

JUNE 8–12 2025
41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NATIONAL RURAL INSTITUTE ON

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND ADDICTIONS



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT
Menomonie, Wisconsin



Welcome to The Rural!

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General Information

Messages or Program Updates

Please check the message board outside of the Great Hall for any last minute updates to the program, including location changes, cancellations, and additions. This information will also be shared in the Cvent app.

Messages for other attendees can be left at the information desk or shared within Cvent.

Meals

This year, conference breakfast will be hosted in the Great Hall. Lunch will be in the Mere Price Commons building, and dinner will be provided only where indicated on the schedule. Please wear your name badge at lunch, as it is your meal ticket.

Any dietary restrictions not already communicated to UW-Stout staff should be declared as soon as possible.

For recommendations on where to eat dinner on days it is not provided, please ask event staff.

Emergencies

In case of emergency, please call 911.

UW-Stout police will be notified of any 911 calls. They are also available at (715) 232-2222

Parking

Parking is available in UW-Stout lot #4 (1400 Broadway St. S Menomonie, WI).

If you receive a parking ticket, please contact campus police at the number above.

Lost and Found

Lost and found items will be held at the Registration desk for pickup, and information about lost and found items will be shared via the Cvent app. Unclaimed items will be held by Continuing Education and Conferences through the close of on demand viewing.

On Campus Internet Access

Connect to the StoutGuest wireless network.

The network will prompt you to enter your email address, but you will not need a password.

Non-Smoking Policy

Please note that smoking is not allowed within any University of Wisconsin-Stout buildings or patios.

On Campus Housing

Guests staying on campus will be in the McCalmont Residence Hall. Please see your email for information on checking into on campus housing.

Residence Hall check out is at 12:00 P.M. on either June 12 or June 13. Information on checkout procedures will be provided the day before you check out of your dorm.

There is a \$50 fee for keys not returned at checkout.

Conference App

The virtual elements of The Rural, including on demand viewing, will be handled via a software called Cvent. Cvent has both an app and a website where attendees can join message boards, watch live or recorded sessions, and receive notifications from event planners.

To access Cvent from your phone, please visit the app store and download the **Cvent Events** app.

Within the app, search for "2025 National Rural Institute on Alcohol, Drugs, and Addictions" and download the event.

Upon opening the event, the app will ask for your name and the email you used to register for the event. Once you enter this information, it will email or text you a code to confirm your information, and you will be able to access the full event!

To access Cvent from your computer, visit <https://cvent.me/wqVgxN> (case sensitive). When prompted, enter your name and the email you used to register. The system will send you an email with a code to enter, and you will be able to use that to log in.

If you have any questions about this, please visit **NRADAN.org/Cvent** or ask event staff at the registration table.

If you would like to practice watching a session on demand, Harold Hughes's speech "Bringing Excellence to Rural America" will be available on demand beginning Monday, June 9.

CEUs

CE Credit/Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for the in person, virtual, and on demand portions of The Rural through NAADAC. On demand viewing will be available through September 1, 2025.

In person CEU verification is done via sign in sheets in each room. Please be sure to sign in for every session you attend to be sure you get credit for all of them.

Virtual CEU verification is done automatically through Cvent.

CEU certificates will be distributed by mid September. If you need official CEU verification before September, please contact hildinga@uwstout.edu.





At-a-Glance Schedule

Sunday, June 8, 2025

2:30–6:00 p.m.	Conference Check In
5:30–6:30 p.m.	Pre-Conference Social in the Great Hall
6:30–8:45 p.m.	Plenary Speaker: Paul Mladnick

Monday, June 9, 2025

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the Great Hall
8:30–9:45 a.m.	Plenary Speaker(s): Panel
10:15–11:15 a.m.	Part 1: Tracks 1 – 4
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Part 2: Tracks 1 – 4
12:30–1:45 p.m.	Lunch in Price Commons
1:45–2:45 p.m.	Part 3: Tracks 1 – 4
3:00–4:00 p.m.	Part 4: Tracks 1 – 4
4:00–4:30 p.m.	Snack Break
4:30–5:30 p.m.	Special Topics 1 – 4

Monday Night Activity: Barbeque Dinner

Join us outside the Memorial Student Center (or, if it's raining, in the MSC terrace) to relax after the first full day of The Rural! If needed, the moderator in your special topic will let you know where to go.

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

7:00–8:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the Great Hall
7:15–8:15 a.m.	Public NRADAN Board Meeting
8:30–9:45 a.m.	Plenary Speaker: Christy Alten
10:15–11:15 a.m.	Part 1: Tracks 5 – 8
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Part 2: Tracks 5 – 8
12:30–1:45 p.m.	Lunch in Price Commons
1:45–2:45 p.m.	Part 3: Tracks 5 – 8
3:00–4:00 p.m.	Part 4: Tracks 5 – 8
4:00–4:30 p.m.	Snack Break
4:30–5:30 p.m.	Special Topics 5 – 8

Tuesday Night Activity: Community Band Concert

We're headed to Wilson Park (800 Wilson Ave.) for an outdoor concert!

The concert starts at 7:30 p.m., and a local nonprofit will have treats for sale.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

7:30–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45–9:45 a.m.	Special Topics 9 – 12
10:15–11:15 a.m.	Part 1: Tracks 9 – 12
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Part 2: Tracks 9 – 12
12:30–1:45 p.m.	Lunch in Price Commons
1:45–2:45 p.m.	Part 3: Tracks 9 – 12
3:00–4:00 p.m.	Part 4: Tracks 9 – 12
4:00–4:30 p.m.	Snack Break
4:30–5:30 p.m.	Plenary Speaker: Michael Miller

Wednesday Night Activity: Variety Show!

Relax with old friends, make new ones, and show off your skills at the Variety Show hosted by Miss Richfield 1981!

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Heavy appetizers will be provided.

Thursday, June 12, 2025

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the Great Hall
8:30–9:30 a.m.	Special Topics 13 – 16
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Plenary Speaker: Russ King





Sessions at a Glance

A note on conference structure:

Some sessions at The Rural are grouped into tracks. The disparate parts of these tracks build on each other, so while you don't have to stay in one track all day, you might learn more if you do!

Monday, June 9, 2025

Track 1: Medical Topics	Ballroom A
Track 2: LGBTQIA+ Specific Treatment	Cedar/Maple
Track 3: Ethics	Ballroom C
Track 4: Eating Disorders, SUD, Addictive Behaviors: What Do We Need to Know?	Oakwood
Special Topic 1: Process Addictions: A Review	Ballroom A
Special Topic 2: Recovery Advocacy	Ballroom C
Special Topic 3: Ethical & Social Justice Considerations for Harm Prevention Policy	Cedar/Maple
Special Topic 4: SuperHuman Being, Be Bold, Be Imperfect, Be Present, & Recover	Oakwood

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Track 5: Criteria in Clinical Practice: DSM-5 TR and the ASAM Criteria	Ballroom A
Track 6: Strengthening Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills	Ballroom C
Track 7: Understanding Trauma	Cedar/Maple
Track 8: Let's Talk About Grief in All Shapes and Sizes	Oakwood
Special Topic 5: Working with the Indigenous Population	Ballroom A
Special Topic 6: Valuing Servant Leadership	Oakwood
Special Topic 7: Who Gets Worse in Wilderness Therapy for Adolescents?	Ballroom C
Special Topic 8: 12 Steps beyond AA	Cedar/Maple

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Track 9: Let's Recover Together	Ballroom A
Track 10: Using Tech to Power Recovery-Oriented Systems in Rural Communities	Cedar/Maple
Track 11: Correctional Behavioral Health: Challenges and Opportunities	Oakwood
Track 12: Indigenous Topics	Ballroom C
Special Topic 9: CoDA: A pathway to healthy and loving relationships	Cedar/Maple
Special Topic 10: Peer Recovery in Integrated Healthcare	Ballroom C
Special Topic 11: Trapped: The Realities of Rural Poverty	Ballroom A
Special Topic 12: MOUD in a County Correctional Facility	Oakwood

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Special Topic 13: Implementing Desistance Practices into Case Management...	Oakwood
Special Topic 14: Crossing Generations in the Workplace	Cedar/Maple
Special Topic 15: A 12-Step Lifeline: Al-Anon	Ballroom A
Special Topic 16: Positive Psychology	Ballroom C





Plenary Sessions: MSC Great Hall

Recovery Messages

Paul Mladnick

Sunday, June 8, 6:30–8:45 p.m.

This session will be preceded by a sage burning ceremony and a Haka. Attendees who are sensitive to smoke or loud sounds may wish to arrive around 7:20 p.m.

All too often music and movie scenes may trigger a person's desire to escape through an addiction. This one-hour session turns the table in pointing to movies, and other scenes that can support recovery. Paul Newman, Jessica Lange, Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis, and Tom Hanks all have a role in this outside-the-box keynote session. You will see firsthand examples of a variety of issues talked about in recovery all the time. Acceptance, trust in the process, empathy, and letting go are just a few of the subjects that will be shown in this presentation. Sit back and enjoy, you will be educated and entertained as you watch each interesting scene.



