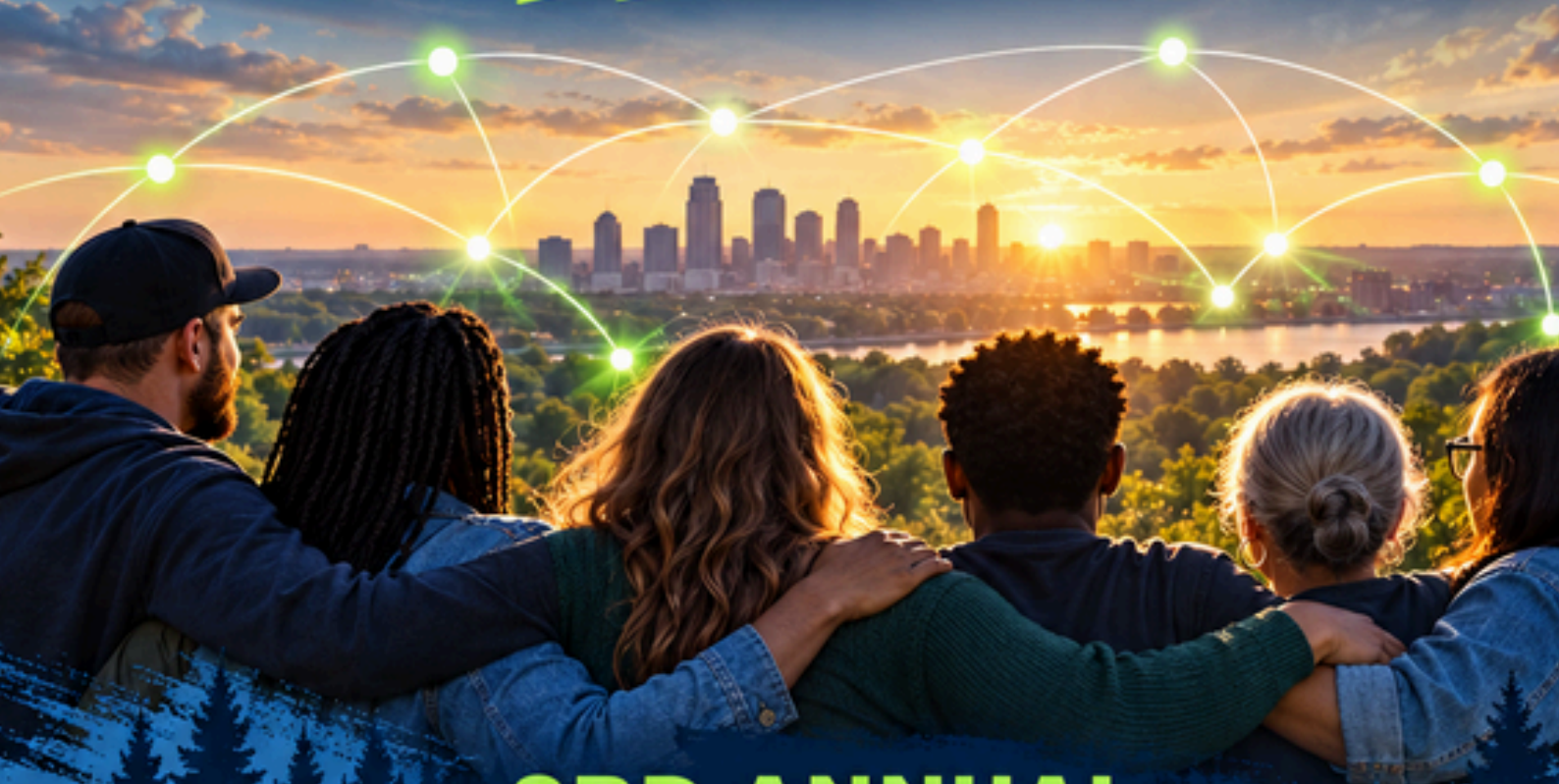




**Connected by Experience.
Strengthened by Community.**



**3RD ANNUAL
REGION 7
PEER SUMMIT**



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



SEPTEMBER 29–30, 2026



Welcome

TO THE REGION 7 PEER SUMMIT

We are honored to bring together peers, professionals, speakers, sponsors, and community partners from across Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and beyond for two days dedicated to connection, learning, and the power of lived experience.

This year's theme, **Connected by Experience. Strengthened by Community.**, reflects what makes the peer workforce so powerful. Our experiences may be different, but the connections we build through shared understanding, mutual support, and hope can strengthen individuals, organizations, and entire communities.

Throughout the Summit, we encourage you to learn from one another, ask questions, share ideas, make new connections, and take full advantage of the conversations happening both inside and outside the sessions. Whether this is your first Peer Summit or you have been with us from the beginning, you are an important part of this community.

To our speakers, thank you for sharing your knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. To our sponsors and partners, thank you for investing in the peer workforce and helping make this gathering possible. And to every attendee, thank you for the work you do each day to bring hope, support, and possibility to others.

Over the next two days, we hope you leave with new knowledge, meaningful relationships, renewed energy, and a reminder that none of us does this work alone.



Connected by Experience.
Strengthened by Community.

Our Summit Community REGION 7



Community Expectations & Summit Values

Together, we create a safe, respectful, and encouraging space for everyone.



Honor LIVED EXPERIENCE

Every story matters. We respect and value the wisdom that comes from lived experience.



Respect DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

Recovery looks different for everyone. We honor all pathways, all beliefs, and all choices.



Use INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Our words matter. We use person-centered, respectful, and non-stigmatizing language.



Protect CONFIDENTIALITY

What is shared here, stays here. We maintain the privacy and dignity of all participants.



