

**ARCHway**  
INSTITUTE



**National Peer  
Recovery Alliance**

*A Division of ARCHway Institute*

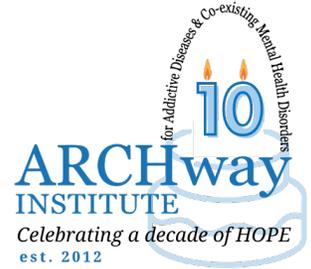
# Elevating & Empowering the Peer Workforce

## A Panel Discussion

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BY ARCHWAY INSTITUTE &  
THE NATIONAL PEER RECOVERY ALLIANCE

# ARCHway Institute



## Education

- We educate communities around substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders in order to increase awareness, diminish stigma, and ultimately, help people heal.

## Peer Support

- We offer conversations to individuals and families who don't know where to turn. We provide emotional support, information, and advocacy regarding options for treatment, recovery housing, and other recovery resources.

## Financial Assistance

- We provide financial assistance to increase access to the treatment and recovery resources that individuals need in order to reach long-term recovery.

## Peer Workforce Development

- NPRA is a consortium of peer support specialists committed to unifying and empowering the peer workforce. Through advocacy and educate, NPRA will elevate and strengthen the role of peers in communities across the country.

NPRA became a division of ARCHway in 2021.

Through this partnership, we are building NPRA affiliates in multiple states.

# ARCHway INSTITUTE



**National Peer  
Recovery Alliance**

*A Division of ARCHway Institute*



**National Peer  
Recovery Alliance**

*Missouri Chapter*



**National Peer  
Recovery Alliance**

*Florida Chapter*



**National Peer  
Recovery Alliance**

*Ohio Chapter*



**National Peer  
Recovery Alliance**

*West Virginia Chapter*



## What is NPRA?

NPRA is a division of ARCHway, consisting of Certified Peer Workers from across the country dedicated to building and sustaining a more unified, empowered peer workforce to support individuals with substance use disorders.

## What are NPRA's long-term objectives?

- Ensure a sustainable peer workforce is developed.
- Ensure that peers are well-developed, properly supervised, and resource-ready. Ensure they are set up for a life-long, successful career.
- Ensure that peers are recognized as an integral part of the treatment team.
- Ensure representation of peer interests when it comes to policy and budget decisions.
- Ensure that those peers are serving receive access to the highest quality care in treatment and recovery services.