2025 Harold E. Hughes award presentation: The **Larry W. And Louise Monson Award** honors an individual or organization for their substantial contributions to and support of The Rural and their dedication to resolving rural addiction issues. The 2025 award honors **Shari Lynn**.

National Update on Rural Addiction Issues

Tom Farley, Joe Amico, Kirk Moberg, & Dianne Sullivan

Monday, June 9, 8:30–9:45 a.m.

Moderated by Jereme Rose, this discussion brings together a distinguished panel of leaders including Joe Amico, Dr. Kirk Moberg, Dianne Sullivan, and Tom Farley. Together, they will explore how evolving policies impact rural communities grappling with addiction, highlighting both the challenges and innovative strategies emerging across the country. This session promises informed perspectives, practical insights, and a call to action for those working on the frontlines of rural health and recovery.

2025 Harold E. Hughes award presentation: The **Pioneer Award** honors a person or program in recognition of their pioneering contributions to the rural addiction field that help improve the lives of those who suffer from addiction. The 2025 award honors **Mike Early**.

This session is sponsored by Recovery.com, who are also sponsoring breakfast in the Great Hall!

 **Recovery.com**



Plenary Sessions: MSC Great Hall

Polyvagal Approaches & Clinical Applications

Christy Alten

Tuesday, June 10, 8:30–9:45 a.m.

Polyvagal approaches were born from the mind of Stephen Porges, who on studying heart rate variability in infants discovered the connection between the vagus nerve and felt safety. The vagus nerve is responsible for regulating our fight/flight, freeze and rest and digest responses in our body. Neuroception and social engagement are key concepts we will learn about. In this presentation we will explore the vagus nerve and learn how to harness it to help our clients. I have found it to be an essential tool in my clinical toolbox, especially for clients whose body is dysregulated – making it nearly impossible to engage in the deeper healing of therapy. You will learn clinical applications including: creating an autonomic ladder, exploring the “BASICS” of social engagement in therapy and creating a personal connection plan.



2025 Harold E. Hughes award presentation: The **Exceptional Rural Professional Award** honors a rural professional who exemplifies outstanding contribution to the rural addiction field. They work without seeking recognition do so tirelessly for those who suffer the effects of addiction. The 2025 award honors **James Carter**.

Recovery From Addiction: A Bio Psycho Social Spiritual Process

Michael Miller

Wednesday, June 11, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

For years the addiction field has spoken of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care. We say we promote recovery. But what is recovery? Is it a destination or a journey? Various entities have tried to describe and define it. In this presentation, one of the leaders of the group within the American Society of Addiction Medicine (and a former ASAM President) reviews ASAM’s 2013 Definition of Addiction and its implications for recovery from addiction, as well as other conceptualizations/ definitions of recovery, to help us define our work in this field and have clear and reasonable goals in mind for our work with clients in rural and other areas. We will also touch on what is known about healing of neurobiology as an individual proceeds through recovery from addiction. I review the way Recovery from Addiction has been viewed by various entities: ASAM, SAMHSA, the Betty Ford Institute. Participants will acquire a framework in which to place the interventions they offer and will learn to teach others about recovery.



2025 Harold E. Hughes award presentation: The **Harold E. Hughes Award** honors individuals and programs who, like Senator Harold Hughes, will leave a lasting impact on addiction policy and rural health initiatives. The 2025 award honors **Chester Marcol**.

Plenary Sessions: MSC Great Hall

My Fabulous Recovery, As I Heal in Heels!

Russ King

Thursday, June 12, 10:00–11:30 a.m.



Our keynote speaker this year is a two-in-one, as we welcome Russ King and his alter ego, Miss Richfield 1981. In this presentation, Russ will talk about his career in drag leading him into a life of recovery. He'll share both the joys of a life on stage, along with the challenges that a national drag career demands, such as late-night hours, traveling alone, and working in settings that are typically friendly to alcohol and drugs. But along with the struggles of substance abuse, Russ also will speak to the surprisingly supportive drag community that provided him with a network of friends who encouraged his sobriety. Russ created Miss Richfield 1981 while working in the AIDS community in the mid-1990's. The character is a beauty pageant winner from his hometown of Richfield, a first-ring suburb of Minneapolis, Minn., as well as an homage to his mother. Since its creation, Miss Richfield has become a national act, with more than 100 shows each year in theaters and nightclubs across the country. Her schedule annually includes a summer residence at the Post Office Cabaret in Provincetown, MA, and frequent tours with Atlantis Events cruise ships and resorts. Miss Richfield's live performances have received critical acclaim with The New York Post declaring Miss R as "the must-see act in Provincetown" and The Chicago Sun-Times describing her as "Garrison Keillor meets Mary Tyler Moore." Miss R's wide appeal includes riotous appearances on "The Tonight Show" & "Today" on NBC and "Cake Boss" on TLC, along with being a national spokesperson for Orbitz and the Cities of Philadelphia and Palm Springs. Russ hopes this presentation will celebrate the transformative power of drag, as well as the solace and strength sobriety adds to his work on and off the stage.

2025 Harold E. Hughes award presentation: The **Exceptional Service Responsiveness to Rural Issues and Needs** award honors a person or program that exemplifies outstanding contribution to the rural addiction field. They have established exceptional responsiveness to the rural addiction field that helps improve the lives of those who suffer the effects of addiction. The 2025 award is presented to **Kristin Muhler**.

Institute Tracks

Monday, June 9, 2025

Track 1: Medical Topics

Room: Ballroom A

Speaker: Dr. Kirk Moberg

Part 1: Desired and Undesired Additives in the Drug Supply

Apart from FDA approved pharmaceuticals, the purity and even identity of the substances in the underground market are suspect. This presentation will review the categories of additives in the current drug supply and highlight specific additives and their medical consequences.

Part 2: The Overdose Crisis—How We Got Here and Where We are Going

The drug overdose phenomenon is a growing public health crisis that has made an impact on life expectancy in the United States. Although consistently driven by opioids, the focus of the epidemic has changed from prescription opioids to heroin to illegally manufactured fentanyl and its analogs. This presentation will trace the history of the crisis as well as the various clinical and policy responses to it.

Part 3: Inhalants—A Review

Inhalants comprise a category in the DSM-5 TR that is unlike that of other categories in the substance related disorders section. As opposed to a pharmacologic class inhalants are grouped together by the common means of how they are introduced to the body. This presentation will review the diverse compounds that comprise inhalants and their medical consequences.

Part 4: Pharmacologic Interventions for Addictive Disorders

For some substance use disorders medications are part of the first line of treatment options. This presentation will discuss available medications to treat a variety of addictive disorders. The presentation will focus on the FDA approved medications for alcohol, tobacco and opioid use disorders but will also cover non-FDA approved medications for these and other substance and behavioral addictions.

Track 2: LGBTQIA+ Specific Treatment

Room: Cedar/Maple

Speakers: Kataria Tolic, Patrick Perry, Megan Buerkley

This track is designed to deepen understanding, foster cultural competence, and promote affirming care for LGBTQIA+ individuals navigating substance use and recovery. Participants will explore the intersectionality of sexual orientation, gender identity, and substance use disorders (SUDs), while gaining actionable tools to dismantle barriers and disparities in care. This is especially relevant due to current political climate and higher rates of mental health and substance use disorders faced by LGBTQIA folx.

Part 1: LGBTQIA+ Care: The Basics

In part 1 we will look into LGBTQ history, identity descriptions, and risk factors to provide a base understanding. After completing this session, participants will be able to: Understand history of LGBTQIA population as it relates to trauma, understand basic LGBTQ terms and labels, and understand what erasure looks like and how it affects our population.

Part 2: Dysphoria in the Transgender and Nonbinary Experience

In part 2 we will look into the unique experiences and challenges of our transgender and non-binary clients. After completing this session, participants will be able to: Understand what it means to be transgender and nonbinary, understand risk factors for substance use for transgender and nonbinary folx, and use affirming practices in treatment settings.

Part 3: Why Culturally Specific Care Matters

We will look into how clinics, treatment centers, and other areas of care can tailor their practices to be affirming. After completing this session, participants will be able to: Recognize barriers to care, apply culturally responsive practices, and reflect on personal and organizational bias.

Track 2 is sponsored
by Pride Institute



Institute Tracks: Monday

Part 4: Family & Community as it relates to the LGBTQIA+ Experience

We will focus on the importance of support systems in mental health and substance use recovery and how we can support our clients in finding positive family, found family, and community connections. After completing this session, attendees will be able to: Identify family traumas and LGBTQ+ identity, define 'found family', and recognize non-traditional support systems.

Track 3: Professional Development of Ethical Competency

Room: Ballroom C

Speaker: Jeffrey Ahonen

Professional ethics is a set of values, principles, and practices that govern and guide the attitudes and behaviors of practitioners in the pursuit of the best interests of their clients, the general public, and their profession as a whole – as well as themselves. This four-hour track aims to further the professional development of ethical competency for the helping professional, with particular application to practitioners working with addiction-impacted persons.