Give People Space TO STEP OUT

Take care of yourself. It's okay to step out, take a break, or do what you need to feel your best.



Support A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

We treat all attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and staff with kindness, respect, and empathy.

PEOPLE
PURPOSE
POSSIBILITY
TOGETHER

*Different States.
Same Purpose.
Brighter Tomorrows.* 



MISSOURI CREDENTIALING BOARD

SUPPORTING A STRONGER, HEALTHIER
MISSOURI THROUGH A QUALIFIED
PEER WORKFORCE.

The Missouri Credentialing Board (MCB) establishes and maintains credentialing standards for peer support professionals, ensuring quality, ethics, and professional growth across Missouri.



CERTIFICATION

Valuing lived experience through established standards.



TRAINING

Providing high-quality education and skill development.



RESOURCES

Supporting peers, supervisors, and organizations.



PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Strengthening the peer workforce today and for the future.



*Peers Build
Stronger
Communities*



SCAN HERE
FOR MORE INFORMATION



573-616-2300



www.missouricb.com



help@missouricb.com

About the **KCI Expo** **Center**

A Convenient Setting for
Connection, Learning,
and Community



We are pleased to welcome you to the KCI Expo Center for this year's Region 7 Peer Summit. Conveniently located near Kansas City International Airport, the Expo Center offers an accessible and comfortable setting designed to support meaningful learning, collaboration, and connection.

With flexible meeting space and a professional conference environment, the venue provides an ideal backdrop for breakout sessions, engaging discussions, networking opportunities, and time to connect with peers and partners from across the region.

As we gather with attendees, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and beyond, we hope this space encourages conversation, inspiration, and a shared sense of purpose throughout the Summit.

Thank you for being part of this year's event as we continue building stronger connections across the peer workforce.

Connected by Experience.
Strengthened by Community.

Let's Get SOCIAL!

Follow Missouri Credentialing Board on Facebook & Instagram!



Stay connected. Stay informed. **Be part of the community.**



SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA AND TAP "FOLLOW"!

Why Follow MCB?



Training Opportunities

Be the first to know about upcoming trainings, events, and conferences.



Credential Updates

Get important announcements, deadlines, and policy updates.



Helpful Resources

Tips, tools, and information to support your professional growth.



Community Spotlights

Celebrate the incredible people doing impactful work across Missouri.



Inspiration & Connection

Encouraging stories, quotes, and reminders that you're part of a larger community.



Fun & Engaging Content

Because professional development can be informative and fun!



MISSOURI
CREDENTIALING
BOARD

Same Mission. More Connection.



“

Lived experience may begin with one person's story, but when we share it with purpose, it becomes a bridge—connecting people, strengthening communities, and reminding others that hope is possible.

”

Monday

September 28



10:00 a.m.

Conference Planning Committee/Board Arrives



2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Booth Set Up--(Lobby)

Conference Check In--(Lobby)



THE AVIARY RECOVERY CENTER

Nationally Recognized, Award-Winning Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center in Eolia, MO.

Set on a serene 120-acre estate, The Aviary Recovery Center offers exceptional, confidential care for alcohol and substance use disorders. Through compassionate, evidence-based treatment, equine therapy, and support animals, we help individuals build a foundation for lasting recovery.

Call Today for a no-cost, confidential assessment

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RESIDENTIAL LOCATION

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636-200-1956 Fax

OUTPATIENT ST. LOUIS

333 South Kirkwood Road, Ste 303
St. Louis, MO 63122

OUTPATIENT LEE'S SUMMIT

3340 NE Ralph Powell Rd, Ste A
Lees Summit, MO 64064

AviaryRecoveryCenter.com



“Always *Remember...*

“The power of peer support is not simply having walked a difficult road—it’s turning around, reaching back, and making sure no one has to walk it alone.”

Tuesday

September 29



7:00 a.m.

Exhibitor Booths Open--(Lobby)

Conference Check-In Open (Lobby)

Connected by Experience.
Strengthened by Community.

REGION 7 PEER SUMMIT 2026

A REGIONAL Celebration OF PEER SUPPORT



Governor Mike Kehoe
has proclaimed September 29, 2026 as

**PEER SUPPORT
CELEBRATION DAY**

in Missouri.



As we gather for the Region 7 Peer Summit,
we proudly celebrate alongside our partners
in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa—
recognizing the *hope, healing, and leadership*
that peer support brings to individuals,
families, and communities.

REGION 7 STATES:



Missouri proclamation shown.
Region 7 joins in the celebration.



RECOVERY ★ HOPE ★ OPPORTUNITY ★ TOGETHER

Connection
Community
Hope



OPENING SESSION

Setting the Stage: Connection, Community & Hope



TIME

8:30–9:00 a.m.



LOCATION

Exhibit Hall B

PRESENTERS

Derek McClure

MCB Board President

Rosie Anderson-Harper

Missouri Department of
Mental Health
Director of Recovery Services

Stacey Langendoerfer

Executive Director
Missouri Credentialing Board

We are excited to begin the Region 7 Peer Summit by grounding our time together in connection, community, and hope. This opening session will officially welcome attendees, celebrate the power of lived experience, and set the tone for two days of meaningful learning, inspiration, and shared purpose.



Conference Welcome

Derek McClure

Derek McClure will officially welcome attendees and recognize the peers, professionals, sponsors, and partners who have come together from across the region.