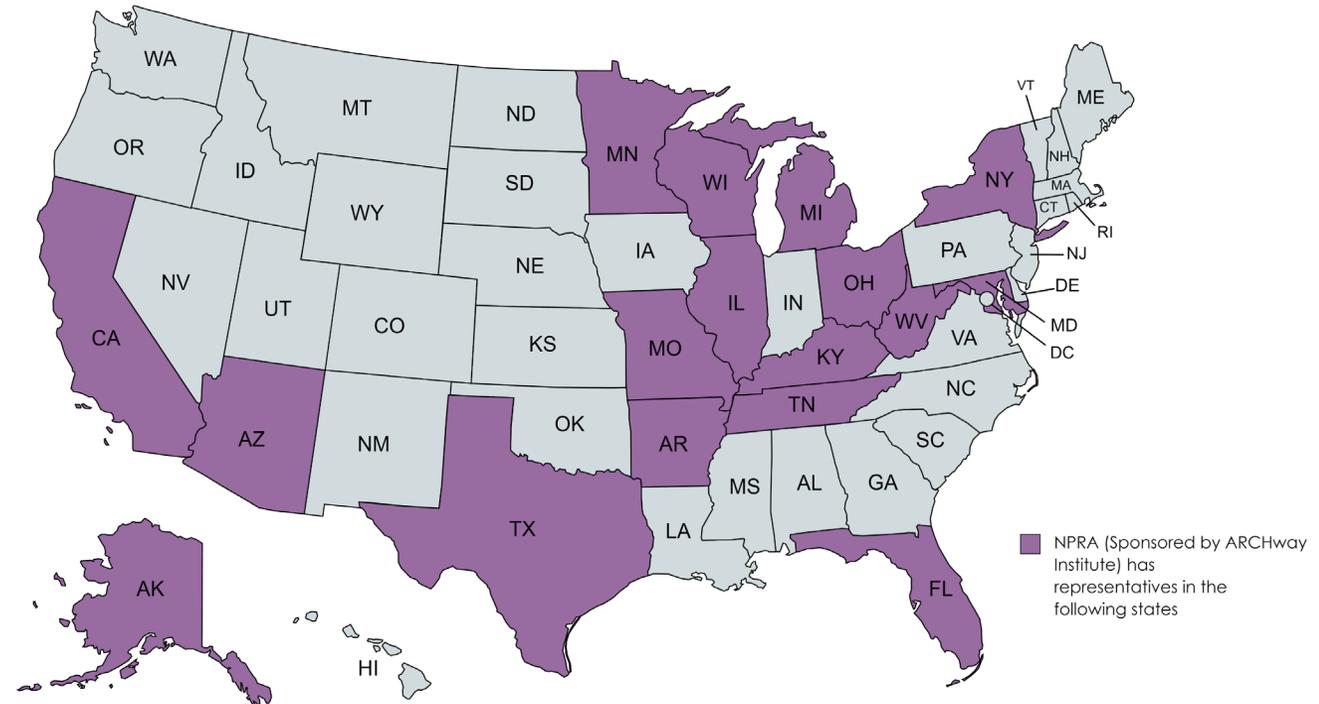
## What does NPRA do to achieve its objectives?

- Develop NPRA state affiliates across the country.
- Recruit peers for the workforce.
- Share best practices in peer work via conferences, one-on-one conversations, etc.
- Elevate the peer workforce through connecting them to educational opportunities and providing a network of support for them to share resources and best practices.
- Empower the peer workforce through providing leadership and advocacy trainings.
- Advocating for recovery support services.



## What is the current status of NPRA?

- Four (4) active NPRA affiliates in MO, OH, WV, FL.
- Representation from 17 states
- Has an active advisory board that is fully supported by the ARCHway Institute
- Has participated in numerous advocacy campaigns (Medicaid expansion, opioid settlement dollars, etc.)
- Will be speaking at 4+ conferences in 2022 as a division of ARCHway Institute.



# Session Objectives

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By the end of this session, attendees will have a better understanding of...

1. The Value of Peer Services
2. Current Barriers Facing the Peer Workforce
3. Ways to Effectively Integrate Peers Across the Continuum of Care
4. What NPRA & ARCHway Institute are doing to Elevate and Empower the Peer Workforce
5. The Importance of Advocacy

Followed by a Q&A – As we go through today's presentation, feel free to write your questions down on the provided index card.



# The Numbers are Staggering

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“Provisional data from CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics indicate that there were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 12-month period ending in April 2021, an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the year before,” (CDC).

How do we change this?

# Peers as Connectors



We need to connect people to ALL the treatment and recovery resources necessary for recovery.

AND peers are the ones for the job!

# The Role of Peer Support Specialists

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SAMHSA defines peer support specialists as people who have been successful in the recovery process who help others experiencing similar situations.

Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer support specialists help people become and stay engaged in the recovery process and reduce the likelihood of relapse.

Peer support can effectively extend the reach of treatment beyond the clinical setting into the everyday environment of those seeking a successful, sustained recovery process (SAMHSA).

**Peers meet those they are serving where they are and walk with them on their journey to recovery.**





## **RECOVERY PLANNING**

Recovery planning goes beyond a treatment plan, helping individuals increase recovery capital, which is defined as the internal and external factors that aid someone in finding and sustaining their recovery.



## **CONNECTION TO RESOURCES**

Peers provide a level of care coordination, connecting individuals to treatment, support groups, resources like food stamps, Medicaid, employment opportunities, and more.



