip sheets/resources.

To register, please submit payment to: <https://bit.ly/3HXQkkx>

Upon receipt of payment, attendees will receive a receipt via email with the link to finalize their course registration with Zoom. Information for accessing the live webinar will then be sent directly from Zoom.

Registration deadline: Individuals may register up until the start time of the event.

**Housing First University, a program of Pathways to Housing PA, can provide continuing education credits to licensed social workers in 48 of the 50 U.S. states and 10 Canadian provinces. Due to current regulations, CE credits cannot be offered to social workers in the states of New Jersey or New York. If you are not a Licensed Social Worker, please check with your board of accreditation to ensure this training meets your licensing needs.*

Course completion requirements: Attendees must attend the entirety of the virtual session with system video/audio enabled to participate, and respond to all poll questions and activities. Certificates will be distributed to participants via email within two weeks of the course date. Attendees must complete a course evaluation via Google Forms within 48 hours of the course's conclusion in order to receive a certificate and any continuing education credit. Course evaluation links will be distributed during the session via chat and immediately following the training via email. Individuals must attend the live webinar in order to receive a certificate of completion and any continuing education credit.

System requirements: Webinar participants must have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone with high speed Internet, microphone, speakers, webcam, and a (free) Zoom video conferencing account.

Session Facilitators:



Andrew Spiers, LSW (he/him) is the Director of Training and Technical Assistance for Pathways to Housing PA's Housing First University. Andrew joined Pathways in early 2018 and served as an Assistant Team Leader and Team Leader before launching Housing First University in October 2019. Andrew holds a Master of Social Service from Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, where he concentrated in Community Practice, Policy, & Advocacy. He has taught Human Services and Sociology courses as an adjunct professor at Harcum College and conducted training and workshops all over the country on Housing First, harm reduction, and affirming care for LGBTQ+ communities.



Khalil Martin, LSW (he/him) joined Pathways to Housing PA in 2021 and currently works as a Training Specialist. Before this, Khalil worked as a Behavioral Health Therapist at runaway & homeless youth shelters throughout the tri-state area. Khalil also worked for Project HOME and assisted in the creation of the Gloria Casarez Residence which is the first permanent supportive housing for LGBTQ+ young adults in Pennsylvania. Drawing from principles of feminist theory, Khalil uses a strength-based and person-centered approach to assist individuals in understanding and navigating various forms of oppression and how these systems impact one's personal and interpersonal experiences. Khalil received his Master's degree in clinical social work from The University of Pennsylvania.

Schedule	
12:45-1:00 PM	Virtual training room opens
1:00-1:15 PM	Welcome, introductions, & check-in activity
1:15-1:25 PM	The therapeutic alliance
1:25-1:45 PM	Accountability, enabling, & consequences
1:45-2:00 PM	Countering stigma & shame
2:00-2:10 PM	Break
2:10-2:25 PM	Harm reduction & abstinence-based recovery: Two sides of the same coin
2:25-3:00 PM	Clinical strategies
3:00-3:15 PM	Closing remarks, Q&A

For questions or concerns, contact:
 Andrew Spiers, LSW
 Continuing Education Director,
 Housing First University
 aspiers@pthpa.org
 (215) 390-1500, ext. 1708

To request an accessibility accommodation, please email:
 training@pthpa.org



ACE approval statement: Housing First University: a program of Pathways to Housing PA, provider #1759, is approved as an ACE provider to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE provider approval period: 01/12/2022 – 01/12/2025. Social workers completing this course receive 2 clinical continuing education credits.

Accreditation information: <https://bit.ly/3RqW360>

Grievance policy: <https://bit.ly/3ewu4U5>

Security policy: <https://bit.ly/3x4qiro>

Cancellation & refund policy: <https://bit.ly/3Ui7QFM>



Providing Homes • Restoring Health • Reclaiming Lives