The Connection of Peers

Rosie Anderson-Harper

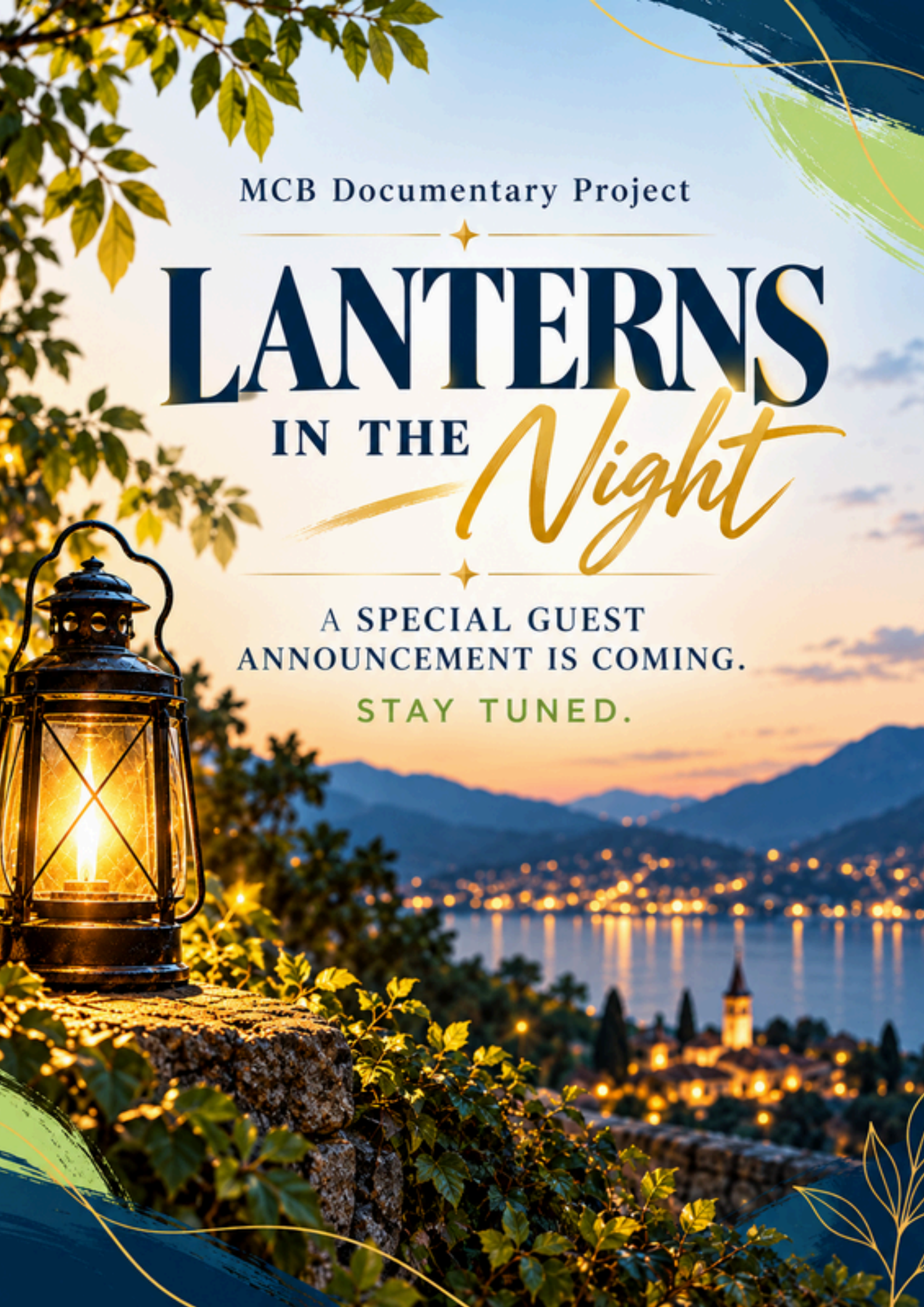
Rosie Anderson-Harper will share reflections on the connection of peers and the powerful role peer support plays in building hope, resilience, and community.



Lanterns in the Night Peer Documentary

Stacey Langendoerfer

Stacey Langendoerfer will introduce and discuss the Lanterns in the Night peer documentary, highlighting stories of lived experience, recovery, and the strength found in connection.

The background of the entire poster is a scenic photograph of a town at night, viewed from a high vantage point. The town's lights are reflected in a body of water, with mountains in the distance. In the foreground, a glowing lantern sits on a stone wall, surrounded by green foliage. The lantern is on the left side, and the foliage is on the right. The overall color palette is warm, with yellows, oranges, and blues.

MCB Documentary Project

★

LANTERNS IN THE *Night*

★

A SPECIAL GUEST
ANNOUNCEMENT IS COMING.

STAY TUNED.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**MENTAL
HEALTH**

Thank You

Missouri Department of Mental Health

For being the driving force behind the
Peer Summit for the past three years.

Your leadership, partnership, and steadfast support have helped make this summit possible. Because of your commitment to peer support, this event has continued to grow, connect communities, and strengthen the peer movement across Missouri.

★ *Special Recognition* ★

With sincere appreciation to
Rosie Anderson-Harper and Lori Franklin
for their tireless advocacy, leadership, and dedication to advancing the peer movement in Missouri. Your work continues to inspire progress, elevate peer voices, and expand hope across the state.


*With gratitude for your continued
partnership and vision.*



REGION 7
PEER SUMMIT



THE VORTEX OF RADNESS

OPENING SUMMIT SESSION WITH

KORN GUITARIST
WES GEER



TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 29



9:00–10:00 a.m.



EXHIBIT HALL B

Join former KORN guitarist **Wes Geer** for a powerful and inspiring start to the Summit. Through music, personal storytelling, and lived experience, Wes shares a message of resilience, hope, and the power of turning life's hardest moments into purpose.

CREATIVITY | CONNECTION | HOPE

Missouri Maternal Health Action Network (MHAN)

The Action Network is comprised of key stakeholders and strategic partners, such as service providers, organizations and mothers with lived experience from across Missouri. We foster effective cross-system collaborations to eliminate barriers that prevent mothers affected by substance use from receiving needed services.