Part 1: Ethical Principles

In this first session, we will consider basic concepts and principles of professional ethics as a foundation for establishing a patient-centered approach to ethical decision-making that respects client autonomy and professional integrity. Participants will grow in ethical sensitivity, in the capacity for ethical judgment, and in motivation for ethical action in their personal and professional lives. At the end of this session, participants will be able to: Identify basic concepts and principles of ethics that are important in personal and professional life; Articulate the importance of a person-centered approach to personal and professional ethics; Demonstrate enhanced capability with balancing competing values in sound ethical decision-making.

Part 2: Ethical Theories

In this second, we will consider four ethical theories – virtue ethics, utilitarian ethics, deontological (duty) ethics, and care-centered ethics – and their usefulness in establishing an ethical framework

for professional ethics generally and patient-centered ethical decision-making specifically. Participants will grow in their understanding of the benefits and limitations of each theory and enhance their abilities in applying these theories in personal and professional contexts. At the end of this session, participants will be able to: Describe the basic premises of the ethical theories of virtue ethics, utilitarian ethics, deontological (duty) ethics, and care-centered ethics; Distinguish between applications of virtue ethics, utilitarian ethics, deontological (duty) ethics, and care-centered ethics in personal and professional ethical contexts; Describe the potential applications for virtue ethics, utilitarian ethics, deontological (duty) ethics, and care-centered ethics in the work of the addiction professional.

Part 3: Ethical Codes

In this third session, we will consider the vital importance of the professional code of ethics as establishing the ethical virtues, ethical duties, and anticipated ethical outcomes for practitioners in their professional roles. The ethical codes of NAADAC and the American Counseling Association will be featured as examples. Participants will enhance their capabilities for integrating the core aspects of their professional code of ethics into their personal and professional lives. At the end of this session, participants will be able to: identify the underlying premises for the professional code of ethics, articulate the importance of the professional code of ethics in the practitioner's personal and professional life, and apply competently and confidently the applicable professional code of ethics in the practitioner's work and life.

Part 4: Ethical Applications

In this fourth and final session, we will examine ethical decision-making models that can be applied to analyze ethical problems, to consider potential solutions, and to evaluate potential outcomes that pursue the good for all stakeholders. Participants will grow in their capabilities for making sound ethical judgments in their personal and professional lives. At the end of this session, participants will be able to: Identify basic models for ethical decision-making in personal and professional contexts; Articulate

Institute Tracks: Monday

the importance of following a systematic decision-making process for resolving ethical problems; Demonstrate the capability for utilizing an ethical decision-making process in resolving a hypothetical ethical dilemma in their work setting.

Track 4: Eating Disorders, SUD, Addictive Behaviors: What Do We Need to Know?

Room: Oakwood

Speaker: Lena Sheffield

While eating disorders are often considered a wealthy, adolescent girl problem, we can miss the individuals from all ages, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, genders, and LGBTQIA+ community who struggle with severe behaviors and disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorders, avoidance/ restrictive food intake disorders and self-harm due to poor body image. As society continues to place extreme emphasis on “healthy eating and exercise,” some of our clients may take it to a dangerous level. Substance use can contribute to damaging weight management and body shaping, and our treatment approach could inadvertently reinforce very unhealthy behaviors. Second to opioid use disorder, anorexia nervosa is the second leading cause of death among DSM 5-TR diagnoses. The health and psychological risks of the pursuit of thinness must be explored with all our clients. Eating disorders may be blocking recovery from other substances and behaviors that we are not exploring with clients. Access to specialized eating disorder treatment can be difficult and costly. Still, as addiction counselors, we can intervene with early detection and help educate our clients, colleagues, and the healthcare community about these very dangerous disorders. We will explore our own relationships with body image, weight management practices, substances, and products used to attain perfection. How do our messages and social media contribute to body image shaming? How untreated anxiety and trauma perpetuate disordered eating and compulsive exercises. The workshop will also address new weight loss medications, HAES (health at every size),

and products for increasing energy and muscle building.

Part 1

Diagnostic criteria, warning signs, health concerns, when strengths become impairments, interference with SUD recovery for eating disorders. Participants will learn to: Identify and explain two health concerns for anorexia nervosa. Identify and explain two health concerns for bulimia nervosa. Identify and explain two health concerns for binge eating disorders. Identify and explain two health concerns for ARFID.

Part 2

Atypical or sub-threshold symptoms that can disrupt sobriety. Influence of trauma and unresolved anxiety, temperament, vulnerabilities in recovery. Participants will learn to: List two reasons why atypical anorexia is often dismissed. Understand how unresolved trauma can impact eating disorder behaviors.

Part 3

The diet industry, social media, and standard healthcare role in reinforcing eating disorders. Collaborating with addiction recovery goals. Participants will learn to: Describe two ways social media contributes to body shaming. List two goals for recovery not related to weight.

Part 4

Weight loss medication, pharmaceutical and street products used in weight management and body contouring. Self-reflection as the counselor. Participants will learn to: Describe at least two ways your own biases can negatively interfere with client's care. List at least two ways you can further your education and resources for working with eating disorders.

Institute Tracks: Tuesday

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Track 5: Criteria in Clinical Practice: DSM-5 TR and the ASAM Criteria

Room: Ballroom A

Speaker: Dr. Kirk Moberg

Part 1: The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual

The fifth edition of The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (currently DSM-5 TR) introduced major changes in the conceptualization of substance-related and addictive disorders. The subsequent publication of The ASAM Criteria was based on this new perspective. This presentation will provide a detailed review of DSM-5 TR focusing on criteria for addictive disorders and their application to clinical practice.

Part 2: Introduction to the ASAM Criteria

The third edition of The ASAM Criteria built upon its predecessor's focus on matching the severity of the disease with the intensity of the treatment with the addition of detailed instructions as to how this was to be done. This presentation will review the dimensions, levels of care, imminent danger assessment and immediate need profiles and their application.

Part 3: Utilization of the ASAM Criteria

This presentation will serve as an interactive workshop in the use of The ASAM Criteria. Multiple case studies will be presented and discussed with examples from multiple substance categories and gambling disorder.

Part 4: The Brand New Fourth Edition

The first volume of the fourth edition of The ASAM Criteria was published in 2023. It is the first of four volumes focused on adults which is expected to be implemented sometime in the future. Three volumes focusing on adolescents, correctional settings, and behavioral addictions are scheduled to be released later. This presentation will introduce the first volume and highlight the changes from the third edition.

Track 6: Strengthening Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills

Room: Ballroom C

Speaker: DeAnne Priddis

This 4-hour workshop is designed to help professionals improve communication skills, build relationships, and manage conflicts effectively. You will gain practical tools for listening better, expressing emotions, sharing your thoughts, and navigating difficult conversations. Whether you attend one session or all four, you'll leave with actionable skills you can immediately apply to your work. Each session can stand alone, but together, they provide a deeper dive into enhancing your communication skills.

Part 1: Enhancing Your Listening Skills

In this session, we'll discuss the difference between truly listening and simply hearing. Participants will learn to: Understand the difference between listening and hearing and why it matters. Learn how to paraphrase and summarize effectively.

Part 2: Communicating Emotions Effectively

This session focuses on managing emotions during conversations and using clear methods to express. Participants will: Learn to express emotions clearly using "I statements" and the XYZ. Explore strategies to keep emotional conversations productive.

Part 3: Understanding Conflict Styles

Conflict doesn't have to be a bad thing! In this session, you will examine the five main conflicts. Participants will learn to: Differentiate the five conflict styles and their practical applications. Identify your default conflict style and explore areas for growth. Understand how various conflict styles can be effective in different situations.

Part 4: Sharing Opinions and Handling Feedback

Speaking up and getting feedback doesn't have to be scary. This session covers the essentials. Participants will learn to: Discover techniques for giving and receiving feedback and apply strategies for saving face to build trust and strengthen relationships.

Institute Tracks

Track 7: Understanding Trauma

Room: Cedar/Maple

Speaker: Desiree Grin

This track will go through the history of trauma treatment, the history of rural trauma, and the ways that we can do preventative care in our communities and follow up care for those suffering from different traumas.

Part 1: Understanding Trauma

This section will discuss the overall history of trauma treatment, and how trauma has been perceived throughout history. Participants will learn to: Understand the way that trauma has been portrayed throughout the ages. Understand how to identify and assist those in need of help.

Part 2: Trauma in Rural Communities

This section will discuss how we can begin to treat and engage with those in rural communities to find healing. Participants will learn to: Understand different ways to approach trauma in a rural community.

Part 3: Trauma Identification

This section will discuss the different ways that trauma can be identified and diagnosed. Participants will learn to: Assist with deep and true understanding of trauma diagnosis. It is essential to offer this understanding in an ever-changing, always-growing world of trauma care.

Part 4: Trauma -Where do we go from here?

