



2025 RAI Symposium

Check out our
event summary!

*Healthy Recovery
Communities*

March 13-14, 2025
New Bern, NC

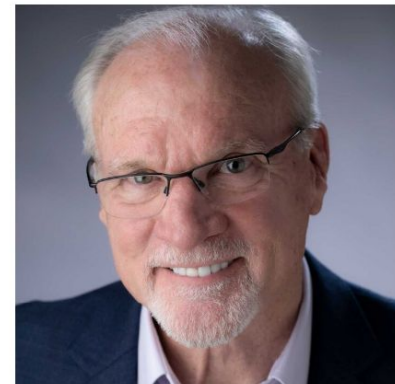
recoveryall.org



A Message From Tom

Over the past decade, we have been committed to bringing together individuals from various sectors to foster trust and promote the growth of recovery-oriented communities. Our Healthy Recovery Communities Symposium in March attracted over 188 attendees from 13 different sectors across 28 NC Counties, which exemplifies our mission in action. I want to express my gratitude to our incredible team. Each of you has demonstrated remarkable resilience, positivity, and problem-solving skills and I appreciate your contributions. Onward and upward!

-Tom



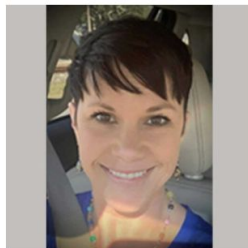
Tom Edwards - Executive Director & Board
Chair



Lizzy Toler - Project Manager



Lara Chatterley - Project Manager



Heather Newton - Regional
Coordinator



Sheriff Blackwood, Terri Moy & Julie Jones with
Favored Events.



Chris Budnick, Board Member

None of this is possible without our Sponsors!!!

Thank you!

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Lunch Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Recovery Alliance Initiative, Inc. is partially funded by Trillium Health.





We celebrated recovery and the amazing work being done in prevention and recovery. We heard from four keynote speakers, held two panels, RAI State Task Force updates! We had a lively case study interaction with Q&A, and a networking reception all contributing to the success of the event.

CONTENT

Day 1

Day 2

13 Sectors Represented at the RAI 2025 Symposium March 13-14, 2025

stakeholders with lived experience
6.3%

social service providers
22.8%

professional associations

0.6%

payers & funders

2.7%

military, veteran

0.6%

local/county/municipal/state officials

11.7%

law enforcement

6.9%

community groups

14.4%

education service providers

9.9%

employers

4.8%

healthcare providers

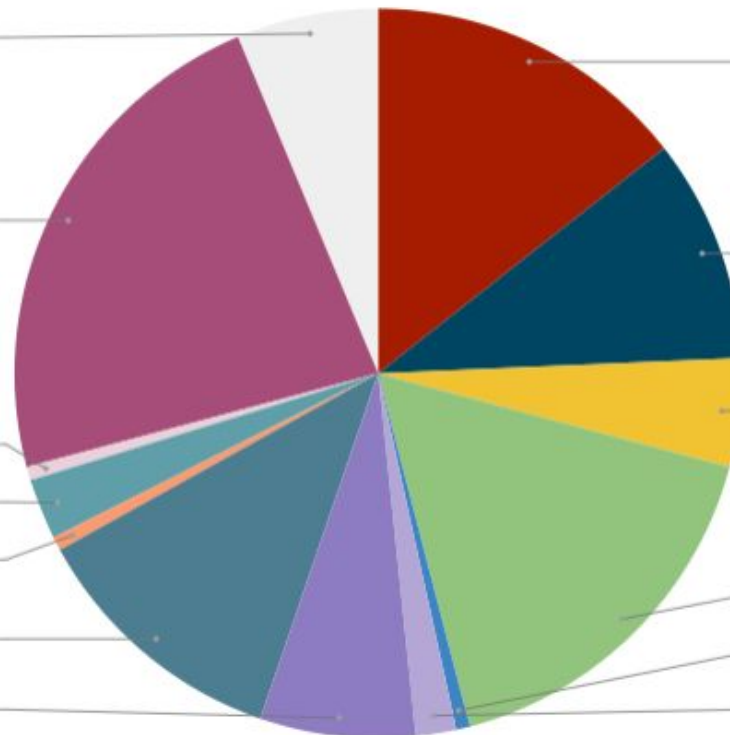
16.8%

healthcare tech

0.6%

judicial: attorneys, recovery courts, judges

1.8%





2025 Symposium

Healthy Recovery Communities



Kelly Crosbie
DMH/DD/SUS
Director



Terrence Walton,
Executive Dir
NAADAC



David Best, BA,
MSc, PhD



Alfgeir Kristjansson,
PhD, MSc

Keynote Speakers

**Speaker & Panelist
Bios [\(here\)](#)**

Day 1 Slides [\(here\)](#)