Mission

We are committed to developing a sustainable statewide infrastructure that coordinates, strengthens and supports services available to mothers, children and families affected by substance use, and behavioral health challenges.

Vision

Our vision is to open doors to a seamless network of services that will support mothers, children and families affected by substance use and put them on a path of healthier living.

For more information, contact
mo_actionnetwork@umkc.edu

Moms' Advocacy Network

A leadership and self-advocacy group made of mothers from across Missouri who have been affected by substance use. Their collective voice, experiences, perspectives, and knowledge guide the direction of the Missouri Maternal Health Action Network.

The Moms' Advocacy Network has two functions:

- Creates opportunities for participants to receive leadership and advocacy trainings
- Serve in an advisory capacity to the Missouri Maternal Health Action Network

Our Purpose

Mothers affected by substance misuse offer real value with their unique perspective when decisions are being made about them. When systems are created without these mothers at the decision-making table, gaps emerge as needs are not fully identified, understood and addressed.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Looking to start or enhance a peer-based recovery support program?

PRISM (Peer Recovery Innovations & System Mobilization) seeks to provide training, technical assistance, and evaluation support to partners and programs across Missouri implementing or advancing peer-based recovery support programs. From providing cutting edge training courses to helping design implementation and evaluation guidelines, we are here to help ensure your peer-based recovery support program has the technical assistance need to initiate the best evidence-based practices and drive positive client care outcomes.



Key Features:

- 1:1 technical assistance for partners and programs
- Guided by an Advisory Council
- Free, quarterly Community of Practice meetings
- Public website with free and low-cost trainings, events, and resources
- Partnership with the MHAN

Contact us to learn more!

 www.prism-tac.org  prism_tac@umkc.edu

REGION 7

Peer Summit

PEOPLE • PURPOSE • POSSIBILITIES

BREAKOUTS

The Lotus Blooms Anyway: Rising Through Resilience Fatigue



10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.
Break



10:15 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Breakouts



Exhibit Hall B

SPEAKER

Mirna Herrera

Peer specialists turned the hardest chapters of their lives into the reason they show up for other people. It's pure beautiful work, and it comes with a quiet rule nobody says out loud: once your story becomes your credential, you're not supposed to struggle anymore. In this presentation, we break that rule. You'll get to hear the real version of the presenter's story; the mud she's experienced and still experiencing and walks through the part of the Lotus Framework: what we actually do when we cannot be resilient anymore. Not another talk about bouncing back. A talk about closing without guilt, resting without shame, and being held without having to earn it. Because worth doesn't wash off in the mud and you're allowed to bloom at your own pace.

RESILIENCE
LIVES HERE



BREAKOUT SESSION

Catch Me If You Can

From Cat and Mouse to Partners in Recovery



Presenters: Michael Barrett, Chad Huffman,
Hon. Casey Clevenger



Location: Ambassador Room

For years, a police officer and a man struggling with addiction lived out a familiar cycle of pursuit, arrest, and repeated encounters. Then recovery changed the story. In this powerful conversation, personal experience, treatment court leadership, and lived experience come together to explore how connection can replace confrontation, how perspective can reshape public safety, and how support, accountability, and hope can change the trajectory of a life.

Session Takeaways



How personal experience
shapes perspective



How peers strengthen
treatment court teams



How collaboration
can improve outcomes

*From pursuit
TO
partnership.*



Concurrent Breakout Sessions

TWO SESSIONS. MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN.



Conference Room A

Parent Leaders: Supporting Families Struggling with Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorders and Strengthening Systems

Denise Moore

Session sponsored by ORN



PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Describe the role and value of Parent Leader Peer Support Specialists.
- Identify strategies Parent Leaders use to engage and support families.
- Explain how Parent Leaders contribute to systems and policy change.



Conference Room B

Maternal SUD in MO: Findings, Interventions and Influencing Connection to Recovery and Treatment

Alison Williams

Session sponsored by the Missouri Hospital Association



SESSION OVERVIEW:

- Missouri findings on maternal SUD, infant-related impacts, and root causes.
- Interventions since 2020, including the national AIM bundle, Eat, Sleep, Console, education, and connection to peer resources.
- Referral gaps, and the development and progress of the Project STORK model.



VENTUS REX

*The Platform for
Community-Based Services.*



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MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT
AVAILABLE AT ALL LOCATIONS.
INCLUDING PEER SUPPORT
AND CASE MANAGEMENT

NORTHWEST
+HEALTH+
SERVICES

**AN OPIOID ADDICTION
CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE**

SO CAN RECOVERY

(816) 232-6818

Thank You, Peers!

Thank you for attending this year's summit. Your lived experience, leadership, compassion, and commitment continue to strengthen communities across Region 7. We are grateful you joined us, shared your voice, and helped make this event so meaningful. We hope you leave encouraged, connected, and inspired.

*Together, we are building
stronger communities.*

CONFERENCE ROOM C

Peers & Possibilities:

Education, Growth, and Opportunity in Peer Support

People Supporting People.

DAN HANNEKEN

Peer support can be a meaningful lifelong career, and for those interested in exploring additional opportunities, education can open new doors. This engaging, peer-driven session explores practical pathways to higher education, including financial aid, flexible learning options, and overcoming common barriers such as cost, time, and self-doubt. Participants will leave with practical information, encouragement, and a better understanding of what's possible, wherever they choose to take their career.