Discussion of aftercare and follow up of those who receive Trauma treatment. Participants will learn to: Gain an understanding of how-to best maneuver care with a population who may have received trauma treatment and help them to move onto the maintenance and normalization of their lives after treatment, including identification of when there might be a need for an additional referral.

Track 8: Let's Talk About Grief in All Shapes and Sizes

Room: Oakwood

Speaker: Nicole Manson

With a casual, conversational approach we will discuss our experiences and questions regarding grief. As a trauma informed peer specialist, I will encourage attendees to share what they are

University of Wisconsin-Stout

comfortable with until the conversation can be enhanced by sharing my experiences with grief, death and estrangement.

Part 1: Different Types of Grief and How we can Cope

Introduce attendees of broad topic before getting into the details.

Part 2: More Grief Talk

Explore grief beyond the surface emotional responses.

Part 3: Living with grief

Explore and introduce some useful coping strategies and brainstorm strategies for our practices.

Part 4: Grief support

This final session will be more of a support group atmosphere for those that want to participate.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Track 9: Let's Recover Together

Room: Ballroom A

Speaker: Julie Smith

This session will discuss barriers and solutions to building peer led rural recovery communities in Western Wisconsin.

Part 1: Overview and Challenges of Building Peer Led Rural Recovery Communities

Overview of clients served and identify challenges peers are facing when seeking recovery.

Part 2: It Takes a Village

We will discuss the potential community partners and how they can contribute to peer supported recovery. Participants will learn to identify community partners and how they can contribute to this peer led community.

Part 3: Connecting the Dots

We will discuss how to connect the clients to the community partners in a sustainable way. Participants will learn to connect with treatment providers, Department of Corrections, and community partners.

Part 4: Call to Action

Raising awareness and advocating for rural peer support communities.



Institute Tracks: Wednesday

Track 10: Using Tech to Power Recovery-Oriented Systems in Rural Communities

Room: Cedar/Maple

Speakers: Steve Delisi, Nathan Koranda, Jordan Hansen

The future of healthcare for families and individuals struggling with substance use disorders will be connected and decentralized. The limits of our attempt to create programmatic solutions instead of systemic approaches has resulted in a fractured system that is misaligned and disintegrated. Our approach offers integrated medical, clinical and recovery support services designed specifically for supporting initial access and transitions, powered by an innovative technology platform that allows for service across large geographies and large populations. This statewide solution makes it easy as possible for individuals – especially those in rural areas – to connect with resources in a manner that allows for a “bundled” care team across organizations and systems. Our model aims to fit like a puzzle piece into existing systems and collaborate with existing supports, especially those found settings with lower access to resources. Our unique approach combines best practices in: Medical care, including low-barrier access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and psychiatry Integrated clinical care, including treatments and therapies across the continuum Recovery support, harm reduction services, and resources that address social determinants of health, like housing, family recovery support, vocational assistance, and other recovery-correlated elements of care We believe that recovery is best supported for most people via in person, community supports. But immediate access and stabilization is often best supported via virtual options.

Part 1: What’s in our system?

Many systems touch families and individuals with SUD. From community supervision to harm reduction, hospitals to peers. After completing this session, participants will: Understand the basic tenets of a ROSC. Identify what systems are often included in this paradigm.

Part 2: Dangerous, common gaps

This session will explore the typical gaps that are present in most rural communities. In this session, participants will: Explore the common gaps as demonstrated by data. Explore the gaps in their community systems.

Part 3: Potential solutions

Aligning and integrating systems. In this session, participants will learn what interventions have been demonstrated to be effective across the country in rural areas.

Part 4: Planning action

What gaps are priorities? What should we do about it? In this session, participants will identify their top priorities for systems integration in their community.

Track 11: Correctional Behavioral Health: Challenges and Opportunities

Room: Oakwood Room

Speaker: David Dawdy

This educational session provides a comprehensive understanding of the complex behavioral health issues within correctional settings. It explores the importance of trauma-informed care in addressing mental health and substance use challenges among justice-involved individuals. The session covers effective substance use treatment models, strategies for providing mental health services, and successful reentry programs that support individuals transitioning back into communities. Additionally, it highlights the role of peer support in reducing stigma and improving outcomes. Professionals and stakeholders from various sectors will learn about collaborative strategies and tools to enhance partnerships between correctional facilities and community healthcare providers, ultimately supporting justice-involved individuals and contributing to healthier, more resilient communities.

Part 1: Understanding Trauma’s Impact on the Justice-Involved

Trauma and ACEs lead to problematic behavior and justice involvement. In this session, attendees will: Discuss Trauma’s Impact: Explain how trauma affects behavior and health outcomes in justice-involved populations. Identify Support Needs: List essential elements required for effective interactions with authorities and helpers in trauma-informed care.





Institute Tracks: Wednesday

Part 2: Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health Services for Justice Settings

Participants will learn about barriers to providing mental health services and potential solutions. This session will cover Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment Models and Service Delivery Challenges. Participants will learn to: Describe effective approaches for addressing substance use and mental health challenges in correctional settings. Identify barriers to providing integrated mental health and substance use services in correctional facilities and discuss potential solutions.

Part 3: Reentry Programs and Peer Support

This segment emphasizes the importance of peer support in reducing stigma and improving reentry outcomes. It explore Participants will learn to: Explain the role of peer support in reducing stigma and enhancing reentry outcomes for justice-involved individuals. Highlight successful reentry programs that integrate peer support and community resources to facilitate smoother transitions into communities.

Part 4: Addressing Stigma and Implementing Solutions

This final part addresses the impact of stigma on mental health and substance use treatment incorrection. Participants will learn to: Identify effective strategies for reducing stigma around mental health and substance use in communities. Discuss how collaboration between correctional facilities and community healthcare providers can improve access to mental health and substance use services for justice-involved individuals.

Track 11 is sponsored by tbdSolutions!



Track 12: Indigenous People Improving Competency: Prevention to Treatment

Room: Ballroom C

Speaker: Dianne Sullivan

Indigenous tribes are a relatively small part of the U.S. population, but are disproportionately affected by health issues including substance use & mental health disorders. Tribes have been historically marginalized by government policy and actions. The boarding school era and removal acts of the last

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two centuries have left long lasting psychological scars on their communities. Often, we are treatment providers and prevention specialists as people in tribal communities to trust systems that have been historically harmful.

This track will focus on helping professionals develop and use culturally competent tools and techniques to assist in the process of healing. Topics will include 12-step resistance, developing trust, alternative models of recovery, and developing a strong therapeutic alliance.

Part 1

Session One will briefly cover the Native experience with discussing some of the federal Indian policies used by the government over a two hundred year period. Understanding context is important in developing the alliance.

Part 2

Session Two will cover the impact of intergenerational and historical traumas impact on Native people. Participants can discover how our way helping may have been more harmful in working with people in different modes of prevention addiction treatment practices.

Part 3

Session Three we will look at how Our Culture is Our Prevention and how tribes are working across generations to incorporate traditional and cultural practices, focusing on youth to utilize tools and a way of life that has always been there. How can we as professionals demonstrate a willingness to learn how to best assist the whole family system with wellness.

Part 4

Session Four will focus on how Indigenous communities are reclaiming traditional lifestyles that embrace what has always existed in our community. Participants will learn and demonstrate ways they can connect with clients in respectful appropriate ways. We will talk about we as providers can establish guiding relationships with people in the community to better serve the Indigenous populations.



Special Topics

Monday, June 9, 2025

Special Topic 1: Process Addictions: A Review

Room: Ballroom A

Speaker: Dr. Kirk Moberg

Alcohol and drugs are not the only factors in addictive disorders. Some individuals exhibit compulsivity and negative consequences when engaging in behaviors such as gambling, gaming, shopping and spending, and a host of others. This presentation will review the behavioral, or process, addictions highlighting unifying themes and individual variation. Learning Objectives: The participant will compare process addictions with substance use disorders. The participant will discuss the role of meso-limbic/meso-cortical reward system in the process addictions. The participant will discuss the role of medications in the treatment of gambling disorder and other process addictions.

Special Topic 2: Recovery Advocacy

Room: Cedar/Maple

Speaker: Randy Anderson

The session will provide attendees with practical information about how to be an advocate for change in their communities. The session will demonstrate & provide steps for anyone to advocate at local, state and federal level. This session will demonstrate how important advocacy is and its impact. After the close of this session, attendees will: Develop a shared definition of advocacy. Understand the steps to be an advocate. Know the difference between being an advocate and activist.

Special Topic 3: Ethical and Social Justice Considerations for Harm Prevention Policy

Room: Ballroom C

Speaker: Jeffery Ahonen

Harm reduction is a cluster of programs, interventions, and social services that are directed toward reducing the potential risks to physical health, mental health, and general wellbeing as a result of problematic substance use. This special

topic session utilizes the tools of ethics and social justice to explore harm reduction as a component of a multifaceted policy for substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, particularly in a rural environment. We will examine ethical issues such as client autonomy, human rights, and the applicability of the helping professional's code of conduct, along with questions of civic justice, social justice, and the common good. Participants will sharpen their ethical decision-making skills and develop their capabilities for policy analysis. At the end of this session, participants will be able to: Demonstrate a general understanding of harm reduction policy. Articulate the benefits of harm reduction component in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. Describe the merits of harm reduction from an ethical and social justice perspective.