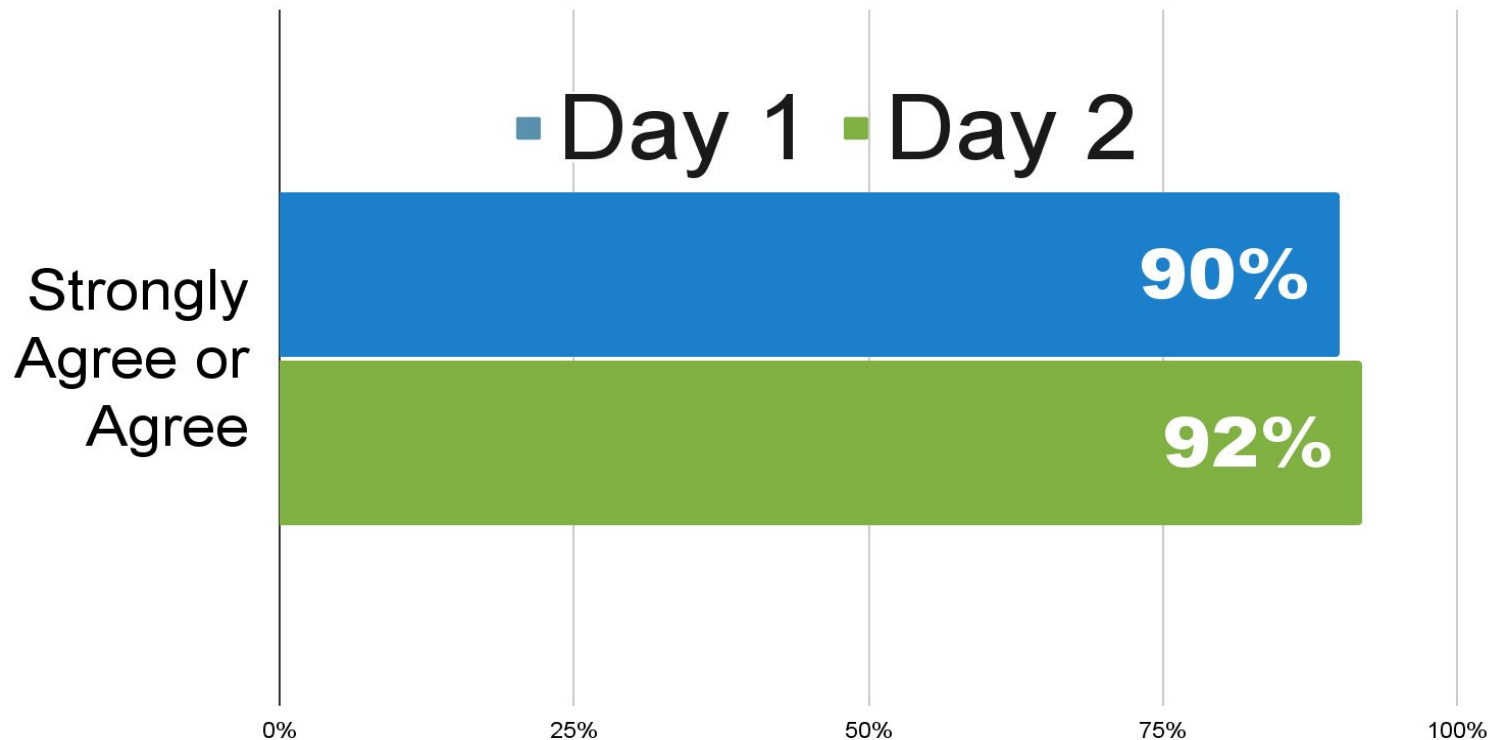
Day 2 Slides [\(here\)](#)



NCASPPB
North Carolina Addictions Specialist
Professional Practice Board



Survey responses for, "I enjoyed today's event".