Higher Education Pathways



Financial Aid



Flexible Learning Options



Overcoming Barriers



Career Growth in Peer Support

MORE THAN DOGS.
STRONGER COMMUNITIES

CONFERENCE ROOM D

K9s On the Front Lines

JASON HOWE

SESSION OVERVIEW

- Introduction to K9s On The Front Line
- Mission & Vision Statements
- K9s OTFL Origin & The Journey to Missouri
- How long is training and where do your dogs come from?
- Testimonials & Impact Statistics
- Expansion to First Responders
- New facility gamechanger
- What we offer with the new facility
- How Businesses Can Get Involved
- Q&A

SERVICE
PEOPLE
COMMUNITY
STRONGER
TOGETHER



CONFERENCE ROOM E

Overcoming Hurdles to Becoming a Recovery Oriented Community

JOHN BARTHOLOMEW

This session explores the practical steps communities can take to become more recovery oriented. Participants will examine common barriers that limit recovery support, including stigma, fragmented systems, and lack of collaboration, and will consider strategies for building stronger partnerships, expanding access, centering lived experience, and creating environments where recovery can grow. Attendees will leave with ideas for strengthening community connection, improving systems support, and moving recovery-oriented values into action.



*Stronger Communities.
Brighter Futures.*



Reducing stigma

Building partnerships

Turning recovery values into action

PEOPLE.
CONNECTION.
RECOVERY.

STRONGER TOGETHER.

CONFERENCE ROOM F

Supporting Neurodivergent Individuals Through Connection and Understanding

MEGAN GARVEY

This session explores practical, neurodiversity-affirming ways peers, families, and helpers can support autistic and neurodivergent individuals. Participants will learn how to move beyond behavior-focused assumptions, recognize unmet needs and stress responses, strengthen communication and co-regulation, reduce stigma, and build more collaborative support systems.



*Different Minds.
Brighter Together.*



Understanding unmet needs

Communication & co-regulation

Reducing stigma

INCLUSION.
UNDERSTANDING.
OPPORTUNITY.

PEOPLE BELONG HERE.

PEOPLE
SUPPORTING
PEOPLE.

Stronger
TOGETHER.



Lunch



11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.



Exhibit Hall A

Connect. Refuel. Recharge.

Enjoy a delicious lunch, reconnect with colleagues, and take time to build new relationships. The lunch break is a chance to relax, refuel, and continue the conversations that make our Region 7 community so strong.



CONNECT

Rekindle relationships and meet new colleagues.



REFUEL

Enjoy a delicious meal and take a well-deserved break.



RECHARGE

Return refreshed and ready for the rest of the summit.



REGION 7
PEER SUMMIT



RECOGNITION *of Excellence*

PEER SUMMIT AWARDS



12:45–1:00 p.m.



Exhibit Hall B

*Celebrating leadership,
lived experience, service,
and impact across Region 7.*



Join us for a special awards moment
honoring the outstanding individuals
whose dedication, leadership, and
compassion strengthen hope, recovery,
and community across our region.





NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALING ASSOCIATION

CREDIBILITY | EXCELLENCE | OPPORTUNITY

National Certification *That Elevates Your Career*

CERTIFIED
PROFESSIONALS
BUILD A
STRONGER
TOMORROW

Build credibility. Demonstrate excellence. Stand out nationwide.

Why National Certification?



Professional credibility

Show you meet
national standards.



Recognition of high standards

Stand out for your
knowledge, skills and ethics.



Career advancement

Open doors to new
opportunities.



Commitment to excellence

Demonstrate your dedication
to professional growth.



Greater trust with employers and partners

Be a recognized and
preferred professional.



A credential that reflects professional growth

Invest in your future and
showcase your achievements.

*Empowering Excellence.
Elevating Standards.*

YOUR PATH TO PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS.



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Jefferson City, MO 65101



info@natproca.org



573-644-1710



QR Code Here



ATTC HHS REGION 7
Mid-America

Thank You

Mid-America ATTC

For your partnership, vision, and steadfast support of Region 7 peers.

Thank you for always supporting our events and for your continued partnership with peers across Region 7. Your commitment to keeping peer work at the forefront of your mission has helped strengthen connections, elevate lived experience, and expand opportunities throughout Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa.

NEBRASKA



KANSAS



IOWA



MISSOURI



♡ *With Gratitude* ♡

Your dedication to peer support has made a lasting impact across the region. Through collaboration, training, and advocacy, Mid-America ATTC continues to help move the peer workforce forward and inspire stronger, more connected communities.

Together, we are building a stronger future
for peers across Region 7.



Connected by experience. Strengthened by community.

The House Always Wins

Understanding the Mathematics and Psychology of Gambling



1:00–2:00 p.m.



Exhibit Hall B



Carl Dawson

What You'll Explore



The Mathematics of Gambling

Probability, the house edge, and why the odds always favor the house.



The Psychology Behind the Bet

Misconceptions, near misses, intermittent rewards, and chasing losses.



The Environment and Accessibility

How design, marketing, and easy access make gambling so compelling.



Risk and Vulnerability

Factors that increase the risk of gambling-related harms.

Why It Matters



Greater Understanding

Gain insight into the real-life experiences of people struggling with gambling-related harms.



Stronger Conversations

Build confidence in discussing gambling with empathy and without judgment.



More Opportunities to Help

Recognize signs, provide education, and connect people to resources and support.



Informed Professional Practice

Use knowledge of mathematics, psychology, and behavioral factors to guide your work as a peer professional.

*The house may have a mathematical advantage—
but understanding why people keep playing can help us
better support the person behind the bet.*



Meet & Greet with Vendors

Snack Break



2:00–2:30 p.m.



Exhibitor Area



Stop by and thank our exhibitors for their support.
Without them, we would not be able to host
this incredible event.



Connect.



Snack.



Explore.



REGION 7
PEER
SUMMIT



THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS!

STRONGER
PEERS
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS



Your partnership, presence, and support helped make this year's summit stronger, more connected, and more meaningful.