Special Topic 4: SuperHuman Being, Be Bold, Be Imperfect, Be Present, and Recover

Room: Oakwood

Speaker: Larry J. Winter

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to: Share the moment when I began my recovery. Offer recovery tools that work Offer the opportunity to dialogue with those in attendance and answer questions. Recovery is about relationship and connections.

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Special Topic 5: Working with the Indigenous Population

Room: Ballroom A

Speaker: Dianne Sullivan

With the highest rates of substance use and mental disorders among races in this country. We will look at how Indigenous people were impacted throughout American history. Treatment providers can learn ways to communicate and build relationships to improve client outcomes. How can we become more effective in developing trusting relationships to promote wellness and recovery for the Native community? Participants will demonstrate hands-on skills to improve trust and be welcomed to

Special Topics

share their experiences in working with diverse populations.

Special Topic 6: Valuing Servant Leadership

Room: Oakwood

Speaker: Gene Morfitt

From CEO to intern/volunteer servant leadership adds tremendous value to any organization or entity. With a world looking for the genuine and authentic, the servant leader is best poised to offer both. When team members be they employees, leaders, or volunteers exercise servant leadership the team and community are better for it. The awareness of being a servant leader can be recognized through team cohesion and generated through disciplined awareness. The stages of recognizing servant leadership are: Do I desire to serve or is there another motivation to lead? How well do I listen? Do I maintain awareness when I am with others? Do I attempt to steward what I am involved in? Do others become better because of my servant leadership? After completing this session, participants will be able to: Find value in the servant leadership construct. Learn a way to begin redirection toward servant leadership. Personal assessment in evaluating personal growth.

Special Topic 7: Who Gets Worse in Wilderness Therapy for Adolescents?

Room: Ballroom C

Speaker: Laura Mills

Which clients are most likely to deteriorate over the course of treatment? This question is seldom examined in research, but has profound potential for understanding and optimizing client improvement. In this study, we examined treatment outcomes of over 5,600 adolescents who engaged with wilderness therapy programs in the U.S. Most youths experience improved health and behavior over the course of therapy, but 10% reported health deterioration between admission and discharge. We explored client and family characteristics that predicted membership in this group. Using binary logistic regression, we found that gender, adoption, neurodiversity, parent engagement with therapy, and family functioning all played a role in whether

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a client was likely to be a member of the group of youths who deteriorated. For example, youths who were adopted were almost three times more likely to have membership in the 'deteriorators' group. We will discuss findings for each client and family characteristic that predicted therapeutic deterioration and dialogue with attendees about strategies to bolster benefits for these clients. We will also discuss the value of truly understanding the landscape of client data such that these questions can be examined and used as part of client treatment decisions and ongoing program quality improvement. At the end of this session, attendees will be able to: Understand factors that predict clinical deterioration among adolescents Learn strategies about how to identify clients who are at risk of deterioration. Dialogue about how to improve care for adolescents who are at risk of clinical deterioration.

Special Topic 8: 12 Steps beyond AA

Room: Cedar/Maple

Speakers: Joe Amico, Desiree Grin, Sherri Downing

We have all heard of AA as a 12 step leader, however we want to inform you on other 12 step groups that are available to you that you can use when referring your clients for help outside of regular sessions. We will be reviewing what we know and presenting you with a handout with some resources on the groups that we know about. After completing this session, attendees will be able to: Expand the general knowledge of 12 step groups Provide information to providers for solutions Improve an understanding of 12 step groups.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Special Topic 9: CoDA: A pathway to healthy and loving relationships

Room: Cedar/Maple

Speaker: Brenda Rausch

Codependency – What is it? How can the 12 Step program of Codependents Anonymous help the healing of relationships with ourselves and others? In this session I will share my 15-year journey of recovery from codependence as I applied the self-care tools of the program of Codependents

Special Topics

Anonymous. As I participated in the program I began to recognize the causes of my pain was due to longstanding, unhealthy patterns of living. Patterns which began to cope with overwhelming childhood stress. In CoDA I learned that I was not alone and found a new way to live. After completing this session, participants will be able to: Answer the question "What is codependency" as described in the book Codependents Anonymous as well as in other literature. Name the 5 patterns of Codependence with examples of the resulting attitudes and behaviors. Describe how the CoDA program can help heal relationships.

Special Topic 10: Peer Recovery in Integrated Healthcare

Room: Ballroom C

Speaker: Christy Hall, Stacey Franks

Arkansas Peer Recovery program. At RVMW we provide integrated healthcare in rural communities. We take our ARMOR (mobile unit) into communities that do not have access to care. Our presentation will outline Arkansas Peer Recovery and all 3 levels (Core, Advanced, and Supervisor), and the roles in supporting recovery within healthcare settings. We will outline what it takes to become a peer worker in Arkansas and how those services are provided in Arkansas in different organizations like court, treatment, hospitals, clinics, jails and institutions. We will also discuss how RVMW utilizes peer recovery in our organization. We will communicate our efforts to reach rural Arkansas by taking our mobile integrated healthcare unit (ARMOR) into rural communities all over Arkansas. We will discuss federal grants that we have utilized to provide treatment at no cost to the individuals seeking treatment for Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder. By the end of this Session the individuals will be educated on Arkansas Peer Recovery the 3 level certification process. Goal is to demonstrate how RVMW provides integrated healthcare to the underserved population all over Arkansas and how we utilize Peer Recovery.

Special Topic 11: Trapped: The Realities of Rural Poverty

Room: Ballroom A

Speaker: Sherri Downing

Rural substance use and addiction are common, but we don't always factor in the context, which can include intergenerational, crisis poverty, under- and unemployment, educational attainment, and systemic racism. This session will discuss some of the risk factors that lead to rural poverty, its culture and enduring legacy, and effective solutions. After completing this session, participants will be able to: Name at least 3 common rural strengths. Describe at least 2 hidden rules of rural poverty. Discuss ways in which generational poverty differs from situational poverty.

Special Topic 12: MOUD in a County Correctional Facility

Room: Oakwood

Speakers: David Dawdy, Ross Buitendorp

This presentation will explore the critical need for including jails in the opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment ecosystem, particularly in the provision of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). It will highlight both the legal mandates requiring jails to offer MOUD and the strategies for building effective partnerships between criminal justice systems and community-based treatment providers. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to implement MOUD within county correctional facilities, with a focus on the formation and maintenance of key partnerships. Using the Kent County Sheriff's Department, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a case study, the presentation will discuss the department's decision to offer MOUD, the evolution of the program from its pilot phase to its current structure, and how MOUD is administered within the jail. Key data indicators that are essential for measuring success and planning for future improvements will also be examined, along with a review of the partnership structure and funding models that support sustainable MOUD implementation. In this session, participants will: Learn strategies for building and maintaining effective partnerships between criminal justice

Special Topics

systems and community-based treatment providers to support successful MOUD implementation. Examine the progression of a MOUD program from pilot phase to current implementation, using the Kent County Sheriff's Department as a case study. Identify key data indicators and funding structures necessary to plan for successful MOUD programs in correctional settings and ensure long-term sustainability.

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Special Topic 13: Crossing Generations in the Workplace: A Collaborative Learning Journey

Room: Cedar/Maple

Speaker: DeAnne Priddis

There are five generations in the workplace for the first time in history. From leaders with decades of insight to leaders just beginning their professional journey, everyone possesses valuable contributions to the collective wisdom of lifelong learners. We invite you to join us for this interactive session to share experiences and gain insights from different generations as we expand generational boundaries and create connections. After attending this session, participants will be able to: Understand the 5 generations in the workplace and their differences. Identify the strengths of the different generations. Evaluate mentoring relationships within the workplace.

Special Topic 14: Implementing Desistance Practices into Case Management Discussions

Room: Oakwood

Speaker: Phillip M. Galli

This presentation will explore what criminal legal organizations can do to promote desistance, the process of ceasing criminal activity. It looks at the entire criminal legal system of one jurisdiction and how behavior change is being promoted. Results suggest change comes from repairing relationships within the communities (restoration) and not necessarily any work being done by either

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judicial or criminal legal systems. Further, this presentation seeks to define accountability as it applies to change and discuss who justice-involved persons may be accountable to. The argument is that criminal legal systems may help to facilitate relationships between justice-involved persons and communities.

Special Topic 15: A 12-Step Lifeline: Al-Anon

Room: Ballroom A

Speaker: Sherri Downing

This session will introduce Al-Anon, the international group that helps and supports people affected by others' drinking and/or substance use. It will discuss the history and purpose of the organization, provide information about the who participates and why, and describe some of the benefits of participation. The session will end by walking participants through the components of an Al-Anon meeting. Participants will be able to: Describe at least 3 common attributes of Al-Anon members. Discuss at least 2 of the main reasons for initiating participation. Name at least 4 benefits of participation.

