



Opioid Response Grant Spotlight

Keith Martin, MedStar Washington Hospital Center

Keith was mentored by a Peer Recovery Trainer that allowed him to travel around the community and help others. This valuable experience helped Keith realize the power of peer coaches.

1



Resident of Temple Hills, Maryland; Born and Raised in Wilmington, Delaware

2



Peer Recovery Coach Since 2019

The opioid epidemic is deadly and it only takes one use to end your life. Users can't tell what is real and synthetic. The Medication Assisted Treatment program is now a widely accepted and welcomed program.

I encourage those people interested in peer coaching to reach out to current hospital programs to job shadow and learn from those already in the position.



3



I have so many memorable and enjoyable moments being a peer recovery coach. It's so rewarding to know I've helped someone suffering get treatment.

4



This program has a huge impact on my recovery journey. It has strengthened it greatly by keeping a reminder constantly in front of me.



Opioid Response Grant Spotlight

Katherine Rollins, Howard University Hospital

Katherine is a person in long-term recovery with an interest in helping other suffering addicts to understand and be able to experience life without the use of drugs and/or alcohol. Katherine is also interested in the effects that mental health has on individuals with substance abuse issues.



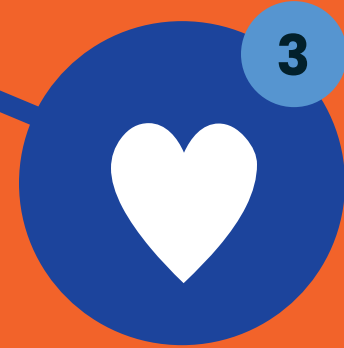
Resident of Riverdale, Maryland; Born and Raised in Washington, DC



Peer Recovery Coach for 15 Months

Opioid use in DC has risen and claimed more lives in recent years than it had when heroin and cocaine was introduced to our community. Along with the prescribed opiates, its lethal reign, with the introduction of fentanyl, continues to claim lives and enslave our younger generation.

I encourage EDs to include this program into their treatment process, as it addresses a large portion of patients that enter, and frequently return for alcohol and substance abuse. This important extension has created an avenue for guiding patients in the direction of change and RECOVERY!!!



My most enjoyable moments have been successfully linking patients to treatment and finding during follow up that they are continuing their journey to recovery. The most rewarding element is being able to reach someone who is suffering and, through sharing my own experiences, assisting them in making a decision to change their lives.



This program has allowed me to reinstate myself into the areas and activities that helped me to accumulate my time in recovery and to become a more visible power of example for those that are new in recovery.



Opioid Response Grant Spotlight

Eugene B. Mitchell, Sibley Memorial Hospital

Eugene is an experienced peer recovery coach with a decade of experience. He was instrumental in developing the position in New York City.

1



Resident of Silver Springs, Maryland; Born and Raised in New York City

2



SIBLEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

Peer Recovery Coach for 10 Years

3



4



Attending to a young man who had missed an meth IV shot in his foot and was worried he would lose his high-paying job. I spoke to the physician and ensured the patient we would treat him in the hospital and no information would be shared with his employer. I then found him outpatient treatment after he was discharged.

The look of relief and gratitude he expressed made my experience with a similar situation worthwhile. Another memorable experience was watching my attending nurses bring a patient back from a heroin/fentanyl overdose two times. Their refusal to not give up really made me feel good about working with the team at Sibley.

Even though the population has increased and changed somewhat, opioids still don't play favorites – Park Avenue or park bench, drugs don't discriminate.

This program is a constant reminder that it hasn't gotten any easier on the streets.



Opioid Response Grant Spotlight

Jessie Gambrell, Howard University Hospital

Jessie is empathetic, ambitious and patient, She follows advice from her mother...read, and then read some more. Reading helps Jessie relieve stress, analyze the world and gather knowledge.

1



Resident of Marbury, Maryland; Born and Raised in South Carolina

2



Peer Recovery Coach

My most enjoyable experience is the connection I can forge with a patient. When we first meet, I get a “here we go again vibe.” As the conversation progresses, I see that vibe change to understanding. I can speak with a patient and say “I've been exactly where you are. I've felt your despair and hopelessness and it can be overcome.”

I can use my story to build a rapport and give hope. It's powerful.

4



This program has a huge impact on patients in the ED. I see it on the faces of those that are desperate for help and begging for treatment and I hear it in their voice when talking with them. I know how many times I “doctor shopped” during my addiction and it's wonderful being able to capture people when they have overdosed and feel hopeless.

3



This program has a huge impact on my recovery journey and my life. I was having difficulty finding employment because of my background. I'm able to use my lived experiences to help others. I am reminded on a daily basis how far I have come and I feel pride. I'm shown what my life would be like again if I do not keep my recovery first. Buprenorphine is near and dear to my heart because it is how I achieved sobriety. I am a living example of how the medication can work to help rebuild life, sanity, and a soul.



Opioid Response Grant Spotlight

William Ellis, Howard University Hospital

William is very passionate about what matters -- his recovery and his family. He likes to follow a simple piece of advice to follow his intuition and instincts.

1



DC native, born at
Freedmans Hospital

2



Overdose Survivor Outreach
Program (OSOP) Coach

My most memorable experience working in the ER is when a doctor asked me to talk to a patient about their substance use, which further enforced the value of having peer recovery coaches in the ER.



3



The ED MAT program has tremendous impact in the ER by creating a faster track for patients to get treatment with support and guidance. Working as a OSOP coach helps keep my own recovery centered and puts me in a situation to give back to the community.

4