Session with the GREATEST impact...

Case Study Panel and Q&A

“It was amazing to have the “case studies” present and willing to share and panel. It was such a unique and insightful moment, and just very grateful to have gotten to experience and learn from those women.”



Want to learn how to run a case study session at your event/meeting?

How-To Conduct a Lived-experience Case Study Session ([instructions here](#))



Facilitated by Tara Kunkel, Kris Bryant



Thurs Mar 13 Day 1





Sheriff Chip Hughes - Kicks off the Day!

Sheriff Chip Hughes welcomes RAI and Sheriff Blackwood and Attendees to the beautiful Craven County and Riverfront Convention Center

A message from Governor Stein and his "...commitment to saving lives affected by substance use."

View letter ([here](#))



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2025

Dear Recovery Alliance Initiative Symposium,

It is my privilege to welcome you all to the 2025 RAI Symposium. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity for stakeholders from across the state to share innovative recovery strategies, exchange ideas, and advocate for those struggling with substance use disorders.



Sheriff Charles
Blackwood, Emcee

Terrence Walton, MSW

*“It was a stimulating,
entertaining presentation
and great kick off to the
symposium.”*



Keynote Highlights

From Surviving to Thriving in Recovery through Community

Terrence D. Walton, MSW

Executive Director & CEO

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction
Professionals

Twalton@naadac.org



Alfgeir Kristjansson, PhD, MSc

Primary Prevention as an Underutilized Approach in Population-Based SUD Prevention

Alfgeir L. Kristjansson, PhD, MSc

Professor of Public Health

PI and Co-Director, WV Prevention Research Center

West Virginia University, School of Public Health

“The content was great. Not many people can blend data with practical experience in an engaging way. Very insightful in looking at different ways to more appropriately engage in prevention.”



- Dr. Kristjansson presented on the Icelandic Model of adolescent substance use prevention
- Focuses on primary prevention and community-wide approach rather than isolated interventions
- Uses data to identify risk/protective factors and guide community-specific strategies
- Showed significant reductions in youth substance use rates in Iceland over 20 years
- His model is being adapted for use in West Virginia and other locations



Panel Discussion

Changing Attitudes

Toward Recovery: Greater public awareness has reduced stigma, encouraging collaboration among law enforcement, treatment providers, and communities, although more education is needed.

Data-Driven Approaches:

Local data helps identify needs and inform strategies, with surveys tailoring campus programs and tracking recidivism rates to assess jail programs' effectiveness. Community coalitions also utilize data for coordination.



Emmy Knowles, Sheriff Asa Buck, Garret Biss, Brian Scott



Peer Support Programs:

College peer educators foster supportive cultures and healthy behaviors. Recovery residences and jail support specialists help with recovery and reentry to reduce recidivism.

Innovative Reentry

Programs: A pilot program provides released inmates with smartphones that have apps for local support and job resources to facilitate connections post-release.

“Loved the panel!”

Fri Mar 14 Day 2



Dr. David Best

Keynote Highlights

- Recovery is a fundamentally social process that happens between people as much as within individuals. Visible, attractive peer support is essential.
- There is a need to increase access to substance use treatment, especially for youth and adolescents.
- Recovery takes about 5 years on average to achieve stability
- Social connections and meaningful activities are key predictors of long-term recovery success
- People in long-term recovery have higher rates of employment and community involvement compared to general population

“Great to see models that are working!”



“I loved the use of humor and the presentation of data and practice implementation.”

Panel Discussion: “Don’t Call Them Out, Invite Them In”

- Need for more family-based treatment approaches
- Importance of peer support specialists and treating them as valued professionals
- Challenges of stigma and need for public education/awareness campaigns
- Value of recovery-friendly workplaces and communities



Anthony Tyre, Bill Hollingsed, John Sotirkys, Judge Heath

“I loved learning more about what the community is offering the people in need.”