Special Topic 16: Positive Psychology

Room: Ballroom C

Speaker: Desiree Grin

Being positive is more than a mindset and it is worthwhile to meet with Dr Dezzz to share your changes and aspirations with others as you begin the journey to a happier, more fulfilled life. We will cover how to use positive psychology in everyday treatment of those who are suffering from substance use disorder, as well as other mental health setbacks. Please join if you have experience and want to share what you know as this is an ever changing area of our field and the work that can be done with a positive mindset is limitless.

Special Topic 16 is
sponsored by Muuttua



Faculty Bios

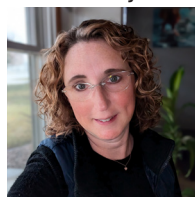


Jeffrey Ahonen

Executive Director,
The Way to Peace

Jeffrey is an ordained minister, pastoral counselor, and ethics educator who has been a frequent presenter on ethics at The Rural during the past decade. He has

taught ethics at the university level for 15 years, currently serving as an instructor of ethics at Colorado Technical University. Jeffrey is the founder of The Just Community, a nonprofit organization dedicated to community-based ethics education. He has a multifaceted background that includes prior work as a behavioral health therapist, a substance use disorder counselor, and a litigation paralegal. Jeffrey is an advocate promoting community mental wellness, substance misuse prevention, and access to justice services.

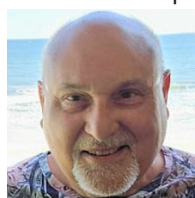


Christy Alten

Therapist,
Restore Therapy & Counseling

Christy has been providing mental health and addiction care for over 30 years. Much of her time was in the inpatient setting, working with adolescents and

adults with co-occurring addiction and mental health problems. The last three years she has been in a group private practice, still seeing clients from all walks of life. Her passion is to create felt safety in therapy that will allow a client to be open, explore and heal. Outside of the office she enjoys visiting her adult children (one in New York and one in Seattle), enjoying the outdoors, DIY projects around the house and is actively involved in her church worship and leadership teams.



Rev. Joe Amico

Board of Directors, NALGAP

Joe Amico is an international speaker on LGBTQAI+ addiction issues, Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor, Certified Addictions Specialist (Alcohol, other drugs and sex addiction), and

ordained United Church of Christ (UCC) clergyperson. Joe is currently the President of the National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network (<https://nradan.org/>). He is past president of SASH (Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health) and NALGAP: The Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Addiction Professionals and Their Allies (<https://nalgap.org/>). Joe is currently the Senior Pastor of Tabernacle Congregational Church (UCC) in Salem, MA. <https://tabernaclechurch.org/>
An experienced counselor and consultant in the addiction field, Joe has served as a chaplain and director of adolescent substance use disorder programs, vice president for clinical affairs of a national mental health and addiction treatment program for LGBTQAI+ clients, clinical program director for a long term residential treatment program for men who would otherwise be homeless, and wrote the curriculum and trained the staff for the first inpatient LGBTQAI+ psych unit in New

England. Joe was an editor and contributor to SAMSHA's Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals and its subsequent curriculum for training counselors on LGBTQAI+ issues. Joe has published numerous journal articles on LGBTQAI+ substance use and sex addiction issues, conducted webinars on LGBTQAI+, and been a speaker at such notable conferences as NAADAC, Cape Cod Symposium, Journey Together Conference, and the UK/European Symposium on Addictive Disorders. Joe is the recipient of the 2011 NALGAP Leadership Award, the 2013 SASH Merit Award, the 2016 North Shore Pride Fabulous 5 Award, and in 2024 named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Salem, MA.

Joe is available to conduct workshops and staff trainings on LGBTQAI+ issues, speak at conferences, and consult with both addiction programs and churches who want to make their programs more affirmative for clients. <https://joeamico.com/>



Randy Anderson

Founder and Principle,
Bold North Recovery

Randy is a person living in long-term recovery, which to him means he hasn't used drugs, alcohol, or any mood-altering substances since January 9, 2005. He is also a formerly incarcerated individual who was sentenced to 87 months in prison as a first-time, non-violent drug user. Randy's lived experience has shaped him into a fierce, nationally recognized advocate for recovery and criminal justice reform. He is the founder and principal of Bold North Recovery and lives in Golden Valley, MN with his wife Denise, their dog Pete, and their cat Carl.

Megan Buerkley

Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor



Ross Buitendorp, M.S.

Organization and Policy Consultant,
TBD Solutions

Ross Buitendorp is a consultant with over 30 years of experience in behavioral health, specializing in substance use disorder (SUD) services and medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). He has led innovative SUD initiatives across state and local systems, with a strong focus on integrating MOUD into public behavioral health and criminal justice settings. Ross served on the Michigan Diversion Council, where he championed SUD and MAT integration, and currently holds a leadership role on the Kent County Opioid Task Force, overseeing needs assessments and guiding opioid abatement fund distribution. He has contributed to statewide MOUD planning efforts, rural MAT expansion through HRSA funding, and technical assistance for implementing MAT in county jails in rural Ohio. His background includes roles as a probation officer, private SUD provider, and CMHSP administrator, giving him a comprehensive understanding of SUD service delivery from multiple system perspectives. Ross is known for

Faculty Bios

building effective cross-sector partnerships and creating responsive care systems for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.



David Dawdy

Consultant,
TBD Solutions

With over 30 years of experience in behavioral health, David Dawdy has led transformative initiatives across corrections, crisis stabilization, youth

residential care, and community-based treatment. As the former Mental Health Director for the Michigan Department of Corrections, he developed and managed comprehensive mental health, substance use disorder, and sexual offense treatment programs for justice-involved individuals. Now a behavioral health consultant with TBD Solutions, Mr. Dawdy collaborates with organizations to enhance service delivery, optimize systems, and implement evidence-based strategies. His expertise in program development, policy analysis, and workforce training helps agencies navigate complex challenges, improve outcomes, and drive meaningful change. Whether advising leadership teams, developing innovative care models, or providing expert training, Mr. Dawdy delivers strategic solutions tailored to each organization's needs. A dynamic speaker and trainer, he is passionate about equipping professionals, families, and communities with the tools to reduce stigma and improve care access. Through consulting, advocacy, and education, David remains committed to strengthening the behavioral health field and advancing impactful solutions.



Dr. Steve Delisi

Chief Medical Officer, President

Dr. Delisi is board certified by both the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the American Board of Addiction Medicine. He currently services as the Chief Medical Officer for YourPath

and President of YourPath Care, PLLC. He is also the Co-Associate Director for the UC-Irvine School of Medicine Train New Trainers (TNT) Primary Care – Training and Education in Addiction Medicine (PC-TEAM) Fellowship. Dr. Delisi is also a long-term board member and Medical Director for the non-profit Steve Rummeler Hope Network. Before joining the YourPath team as CMO and President, Dr. Delisi had served as a psychiatrist for the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation from 2005–2023. During his time with Hazelden, Dr. Delisi most recently served as Medical Director, Enterprise Solutions and Medical Education Services. Prior to that role, he was Medical Director of Professional Education, Training & Consultation, Assistant Dean of the Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School, and Midwest Regional Medical Director for Recovery Services at Hazelden Betty Ford. Dr. Delisi continues as an Adjunct Professor at the Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School and as an On-call Medical Trainer. Prior to joining Hazelden Betty Ford, he held positions as Director of Psychiatric Services at Rush Behavioral Health–DuPage

and Associate Director of the Psychiatric Residency Program at Rush University Medical Center. Dr. Delisi is a nationally recognized leader, speaker, and consultant on the use of evidence-based, integrated treatments for co-occurring and substance use disorders, as well as the risk conferred by the epigenetic effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma.



Sherri Downing

Principal,
Sherri Downing Consultant

Sherri Downing is nationally recognized as a thought leader for her expertise in homelessness and housing with an emphasis on these issues in frontier

and rural communities. She has expertise in issues that lead to and sustain homelessness, including poverty, domestic and sexual violence, trauma, and behavioral health disorders. Ms. Downing is a popular public speaker and an experienced coalition and capacity builder. She is knowledgeable about public housing initiatives and implementing the strategies, public policies, and practices needed to address homelessness. She currently serves as Vice Chair on her local Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, as Vice President and Planning Committee Chair for the National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network, Inc., and as the Scholarship Committee Chair for the Helena, Montana chapter of Soroptimist International.



Tom Farley

Community Outreach Director,
Recovery.com

Tom Farley grew up in Madison, WI, and graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in Marketing.