First Call



Northwest Health Services



Ventus Rex



Foster Adopt Connect



The Crossroads Program Support Group



Centerstone



Ottawa University



Sunflower Recovery Center



Early Psychosis Care Center



Department of Health & Senior Services



Compass Health Network



The Next Step KC



Heartland Center for Behavioral Change



K9's on the Frontline



Opioid Response Network



Aviary Recovery Center



Dunnica Sobering Support Center



Greater Missouri Area of C.A.



ShowMe Region NA



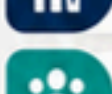
MCRSP



Mid-America ATTC



PRISM



Department of Social Services



In2Action

Thank you for showing up, sharing resources, and investing in peers and communities across Region 7. Your support helped make this summit a success.

Together, we are building stronger communities.

CONNECTED BY EXPERIENCE. STRENGTHENED BY COMMUNITY.



**OPIOID
RESPONSE
NETWORK**

With Sincere *Appreciation*



Thank You, **Opioid Response Network**

The Region 7 Peer Summit extends its sincere gratitude to the Opioid Response Network for generously sponsoring speakers for this year's event. ORN's continued partnership helps make it possible to provide the high caliber of trainers and educational opportunities featured at the Summit.

We are deeply grateful for this support and for ORN's commitment to strengthening the peer workforce, recovery communities, and the professionals who serve them.

***Your partnership helps elevate
the quality and impact of this event.***



BREAKOUT SESSION
2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

Hooked *on the Bet:*

The Neurobiology of Gambling
How gambling affects the brain



Presenter
Carl Dawson



Session Location
Exhibit Hall B

Session Snapshot.



This session explores how gambling affects the brain's reward, motivation, learning, and decision-making systems. Participants will learn how dopamine, anticipation, uncertainty, near misses, and variable rewards can reinforce gambling behavior—and how this understanding can reduce stigma and strengthen peer support conversations.

Session Highlights



Dopamine & reward pathways



Anticipation & uncertainty



Near misses & variable rewards



Craving, impulse control & decision-making



Sports betting, online gambling & 24/7 access

Why It Matters



Reduces stigma



Improves conversations



Strengthens peer support



Builds understanding of gambling-related harms

“

Understanding the brain helps us better understand the person behind the bet.

”

The Power of Family Peer Relationships

with Systems that Serve People with Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorders and Other Substance Use Disorders



Mark McDonald



Ambassador

Session sponsored by ORN



This session explores the role of family peer support in helping families affected by substance use and co-occurring disorders. Through lived experience, practical examples, and current evidence, participants will look at the principles and boundaries of family peer support and strategies that promote hope, engagement, and recovery.

Session Highlights



Family peer support through lived experience



Purpose, principles, and boundaries



Distinguishing peer support from therapy, advocacy, and case management



Common family needs with substance use and co-occurring disorders



Practical strategies that build hope, engagement, and recovery



Families do better when support is grounded in hope, connection, and lived experience.

CONFERENCE ROOM A

Stronger Together: The Power of Teamwork

Honorable Casey Clevenger

This interactive session explores how multidisciplinary teams use different perspectives to make more informed, fair, and effective decisions. Through practical scenarios, participants will examine healthy vs. dysfunctional team conflict, effective communication, and ways to balance accountability with meaningful support. The session also looks beyond compliance to recovery capital, participant strengths, and community supports that help people build lasting recovery and successful reintegration.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Multidisciplinary
decision-making



Healthy conflict
& communication



Recovery capital
& community supports

CONFERENCE ROOM B

Integrity in Practice: Building a Strong Ethical Foundation

Derek McClure

This interactive training explores how integrity, professional ethics, and sound decision-making guide practice when situations are complex and the right answer is not always clear. Participants will examine common ethical risks—including confidentiality, boundaries, dual relationships, self-disclosure, impairment, conflicts of interest, and colleague conduct—through realistic case studies and discussion focused on client welfare, accountability, consultation, and ethical courage.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Confidentiality
& boundaries



Ethical
decision-making



Client welfare
& accountability

The Brain, the Body, and the Bond: How Pregnancy and Parenting Can Fuel Recovery

 **Dr. Margaret Lloyd Sieger, PhD, CPS**

 Session sponsored by ORN

This strengths-based session explores how pregnancy, parenting, and early attachment can support recovery from opioid and stimulant use disorders. Participants will look at bonding, child development, family preservation, and the role of peer support in helping families stay engaged across systems.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Bonding and oxytocin



Pregnancy, treatment, and recovery



MOUD and parenting support



NAS and early attachment



Breastfeeding guidance and family preservation

Back to the Future: Linking Recovery to Prevention

 **Monica Meeks**

 Session sponsored by ORN

This presentation explores the important role that recovery professionals and peer specialists can play in substance use prevention. Participants will examine how lived experience, recovery capital, and peer expertise can strengthen upstream prevention efforts and create stronger community partnerships.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Recovery and peer support in the continuum of care



Lived experience strengthens prevention



Partnering with prevention coalitions

CONFERENCE ROOM E

Navigating Boundaries in Small Communities

Tim Cesario

Working in a small community can create unique challenges when professional relationships and personal connections overlap. This session explores the complexities of maintaining appropriate boundaries while still building trust, connection, and effective helping relationships. Participants will consider common situations involving familiarity, overlapping roles, privacy, dual relationships, and community expectations. The session offers practical guidance for recognizing boundary concerns, making thoughtful decisions, and protecting both the helping relationship and the individuals being served.



