#### **Pandemic Pivots: Lessons Learned**

#### **PRESENTERS**

- Adrienne Scavera
- Reina Bower
- Terry Leckron-Myers

#### WE'LL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY!

#### **KEY ITEMS BEFORE WE BEGIN:**

- •This webinar is being recorded and will be posted to our website within a couple of weeks.
- •Participants are muted with videos off.
- •Take note of the **toolbox** located at the top or bottom of your screen.
- •Use Q & A feature to ask questions. Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation.
- •Chat feature only goes to MHTTC staff and should not be used for topic questions.
- •We are not able to offer certificates or CEUs for this session.



Northwest (HHS Region 10)

# MHTTC

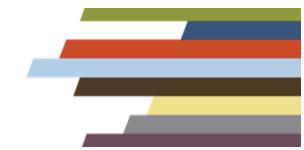
#### Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

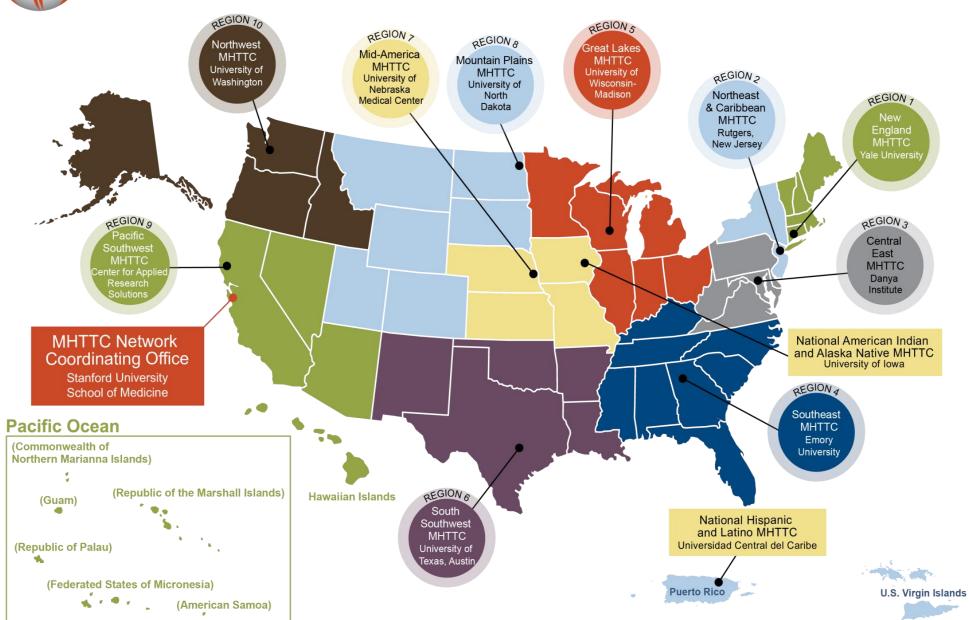


Lessons Learned from a Peer-run Organization 02/03/2021





#### MHTTC Network







Lydia Chwastiak, MD, MPH
Pl and Co-Director



Christina Clayton, LICSW, CDP

Co-Director

## **About the Northwest MHTTC**

The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network is about technology transfer.

We disseminate and implement evidence-based practices for mental disorders into our field.

#### Our target workforce includes:

behavioral health and primary care providers, school and social service staff, and others whose work has the potential to improve behavioral health outcomes for individuals with or at risk of developing serious mental illnesses.



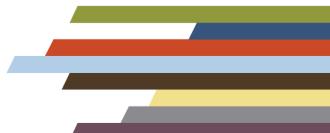












### **About the Northwest MHTTC**

#### **Online Courses**



#### **Research/Practice Briefs**



# Website with Events, Products & News



#### **Live Training**



#### **Archived Webinars**









#### Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

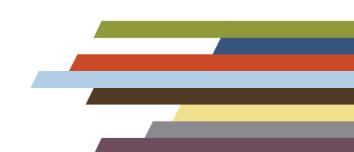
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# **Support and Disclaimer**

This work is supported by grant SM 081721 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The opinions expressed herein are the view of our presenter(s) and do not reflect the official position of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), SAMHSA.





