

# Service Providers in Recovery & Harm Reduction: *The challenges and rewards*

**Wednesday, April 26th, 2023**

**Start:** 1:00 PM ET      **End:** 3:15 PM ET

**Instructors:** Joe Quinn, CPS, Rob Wetherington, MA, & Andrew Spiers, LSW

Supporting people who use drugs requires a recognition of the multiple pathways of recovery that are possible. A harm reduction approach is a central ingredient in helping people define their own recovery. Service providers with lived experience are often the most well-equipped to develop the therapeutic relationship necessary to use this approach, yet may have been drawn to this work through an abstinence-based recovery journey. This session explores how staff in recovery utilize lived experience to support substance users in harm reduction spaces. It addresses the challenges staff encounter in the field and how organizations can support them. Presenters will lead a discussion with attendees about how lived experience impacts their work as service providers.

### **Learning objectives:**

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

- Describe the benefits staff in recovery bring to harm reduction work
- Identify three potential challenges staff in recovery may encounter in harm reduction work
- Recognize the support needs of staff in recovery working as harm reduction service providers

**Target Audience:** Social service providers and helping professionals with direct client contact, including case managers, peer specialists, and clinical supervisors, as well as agency administrators and policy-makers.

**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 and intermediate BSW/MSW learners.

**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/3ywlGcx>

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:



**Joe Quinn, CPS (he/him)**, joined Pathways to Housing PA in 2017 as a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS). For four years, he worked with the agency's initial non-fidelity Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team focused specifically on individuals with a primary diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). As the first organization to utilize a scattered-site Housing First model for the OUD population, Joe made significant contributions to Pathways' development of best practices for serving these individuals, leading to the development of two more OUD-focused teams in 2020 and 2021. In 2021, Joe joined the Center of Excellence at Pathways to Housing PA as a Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Care Manager, where he now assists participants agency-wide with accessing MAT and MOUD services. Joe also has six years of experience as a CPS at an outpatient facility.



**Rob Wetherington, MA (he/him)**, joined Pathways to Housing PA in 2012 to develop art programming to foster connections between staff and participants. Having spent more than fifteen years in homeless services both as an employee and volunteer, Rob's emphasis has been to help people re-imagine their lives through the arts, peer support, and clinical services. Rob has helped to build the Community Inclusion and Advocacy Department at Pathways, which acts as a conduit to community resources and strives to support participants living in the community like everyone else. Partnering with the clinical teams, the department assesses activities participants want to explore and bridges participants to the community. Rob earned a BFA in Art Education from Old Dominion University and an MA in Urban Studies at Eastern University.

Schedule	
12:45-1:00 PM	Virtual training room opens
1:00-1:10 PM	Welcome, introductions, & check-in activity
1:10-1:25 PM	Presenter backgrounds, lived experience, and impact of social locations
1:25-1:50 PM	Create common language by defining terminology
1:50-2:05 PM	Benefits & strengths of staff with lived experience
2:05-2:15 PM	Break
2:15-2:30 PM	Challenges experienced by staff with lived experience
2:30-2:40 PM	Organizational support through challenges
2:40-3:00 PM	Discussion & community sharing
3:00-3:15 PM	Final thoughts, 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>



**Pathways  
to Housing PA**

Providing Homes • Restoring Health • Reclaiming Lives