## **MENTORSHIP**

Peers can meet one-on-one with individuals or in group settings. Peers model recovery in a way that makes it appealing while providing mentorship, which includes both personal and professional growth opportunities.



## **ADVOCACY**

Peers provide patient advocacy, ensuring those they are serving have access to the proper care and support necessary for recovery. In addition, peers are consulted when it comes to policy and budget decisions.

# The Role of Peer Support Specialists

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# The Value of Peer Support



Hospitalizations

ED Visits

Criminal Justice  
Recidivism

Treatment  
Retention Rates

Engagement in  
Recovery Support  
Services

Sustained  
Recovery

Cost Savings



Investing in  
Peer  
Services  
Saves Lives  
& Dollars

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# The Value of Peer Services

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“44% decrease in patients hospitalized and a 9% decrease in patients with an ED visit...66% increase in outpatient utilization across primary care, community health center visits, mental health, and laboratory visits.”

“Study participants reported high levels of satisfaction with the online [Peer Support Solutions’ video-based Depression Recovery] groups. They also reported large reduction in participants use of urgent care (-48%), emergency rooms (-50%) and hospitalizations (-69%). They also show large reduction in symptoms indicated by 33% fewer of respondents reporting that they were moderately to severely depressed.”



# Peers Across the Continuum of Care

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Inpatient & residential treatment programs

Crisis teams

Outpatient treatment programs

Harm reduction programs

Hospital outreach and linkage

Criminal justice

Community outreach and linkage

Businesses

Recovery housing agencies

Mental Health Services

**ANYWHERE** people are struggling with substance use and/or mental health disorders.

# But to do this, we have to...

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## GROW

Where and how do we recruit peers for the workforce?

## STRENGTHEN

What do peers need to be successful?  
How can we better equip them for the work they will be doing?

## EMPOWER

How do we encourage peers to share their authentic voice?

# Grow

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Recruiting peers

Demonstrating the work that peers are doing across the continuum

Educating and advocating for a livable wage for peers

Supporting credentialing bodies in each state by helping to provide additional peer trainings

# Strengthen

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Career mentorship programming

Peer career ladders and pathways for growth

Stronger supervision models for peers entering the workforce

# Empower

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Advocacy Trainings

Leadership Trainings

# Our Partners

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# Panel Discussion

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- 1) Introduce yourself
- 2) What barriers have you seen agencies face as they are integrating peers? How have they overcome these barriers?
- 3) What do peers need to be successful in their roles? What resources are available to them?
- 4) Why is it so important to grow and develop the peer workforce?
- 5) What is NPRA doing to help?

# Q&A

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# Partner with us!

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- If you are currently working as a peer, JOIN US!
- If you are a provider that employs peers, LET'S COLLABORATE!
- There are state and National membership options allowing you to SUPPORT NPRA's efforts!
- CONNECT with us! Join our email list, follow us on Facebook, and/or give us a call.

# Let's Connect!

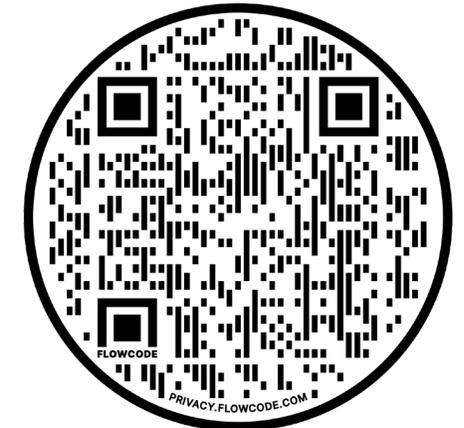
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Give - <https://thearchwayinstitute.org/get-involved/make-a-donation/>



## Follow us on social media!

ARCHway Institute – <https://www.facebook.com/thearchwayinstitute>

NPRA - <https://www.facebook.com/NPRAPeers>

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