

What will the CJST project accomplish?

The Criminal Justice System Transformation project will develop a Statewide Consumer Network of peers with histories of involvement in the criminal justice system and of peer support workers who will work to transform the criminal justice system by:

- (a) Conducting outreach to establish contact with potential peers throughout the state
- (b) Conducting a forum for consumers
- (c) Conducting “Peer Support Worker” trainings
- (d) Conducting a Train–the–Trainer Peer Support in the Criminal Justice System trainings
- (e) Providing ongoing education and technical assistance to consumers/organizations that sponsor individuals seeking peer training, and other related policy stakeholders.



Finding way to Support Alaskans



Criminal Justice System Transformation Project

Coming Together For Change



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Why Forensic Peer Support?

The 2011 Alaska Scorecard reported that 4.6% of Alaskans have a serious mental illness and 3.9% are dependent upon alcohol. Those who experience mild to severe mental illness are estimated at around 19%. The scorecard also reported the percentage of adults incarcerated with mental illness or mental disabilities to be 42%; the national is 38.7%.

The Alaska Justice Forum (2002) states that, "The Alaska Department of Corrections (ADOC) is the largest provider of in-patient psychiatric services in the state" and a 2007 study found that over the course of any given year, more than 40 percent of all admissions to or releases from the AK Department of Corrections are beneficiaries of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

According to the research, individuals in the criminal justice system with mental illness and co-occurring disorders have a higher rate of recidivism and a higher rate of readmission to psychiatric units if they were admitted prior to their admission to ADOC. Peer support is an integral part of a well-rounded support system. Increased support for people coming through the criminal justice system, by implementing peer support, will support a reduction in recidivism, and improve the lives of people moving back into their communities.



Supporting successful reentry after incarceration

Project Goals:

- (1) Create a shared understanding of the benefits of peer support in the adult criminal justice system,
- (2) Create an infrastructure of individuals who understand the criminal justice system and have concrete tools to drive peer support, who can then participate in system change activities in local communities, connected through a network,
- (3) Develop trainers who can prepare more participants in system locally, and
- (4) Develop a pilot project for FY 16 to sustain system transformation initiatives after project completion

How do we plan to meet these goals?

- Hold 12 stakeholder forums to gain a shared understanding of peer support in the criminal justice system and its value/impact
- Hold a forum for 100 consumers around peer support in the criminal justice system
- Train 50 participants in peer support, WRAP, Trauma Informed Peer Support, Sequential Intercept model and how to

set up peer support in the community

Train 10 local trainers for Peer Support within the Criminal Justice System

Visit at least 8 hub communities through the course of the project, meeting with all relevant local people to further the inclusion of forensic peer support at a local level

Participate in statewide and local prisoner reentry coalition/groups

Provide ongoing technical assistance to those involved in transforming the system through electronic newsletters, biannual AKPSC Consortium meetings, trainings and biennial Peer Partnership Conference

Alaskans Driving Alaska toward a brighter future



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