The MHTTC Network uses affirming, respectful and recovery-oriented language in all activities. That language is:

STRENGTHS-BASED AND HOPEFUL

INCLUSIVE AND
ACCEPTING OF
DIVERSE CULTURES,
GENDERS,
PERSPECTIVES,
AND EXPERIENCES

HEALING-CENTERED/TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE

INVITING TO INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN THEIR OWN JOURNEYS

PERSON-FIRST AND FREE OF LABELS

NON-JUDGMENTAL AND AVOIDING ASSUMPTIONS

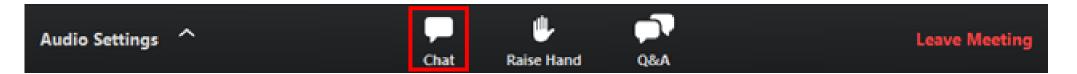
RESPECTFUL, CLEAR AND UNDERSTANDABLE

CONSISTENT WITH OUR ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND PRODUCTS

Adapted from: https://mhcc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Recovery-Oriented-Language-Guide\_2019ed\_v1\_20190809-Web.pdf



# CHAT Box



- We'll share info about logistics
- Let us know if you are having tech issues
- To you: from our training team
- From you: only visible to hosts/panelists
- NOT for content-related questions (see next slide)



# Questions — 2 options (participants are muted):

1. Type question into Q&A Window



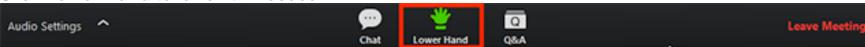
2. Raise hand (will be called on/unmuted in order)

Click Raise Hand in the Webinar Controls.



The host will be notified that you've raised your hand.

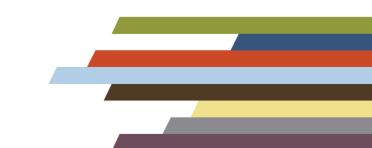
Click Lower Hand to lower it if needed.





# After today's session, please complete the evaluation survey (LINK):

- •Will be shared in the chat box during & also emailed out
- •Helps our team plan future sessions as well as evaluate today's webinar
- Keeps these free trainings coming!
- > There will NOT be certificates or CEUs for this series
- > Slides & resources WILL be posted after the session



# **Today's Presenters**



Adrienne Scavera, Training and Outreach Director



**Terry Leckron-Myers**, EVOLVE Program Director



**Reina Bower**, EVOLVE Program Director







#### Northwest (HHS Region 10)



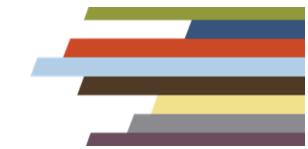
#### Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

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Lessons Learned from a Peer-run
Organization





# Agenda

- Organizational background
- Pandemic pivots
  - Services
  - Training
  - Workforce supports
- Lessons learned
- Question and answer time

# Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon

Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHAAO) is an inclusive peer-run organization dedicated to self-direction honoring the voice of lived experience.

We are a peer-run organization (PRO), meaning that we are led and staffed by people with lived experience, including at least 51% of our Board of Directors.

The services provided by MHAAO include direct peer services, training, technical assistance, and consultation -- all from the Peer Recovery Perspective.

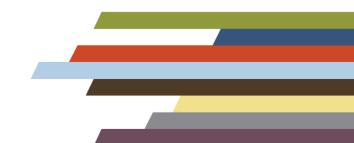














The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted my organization's services in a considerable way.

# Peer-delivered services: Changing context amidst pandemic

- Increases in overdoses, suicide, child abuse, domestic violence
- Staying current on relevant resources
- Additional supports around supervision
  - Our staff are impacted, as are the people they serve
- Importance of harm reduction
  - Fentanyl strips
  - Narcan
  - Making sure has a safe place to live
- Virtually, being extra mindful
  - Reach out
  - Connect in chat, and stay aware of faces and comments in virtual settings
  - "Hidden secrets" of quarantine

# Peer-delivered services: Changes to existing programs

- Direct services became virtual
- Increased 1:1 supervision and daily contacts
- Taking it back to basics
- Staff needed additional training and supports around:
  - Technology
  - Reporting
  - Supporting peers around technology



# Peer-delivered services: Changes to existing programs



- Learning new safety protocols for staff and people receiving supports
- External services that we collaborate with have changed
  - DHS
  - Court
  - Recovery meetings
- Transportation changes
  - Public transit
  - Not transporting peers in vehicles

#### Peer-delivered services: Growth in a time of increased need

- Washington County Shelter Program
- Volunteer Isolation Motel (VIMOS)
- FEMA Crisis Counseling Prevention
- Kaiser Ambulatory Withdrawal Management
- Kaiser Recovery Pathways

- Department of Labor: Pathway Home
- Bureau of Justice Administration
- Blanchet House
- Multnomah County Peer Services Funds
- Multnomah County COVID Community Outreach



# Training: Changes to existing programs

- Peer support certification training re-imagined
  - Completed accreditation waiver
  - Modified 80-hour curriculum for virtual delivery
  - Began online training delivery
- Virtual TA, training continued



#### Training: Growth in a time of increased need

- Developed in response to workforce need
- OPTIC eLearning Hub: Learning at your own pace, in your own space.
  - Trauma-informed Care
  - Building Trust with the LGBTQIA+ Community







The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted my organization's staff in a considerable way.