Stakeholder & Community Collaboration

Partnerships

State Task

Force

Community

Information

Education

Services

peer support

substance use

trauma-informed

communication

recovery

programs

response teams

housing

family

schools

crisis youth

Training

mental health

resources

law enforcement

overdose response teams

drug courts

jails, re-entry

Access



Helen Tripp



Colleen Kosinski



Khrecia Holley, Pete Rubinas

Benefits of Membership

- Professional Development
- Collaborate virtually & network with your peers across NC
- Design innovative solutions that dismantle the silo effect.
- Learn industry best practices and gain resources and tools.
- Implement solutions in your own community!
- Engage with experts, leaders, and community members whose work intersects with recovery.
- Participate in (4) virtual quarterly state meetings, and 6-8 virtual subcommittee meetings.

THE POWER OF PEER SUPPORT

RECOVERY ALLIANCE INITIATIVE

North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialists (NC CPSS) are people in recovery from a mental illness and/or substance use disorder trained to provide support to others who can benefit from their experiences.

5396 NORTH CAROLINA Certified Peer Support Specialists

275,705 People struggling with a mental health and/or substance use illness

PEER WORKERS ARE UNIQUELY ABLE TO OFFER COMPASSION—THE TYPE OF UNDERSTANDING THAT COMES FROM HAVING LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH SUBSTANCE USE, BEHAVIOR CHANGE, AND RECOVERY, THROUGH SHARED EXPERIENCE.

FACT SHEET

Using And Medication

OVERVIEW

MAT IS EVIDENCE BASED

MAT is evidence-based and is the recommended course of treatment for OUD. The American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Association of Substance Abuse, American Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all emphasize MAT as first line treatment for OUD.

STIGMA

There is more stigma against the treatment of substance use disorder with medication than there is against counseling or other services. This often results in being reluctant to seek help.

DISCRIMINATION

Anti-discrimination laws - including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - do not protect people with OUD.



North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist Program

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION...

The NCCPSS Program, in partnership with the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Disorders, is excited to offer scholarship funding (up to \$500) to help applicants complete their 50-hour NCCPSS training through a participating Approved Counselor.

We encourage you to apply if you are committed to sharing your recovery journey with others as an NCCPSS!

APPLY NOW!

IMPORTANT!! All scholarship applications MUST be submitted online. You will need to create an account on our website to access the application.

Questions? Contact: nccpssprogram@ncdhhs.gov Website: pa.ncdhhs.gov

Housing Poll Results

97% of participants responded that **YES** a housing app would be helpful in their work!

Stay tuned for more...





Kelly Crosbie DMH/DD/SUS Director

State Update on Substance Use Initiatives

- Expanding access to naloxone and medication-assisted treatment
- Developing more collegiate recovery programs
- Focusing on prevention strategies for youth
- Supporting recovery community organizations and peer support programs
- Launching "Unashamed North Carolina" campaign to reduce stigma

Justice System and Recovery

- High rates of substance use issues among justice-involved populations
- Expanding diversion programs, re-entry support, and treatment access for justice-involved individuals
- Funding for programs like CIT training and LEAD in counties across the state



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Use Services



Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW
Director, DMHDDSUS

Hot Topics | March 25, 2025

Recovery Alliance Initiative Symposium Highlights



DMH/DD/SUS Director Kelly Crosbie and colleagues recently attended the [Recovery Alliance Initiative](#) Symposium. The conference was a great success bringing together nearly 200 participants including recovery professionals, advocates, and community members for two days of networking, discussions, and workshops. With the conference's focus on strengthening recovery efforts across North Carolina, Director Crosbie highlighted initiatives to amplify recovery and community-based services in addition to preventing substance misuse and overdose statewide.



Actionable Insights for our Next Event!

“This was a great way to learn about resources and recovery options.”

- Interactive and real case-studies
- Presentation & Facilitator line-up
- Networking Opportunities
- Learning something new!
- Stick with buffet lunches
- More open discussion
- Printouts (bios/slides)

“Great great symposium”

“I will be attending the Summit in Raleigh in September 2025!”





SAVE THE DATE

RAI SUMMIT

**11^{SEP}
THU** – **12^{SEP}
FRI**
2025

Hilton Raleigh North Hills
3415 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27609



Where leaders,
community members,
partners, and those
with lived experience
come together to
network, celebrate,
collaborate, and learn!



RAI SUMMIT

Network, celebrate,
collaborate & learn!

**11^{SEP}
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2025