He began his career in banking and finance before running The Chris Farley Foundation (1999–2012), a nationally recognized nonprofit focused on substance abuse prevention. Through humor-based programs, he helped young people build communication skills and create supportive environments. In 2008, Tom co-authored The Chris Farley Show, a New York Times bestseller about his late brother, comedian Chris Farley. He has appeared on The Today Show, Good Morning America, and Larry King Live to discuss addiction and recovery. Now in recovery himself, Tom is a passionate advocate for mental health and addiction treatment. He works at Recovery.com, connecting people with the resources they need to heal. He is also the host of Recoverycast, a podcast dedicated to telling real life recovery stories. As a speaker, he shares his journey to break stigma, inspire hope, and foster connection. Tom lives in Madison, WI.

Faculty Bios



Stacey Franks

Peer Recovery Specialist,
River Valley Medical Wellness

Stacey Franks is a person in long-term recovery and works as a PRS (Peer Recovery Supervisor) at River Valley

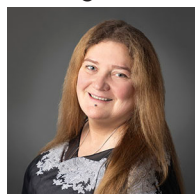
Medical Wellness. She is passionate about using her lived experience to help as many people as possible overcome the obstacles of substance use disorder. Stacey's role at River Valley Medical Wellness involves connecting individuals to community resources to help them build a foundation for sustainable, long-term recovery.

Additionally, she is active in the State of Arkansas' Peer Recovery Initiatives, serving on APAC, the Arkansas Peer Advisory Committee. She is a Trainer of Trainers for the state of Arkansas, and she trains others to become Peer Recovery Support Specialists. Stacey is also actively involved in her community, leading a recovery group called Life Recovery Cabot at New Life Church in Cabot. She sits on the board of directors for two different non-profits. Stacey loves the outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her family. She's quirky and fun-loving and

Phillip M. Galli

University Instructor,
University of Wisconsin - River Falls

Phil Galli is the Director of Justice Support Services for St. Croix County and also teaches criminology courses at University of Wisconsin - River Falls. Prior to these roles, Phil was a probation and parole officer in Missouri, Ohio, and Illinois. Phil maintains an active research agenda in the areas of social support, desistance, and case management.



Desiree Grin

Consultant,
Muuttua INC

Desiree (aka 'Dezzz') has experienced life fully. After successfully maneuvering her life as a software design specialist, she switched her career to one of

counseling and trauma prevention. Today, Desiree holds a PhD in psychology and has been trained in DBT and in Brainspotting. Her story of trauma and recovery has shaped some of her passion, but her story of healing is what she brings with her to her life today.



Christy Hall

Advanced Peer
Recovery Specialist,
River Valley Medical Wellness

As an Advanced Peer Recovery Specialist, Christy is dedicated to supporting individuals on their journey to sustained

recovery from addiction and mental health challenges. With over six years of personal experience in recovery, she brings empathy, understanding, and a non-judgmental approach to her role at River Valley Medical Wellness. Her approach is rooted in compassion, respect, and

meeting individuals where they are in recovery. Christy is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those she supports, fostering a safe, supportive, and empowering environment. Her personal mission is to serve as a beacon of hope, guiding individuals toward a life of wellness, purpose, and fulfillment. She partners with groups close to her heart, including the Pope County Smart Justice Initiative, 100 Families, Healthy Pope & Yell County Coalition, and AR Mental Health Coalition. She is an advocate for domestic violence victims and a humanitarian. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, nature, cooking, and spending time with her family and friends.

Jordan Hansen

CEO, YourPath

Jordan is an experienced leader focused on delivering value to healthcare systems through implementation of effective, integrated care for people with substance use disorders. Jordan previously was the Vice President of Strategy and Growth for a recovery technology company, and before that, was the Clinical Director of Hazelden Betty Ford's Professional Education Solutions team. In that role, he built a team that provided innovative solutions at the federal, state, local and program level. He is particularly interested in building innovative technology-driven services to address inequity and system dysfunction, helping to establish effective, low-threshold programs in emergency departments, correctional settings, primary care clinics, and specialty care facilities; assisting with strategic development of effective, recovery-oriented systems of care in rural areas and among underserved populations; and affecting cultural shifts across service systems. He is a board member at Harm Reduction Sisters and is a person in long-term recovery.



Russ King

Miss Richfield 1981 dedicates her life to the friendly citizens and responsible merchants of her hometown - Richfield, MN. Her live performances across the country receive critical acclaim with The New York Post declaring Miss R as

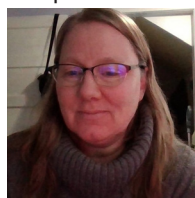
"the must-see act in Provincetown" and The Chicago Sun-Times describing her as "Garrison Keillor meets Mary Tyler Moore." Miss R's wide appeal includes riotous appearances on "The Tonight Show" & "Today" on NBC and "Cake Boss" on TLC, along with being a national spokesperson for Orbitz and the City of Philadelphia. Each year her schedule of more than 100 shows sell out theaters and nightclubs across the country, including a summer residence at the Post Office Cabaret in Provincetown, MA, and frequent tours with Atlantis Events cruise ships and resorts. Miss R invites you to "like" her on Facebook, follow her on Instagram and watch her on YouTube. Also visit missrichfield.com where she keeps a calendar of events and shares words of wisdom, such as her favorite Bible verse: "It's important to be nice, but it's nicer to be important."

Faculty Bios

Nathan Koranda

Director of Care Production

Nathan Koranda, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and Director of Care Production at YourPath, where he oversees clinical strategy and systems development to improve access to psychiatric care in correctional and underserved settings. He brings over a decade of experience integrating mental health services across diverse care environments, with a focus on co-occurring disorders, peer support, and trauma-informed systems. Nathan also serves as Executive Director of KOPI, leading global initiatives to train first responders and strengthen mental health infrastructure in East Africa. His work is grounded in interdisciplinary collaboration and a deep commitment to equitable, evidence-based care.



Nichole Manson

Advocate – Trauma Informed Peer Specialist,
Bug A Brat LLC

Why me? Very simply, because I am comfortable with the emotions around grief. I have seen too often the lack of

support for grief processing. I want others to become comfortable with the emotions so that our world can heal. This space might get uncomfortable. I encourage you to lean in so that your nervous system can stop resisting. The pain will ease when the loss is acknowledged and the bond is honored. I am a Certified Peer Specialist with a BS in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) from UW Stout. Also, I have a Provisional Certified Family Life Education (CFLE-P) certification with the National Council on Family Relations. This training is one of many I have developed based on my lived experience and combined with peer-reviewed research. My personal experience: I survived child neglect, molestation, and parental alienation, which led me to an adolescence of escaping to drugs. My recovery, beginning in my mid-30s, from alcohol and drugs has brought me the skills to share with others who have also survived these traumatic situations. During my undergraduate studies, I began to research loneliness and its impact on people around the globe. This series is a compilation of that knowledge, wisdom, and an opportunity for attendees to embrace grief. Nichole began working as a Certified Peer Specialist in 2021. Nichole provides group or one-on-one psychoeducation or mentoring for AODA, depression, anxiety, and other mental health struggles, including grief. Nichole has also created a trauma-informed parenting curriculum that helps parents understand adverse behaviors in their children.



Michael Miller

Addiction Medicine Physician,
Loma Linda University

Michael M Miller, MD, DLFAPA, DFASAM, is a board-certified general and addiction psychiatrist and is board-certified in

Addiction Medicine by the American Board of Preventive Medicine. He began his 40 years of clinical practice in Addiction Medicine in Wisconsin in

nearby Eau Claire and was the founding president of the Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine. He served 12 years on the Managing Committee of the Statewide Physicians Health Program in Wisconsin and many years in other leadership positions with the Wisconsin Medical Society. A Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), Dr. Miller now serves full-time as an addiction psychiatrist in the STAR outpatient addiction clinic of the Jerry L Pettis VA Medical Center in Loma Linda, California. He is Professor in Preventive Medicine at Loma Linda University, Health Sciences Clinical Professor at UC-Riverside, and Clinical Associate Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has been a medical educator since 1985 when he joined the clinical faculty of the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine, eventually serving as Clinical Adjunct professor in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health through 2021. He was first on the faculty of the National Rural Conference in 1987, and recently served the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont for several years in their HRSA-funded Treating Addiction in Rural Areas ECHO project. He is a past president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and Board Member of the American Board of Addiction Medicine and the American College of Academic Addiction Medicine. As chair of the ASAM Terminology Committee, he led the development of the 2013 AASAM Definition of Addiction. He was central to facilitating the creation of the subspecialty certification process in addiction medicine within the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the accreditation of fellowship programs by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). During his 26 years in the AMA House of Delegates he was elected to two terms on the AMA Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH) and served as the Council's Chair for the year 2019-20. He remains an independent consultant to a wide range of non-profit, governmental, and health care clients, as well as in expert witness cases.



Dr. Laura Mills

Director of Evaluation Services,
BestNotes

Laura Mills (Ph.D., QM, Psych) is the Director of Evaluation Services at BestNotes. She is dedicated to fostering the capacity for evaluation among

mental health and addiction programs. For over 15 years, her work has focused on the use of data to optimize treatment outcomes, validate the work of service providers, and advance knowledge in the mental health and addiction field.