# Staff supports



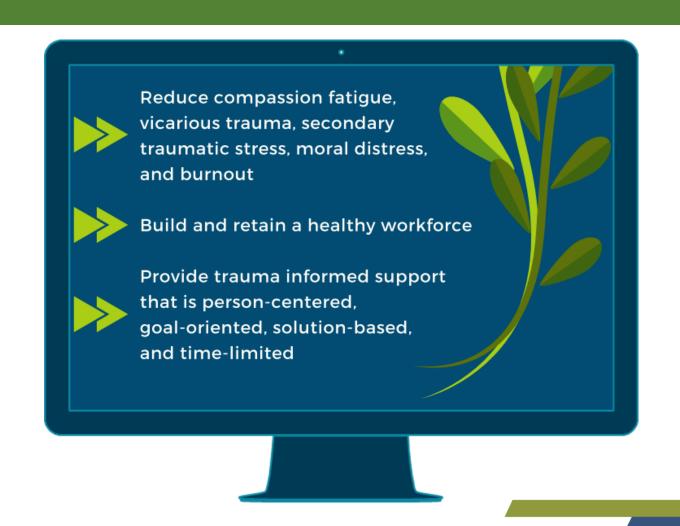
- Employee Assistance Program, including 6 free sessions per event
- 1:1 meetings with peer Trauma Informed Care Specialist
- "Art Mind Set" self-care art sessions
- Support from supervisors
- Virtual work whenever possible
- PPE
- Vaccine eligibility
- COVID-19 webpage for updates, resources, and supports
- Weekly morning check-in
  - Opportunity for staff to start with quiet meditation and have open discussion and community support



As result of the pandemic, people who receive services from my organization would like to receive more frequent (or additional) supports.

# Workforce supports

- Peer Support 4 Peer Support Specialists
- 1:1 meetings with peer Trauma Informed Care Specialist
- Free, online training opportunities



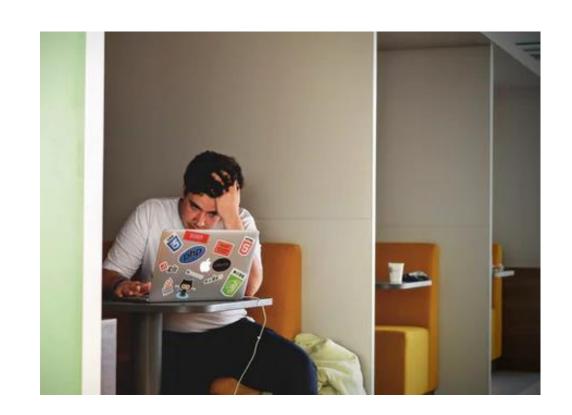
# EMIC PIVOTS Lessons Learned

from a peer-run organization



#### Lessons learned

- Take care of yourself!
- Those who receive services and those who provide services are challenged alike
- With compassion at the forefront, flexibility, empathy, and kindness are critical
- "Business as usual" is not a reasonable expectation
- Individuality of supports
- Importance of being trauma-informed
- Be transparent, and communicate often
  - Can't overcommunicate!



# Lessons learned, continued

- Productivity can be impacted, and that's okay
- People come first
- Everyone is at a different place with technology
- Not making assumptions
- Boundaries
- Work-life balance
- Practices that match values
- Proactive versus reactive
- Role modeling
  - How do people prefer communications?
  - Be mindful of the emotions we bring into supports and messages

# Questions & Discussion

# Contact

#### Reina Bowers

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#### Adrienne Scavera

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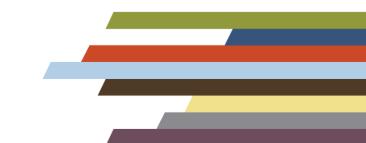
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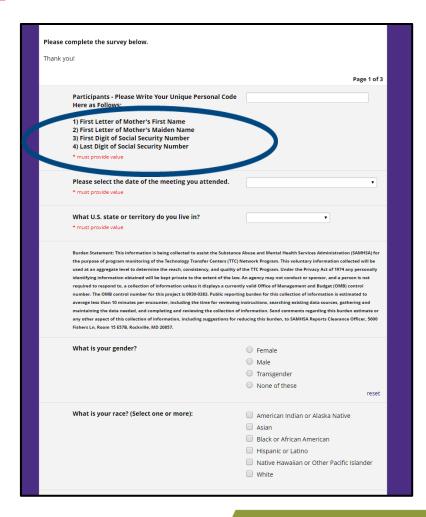


# Your Feedback is Important:

#### Post-event surveys are *critical* to our work!

- Please complete the confidential evaluation by following the link in the chat box & you'll get a reminder email also.
- Evaluation data is necessary for continued funding to offer programs

Your feedback helps us to improve and develop future programing.



# We greatly appreciate your feedback!

# Keep in touch with the Northwest MHTTC

**Upcoming training** 

New online training

Resources & Research Updates



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www.mhttcnetwork.org/northwest



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# Thank You!



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