Boundaries



Dual relationships



Privacy & trust



Professional integrity

CONFERENCE ROOM F

When the Supervisor Gets It: What Changes When Trauma Informs Leadership

Mirna Herrera

Session sponsored by ORN

Effective supervision of peer recovery staff requires more than traditional management skills. This interactive session explores how trauma-informed, recovery-oriented leadership can strengthen peer staff, reduce role drift and burnout, and create workplace conditions that promote safety, trust, wellness, and resilience. Participants will examine practical strategies that can be applied throughout the employee experience—from hiring and onboarding to supervision, team meetings, performance reviews, crisis response, and ongoing workforce wellness.



Role clarity



Trauma-informed leadership



Staff wellness



Resilience



3:45–4:00 p.m. *Break*

4:00–5:15 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Exhibit Hall

Reaching Our Fullest Potential

Amber Brown

This empowering session explores how lived experience can become a powerful source of strength, purpose, leadership, and positive change. Participants will be encouraged to move beyond limitations, overcome self-doubt, and recognize the value within their own unique journeys. With a focus on peer support, resilience, hope, and authentic connection, this session highlights how lived experience can be transformed into impact.



Strength



Purpose



Hope



Transformation

“

*Your experience is more than
something you survived —
it can become the area where you thrive.*”

”



Post Incarceration Syndrome (PICS)

Understanding the Impact of Incarceration and Pathways to Recovery

Ambassador



Speaker: Mark McDonald

This training examines the lasting emotional, psychological, and behavioral impacts of incarceration and highlights trauma-informed strategies that support healing, reintegration, and recovery.

HEALING
OPPORTUNITY
BELONGING
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



01

Define

Define PICS



02

Recognize

Recognize common symptoms



03

Understand

Understand trauma and institutionalization



04

Explore

Explore recovery-supportive responses

*People
Reenter
Communities
Thrive*

SUPPORT
HEALING
REINTEGRATION
RECOVERY

STRONGER
PEOPLE
SAFER COMMUNITIES
BRIGHTER FUTURES

Inside the COURTROOM

CONDUCT, EXPECTATIONS
& PREPARATION

PRESENTED BY
Honorable
CASEY CLEVINGER



**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 29**



**CONFERENCE
ROOM A**

For many individuals, stepping into a courtroom can be unfamiliar and intimidating. This session provides a practical look inside the courtroom from the perspective of a treatment court judge. Participants will learn what to expect, how to prepare, and how to support participants in navigating the court process with confidence while maintaining professional boundaries and respecting the formality and dignity of the court.



COURTROOM EXPECTATIONS

Rules, etiquette, and appropriate conduct.



PRACTICAL PREPARATION

Strategies to reduce anxiety and understand courtroom procedures.



EFFECTIVE PEER SUPPORT

Build confidence, support engagement, and maintain boundaries.



CONFERENCE ROOM B

From Policy to Peer Support: A Conversation on Gambling Recovery

Panelists: Carl Dawson, Mark Rembecki, John Bartholomew

Moderator: Derek McClure

Join us for an engaging panel discussion with professionals from the Missouri Department of Mental Health, gambling certification and training, and peer support. We'll explore the evolving landscape of sports betting, online gambling, and prediction markets, how policies and systems are changing, Missouri certification and workforce development, and the vital role of peers in addressing gambling-related harms.

KEY DISCUSSION TOPICS



Sports Betting,
Online Gambling
& Prediction
Markets



Changing
Policies
and Systems



Missouri
Certification &
Workforce
Development



The Role of
Peers in
Gambling Recovery



Bridging
Policy, Practice
and Support



CONFERENCE ROOM C

Beyond the Fourth Trimester: Building Family Strength Across the Life Course for People with Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorders

Presenter: Dr. Margaret Lloyd Sieger, PhD

Session sponsored by ORN



This session will help peer support specialists understand the neurobiology connecting pregnancy, bonding, and recovery motivation; how parental attachment, pregnancy hormones, and recovery interact; what to expect with MOUD during pregnancy; how NAS can affect bonding; and how breastfeeding guidance can reinforce the parenting role.

Stronger
Parents.
Healthier
Families.
Brighter
Tomorrows.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1



Parental bonding
and recovery
motivation

2



Pregnancy hormones
and treatment
engagement

3



MOUD during
pregnancy

4



NAS and
early bonding

5



Breastfeeding guidance
and the parenting role

Dying to be Heard: *Amplifying* Youth Voices

REAL
VOICES
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

YOUTH | PARTNERSHIP | LEADERSHIP | STRONGER COMMUNITIES



YOUTH
VOICE



PARTNERSHIP



LEADERSHIP



COMMUNITY
IMPACT



How do we move from doing things for youth to working with them as true partners? This session explores how peer and recovery professionals can meaningfully engage youth and young adults in efforts addressing opioid, stimulant, and other substance use. Participants will examine the connections among youth development, mental health, protective factors, and lived experience while learning practical ways to elevate youth voice, leadership, and authentic participation in prevention and recovery efforts.

What You'll Explore

1



How youth development, mental health, protective factors, and lived experience influence substance use and recovery.

2



The difference between token youth participation and authentic youth engagement that shares power.

3



Practical ways to engage youth and young adults as partners, peer leaders, advocates, and contributors.



Conference Room D

Presenter: Monica Meeks

Session sponsored by ORN

CONFERENCE ROOM E

Addressing Client Resistance and Increasing Engagement in Behavioral Health

Presenter: **Tim Cesario**



Resistance is often viewed as a barrier to progress, but it can also be an important signal about a person's experiences, concerns, readiness for change, or level of trust in the helping process. This session explores practical, person-centered approaches for understanding resistance and increasing meaningful engagement in behavioral health services.

Participants will examine common reasons individuals may appear unmotivated, guarded, ambivalent, or reluctant to participate, and will consider how communication style, expectations, past experiences, and the helping relationship can influence engagement. The session will highlight strategies for reducing power struggles, strengthening rapport, responding to ambivalence, and creating an environment where individuals feel respected, heard, and more willing to participate in their own care.