Faculty Bios



Paul Mladnick

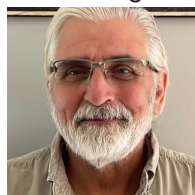
Licensed Therapist and Alcohol-Drug Counselor,
Private Practice Bridges and Pathways Counseling Service

Paul's experience in the alcohol/ drug treatment field are in both outpatient and inpatient programs. He worked in long term care and the family program at Hazelden BettyFord. Additionally, Paul is a Board-Certified Clinical Consultant through the National Council on Problem Gambling. He is currently in private practice in Forrest Lake, MN. Paul is one of the co-founders of the National Rural Institute and continues to serve on the NRADAN Board.

Dr. Kirk Moberg

Clinical Professor,
University of Illinois College of Medicine

Dr. Kirk Moberg has spent his entire career in the field of addiction medicine. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine (UICOM) and is board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. He treated patients and served as medical director of three addiction treatment centers in east and west central Illinois. Although recently retired from clinical practice Dr. Moberg remains active in teaching. He is a Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine and Psychiatry at UICOM and teaches courses for a variety of other professional organizations. He loves teaching at the National Rural Institute and has been doing so for over 20 years.



Gene Morfitt

President, Executive Director,
Spiritual Program Retreat Inc.

Gene has been an integral part of Spiritual Program Retreat (SPR) since its first year, 1981, and Gene's first year of recovery. In March 2025 SPR held its 82nd SPR Weekend Retreat. Since Gene assumed volunteer leadership from his father Dale in 2007, SPR has added a retreat devoted Steps 10-12, Practice These Principles Retreat, Family Program Retreat, Leader Retreat, and this fall a Codependency Retreat. SPR also hosts monthly post-retreat meetings called 2nd Saturday, and various events and workshops throughout the year. Gene is passionate about early addiction recovery and long-term growth for those in the recovery community, helping them discover and rediscover their personal gifts and strengths. Additionally, he has served as a volunteer in the county jail for 17 years, a pastor and teacher for 23 years, a GSR and treasurer in his local AA group.

Patrick Perry

Professional Clinical Counselor



DeAnne Priddis

Associate Professor,
Middle Tennessee University
DeAnne Priddis (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) has been an Associate Professor of

Organizational Communication at Middle Tennessee State University since 2016. She teaches courses in Training & Development, Interviewing, Organizational Communication, and Conflict Resolution. Dr. Priddis is also a 2006 alumna of UW Stout with an MS in Training & HR Development. Her research includes conflict in families and organizations. She has several publications on the impact of addiction on family systems. Dee has been part of the Rural family since 2012, facilitating Rural tracks since 2015, and on the NRADAN board since 2023.



Brenda Rausch

Board Member,
Spiritual Program Retreat

Brenda Rausch is passionate about sharing her experience, strength, and hope with others on a recovery journey. Brenda is the author of Stepping into

Trust: A Poetic Journey of Recovery. She holds a master's degree in addiction counseling from Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School and worked in the addiction treatment industry for 20 years in a variety of roles. She has significant knowledge and experience in 12 step programs including Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon, Codependents Anonymous and Adult Children of Alcoholics. For most of her career Brenda worked in the nonprofit sector. Prior to entering the treatment industry, she worked in administration for two rural nonprofit hospitals. Brenda is a current board member of Spiritual Program Retreat. (a 12-Step immersion focused on multiple weekend retreats and aftercare). Brenda and her husband Tom have three grown children and three grandchildren.



Lena Sheffield

Private Practice

Lena Sheffield is a Florida Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Florida Certified Addiction Professional, Master Addiction Counselor through NAADAC, and Certified Eating Disorder Professional through

iaedp. Additionally, she is level I certified in Radically Open DBT, Certified ADHD clinical Services Provider, and holds a Health Care Administration certification from Florida International University. Her mental health and behavioral health career started in child and adolescent psychiatry, where she held numerous clinical roles and served ten years as the Administrator for the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at a non-profit children's hospital. In addition to several clinical outpatient positions, she has also been a national outreach and educational consultant for highly respected substance use disorder, addiction, and eating disorder treatment programs. She is also an online instructor for Sober College School of Addiction

Faculty Bios

Studies. She is in private practice in Miami, Florida. Lena has been involved in advocacy work for several decades, going back through high school. She is the President of the Florida chapter of NAADAC and the Vice President and Education Chair for the iaedp Miami chapter.

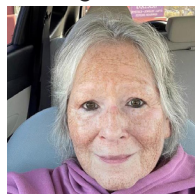


Julie Smith

Director,
Onyx Foundation

Julie Smith is the director of Onyx Foundation – an organization founded to provide safe housing for people seeking recovery. She began this

journey as a registered nurse working as a supervisor of the nursing department in an inpatient, dual diagnosis facility in Minnesota for 4 years. With this knowledge and experience, Onyx Sober Living was launched in 2018. While the main focus was to provide safe, sober housing for those in early recovery, she also works to build solid recovery communities and provides guidance to others looking to do the same.



Dianne Sullivan

Lac Courte Oreilles Community Health Center

Dianne “Ishkodekwe” Sullivan, MA, CSAC is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreille Band of Ojibwe outside of Hayward, WI. She has been in the

substance use field as an outpatient counselor since 1985. Dianne currently works at the Bizhiki Wellness Center at the LCO Health Center. It has been her professional life goal to support and guide Ojibwe people to their path of SUD recovery & wellness. In her personal life she celebrated 43 years of recovery in December. She has one son, and the four most beautiful grandchildren in the world.

Katarina Tolic

Business Development & Alumni Coordinator,
Pride Institute

Katarina Tolic is a dedicated professional in the field of addiction recovery and alumni services, currently serving as the Alumni Coordinator and Business Development Representative at The Pride Institute in Minneapolis. With a deep commitment to fostering long-term recovery, Katarina plays a pivotal role in creating safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals navigating their recovery journeys. Her work is characterized by a passion for building meaningful relationships and a strong belief in the power of community. Katarina’s efforts are instrumental in connecting alumni, facilitating ongoing support, and ensuring that individuals have access to the resources they need to thrive. Her dedication to this cause has earned her recognition within the Treatment Professionals in Alumni Services (TPAS) community, where she is celebrated for her leadership and unwavering commitment to recovery. Katarina is deeply committed to educating others about the unique challenges and needs of LGBTQ+ individuals in recovery—fostering understanding, inclusion, and lasting change within the behavioral health community.



Larry J. Winter

Author & Peer Specialist

L.J. Winter grew up in a small farming community in northeastern Wisconsin. He developed a passion for the game of basketball. The sport helped him cope with the challenges of a mother who

suffered from bipolar disorder, a father who struggled to keep the family together, and his own struggle with mental health conditions.

L.J. began suffering from depression and anxiety during middle school. He knew something was not right with his mind. After years of suffering, he went to a therapist and a psychiatrist in his late 20s. He was formerly diagnosed with depression and anxiety. His therapist recommended that he do a daily journal to improve his understanding of his mental health conditions and to show his progress in recovery.

He journaled off and on for the next thirty years. In his late 40s, he took a personality test, which said he may want to consider pursuing a writing career. This stuck with him, and when he retired from a 30-year career in social work at age 55, he decided to become an author.

His father encouraged him to write a book about the family’s experiences with mental health conditions, substance misuse, and trauma. This led to his first book titled *SuperHuman Being*.

He is a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) with lived experience of mental health, substance misuse, and trauma. He promotes activities and actions that help improve a peer’s quality of life and ability to cope with the stress of daily life. His own recovery experience has taught him the significance of making connections with people to recover.

He facilitates a weekly virtual Peer Support Group and is a local Mental Health Task Force member. These connections are allowing him to help people with similar experiences that may need a person to listen, give hope, and guidance toward recovery in a way that is different and equally valuable as professionals.

Who Plans The Rural?

Every year, the National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network, Inc. (NRADAN) plans the National Rural Institute on Alcohol, Drugs, and Addictions.

But who is NRADAN?

The National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network, Inc. (NRADAN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to equip providers serving rural communities affected by substance use, behavioral, and mental health conditions with the tools they need to evoke change.

The purposes of NRADAN, Inc. are:

- To provide an annual training institute and other learning opportunities.
- To provide leadership and advocacy for the solution of rural substance use, behavioral, and mental health conditions.
- To represent rural issues at the national and international levels.

How can I get involved?

Become a member!

- Contact Paul Mladnick at NRADAN.org/Contact-Us
- Membership Dues are \$25 for an individual or \$100 for an agency

Learn more about the Board!

- NRADAN's Board of Directors meets every year during The Rural. This year, we'll meet on Tuesday, June 10, at 7:15 a.m. in the UW-Stout Memorial Student Center's Oakwood room.
- Can't join us in person? No worries! Reach out via NRADAN.org/contact-us and we'll get you connected.
- Or chat with any of the board members listed in the next column!

How can I support The Rural?

Visit NRADAN.org/Support, or check out our booth in the exhibitor hall!

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SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, June 7 - Thursday, June 11, 2026

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