The focus is on moving from "How do we get this person to comply?" to "What is getting in the way of connection, trust, and change?"—and using that understanding to support stronger relationships and better outcomes.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Build
Rapport



Understand
Resistance



Increase
Engagement



Support
Positive Change

CONFERENCE ROOM F

Recovery and Public Safety: Building Safer Communities Through Peer Support

Presenter: **David Stoecker**



Peer support can play an important role at the intersection of recovery, behavioral health, and public safety. This session explores how peers can help strengthen connections between individuals, communities, and the systems designed to keep people safe.

Participants will examine how lived experience can support engagement, reduce stigma, improve communication, and help individuals navigate challenges related to substance use, recovery, crisis response, and justice-system involvement. The session will also highlight opportunities for collaboration among peer professionals, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, courts, healthcare, and community partners.

The focus is on moving beyond isolated systems and toward a coordinated, recovery-oriented approach that supports individual well-being while contributing to safer, healthier, and more resilient communities.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Stronger
Collaboration



Safer
Communities



Expanded
Partnerships



Brighter
Futures

Wednesday
September 30

🕒 7:00 a.m.

**Exhibit Booths Open
& Breakfast**

📍 **Exhibit Hall**



Official Conference
T-SHIRTS HAVE DROPPED!



Grab Them Before They're Gone!



Stop by and check out the official Region 7 Peer Summit t-shirts. Bold, inspiring, and designed with this year's conference spirit in mind.

 | **8:00-9:00 a.m.**

Beyond “Are You High?”: Recognizing Drug Impairment



Trainer:
Nick Gamm



Room:
Exhibit Hall

Learn how to recognize common signs that may suggest possible drug impairment. Led by certified Drug Recognition Expert Nick Gamm, this session highlights behavioral, physical, and physiological indicators that can help participants make informed observations and know when further investigation may be warranted.



WHY ATTEND?



Spot common
signs of
impairment



Notice behavioral
and physical
indicators



Learn from
a certified
DRE



Make informed
observations



9:00–9:15 a.m.

Break



9:15–10:15 a.m.

Plenary Session



PLENARY SESSION

Navigating the New Gambling Landscape

What Peer Support Specialists Need to Know



Presenter: **Saul Malek**

Drawing on his own recovery story and national speaking experience, Saul Malek helps peer support specialists understand today's rapidly changing gambling landscape.

From betting apps and sports gambling to card pack breaks and nonstop digital access, gambling looks very different than it did just a few years ago. Attendees will leave with practical insight into current trends, early warning signs, and ways to better support clients navigating this growing issue.

Why Attend?



Understand current gambling trends



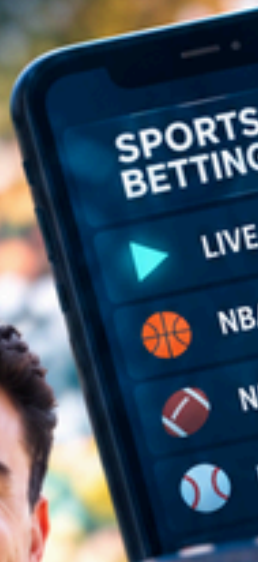
Recognize early warning signs



Support clients more effectively



Learn from lived experience





10:15–10:30 a.m. |

Break |

GRAB A CUP,
TAKE A BREATH,
AND RECHARGE!

🕒 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

📍 Exhibit Hall

CREDIT FOR TIME SERVED

From the Street to the Stage!

Mark Lundholm

Author • Comedian • Speaker

A one-of-a-kind presentation blending humor, personal experience, clinical insight, original slides, and audience participation to rekindle passion and purpose in the work we do. This two-hour experience helps attendees reflect on their strengths, sharpen their skills, and reconnect with why they serve.

What You'll Take Away



Self-care that sustains the work



Using humor as a tool



Better understanding the people we serve



Reducing shame and stigma



Relapse prevention insights



Recovery language updates



PRESENTER SPOTLIGHT

Mark Lundholm has taken a remarkable journey from addiction and homelessness to stages across all 50 states and 15 countries. A nationally known comedian, speaker, and recovery advocate, he brings lived experience, sharp humor, and powerful insight. **Clean and sober since 1988.**

12:00 p.m.

Conference Giveaways

Must be present to win!

**Join us at noon for conference giveaways
and a chance to win fun prizes!**

Prizes include cornhole, self-care goodies, coloring books,
BBQ sauces, grilling tools, and more.



Conference EVALUATION

PEOPLE
SUPPORT
COMMUNITY
Brighter 
TOMORROWS

Your Feedback Matters!

Complete your online evaluation after the summit.

1



Visit the website

Visit missouricb.com/peer-summit/

2



Complete the evaluation

Complete the online conference evaluation.

3



Access your certificate information

Access your conference certificate information.

4



Get additional online conference hours for FREE

Learn how to obtain additional online conference hours for FREE.

5



Help us make next year's summit even better

Your feedback helps us grow, improve, and create an even better experience next year!



Thank you

for being part of the
Region 7 Peer Summit!



Notes

IDEAS • INSIGHTS • CONNECTIONS • NEXT STEPS

*Different
States.
Same Purpose.
Brighter
Tomorrows.* 



What I Learned



*People I Want to
Follow Up With*



Ideas Worth Trying



*Ways I Can Support
My Community*



Other Notes, Reflections, and Reminders



*Together,
We Create a Stronger,
More Inclusive Tomorrow.* 

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

We look forward to seeing you again
in September 2027!



CONNECTED BY EXPERIENCE.
STRENGTHENED BY COMMUNITY.

See you next year!


Safe travels!