

NEWSLETTER



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Empowerment for Individuals Who Are Justice Involved through SMART RECOVERY

Empowerment for Individuals Who Are Justice Involved through SMART Recovery

Peer support and mutual aid groups for substance misuse have a long history of helping people achieve and maintain recovery. Historically, peer-based recovery support provided an accessible alternative to the oftentimes exclusionary, stigmatizing, or unavailable treatment for alcohol use disorder in professional systems of care. While medical and behavioral health treatment has drastically improved, models of peer-based support continue to be valuable assets in the recovery field.

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Q&A with Laurie Johnson- Wade

CO-FOUNDER, LOST DREAMS
AWAKENING RECOVERY
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION



Q&A with Laurie Johnson-Wade, Co-founder, Lost Dreams Awakening Recovery Community Organization

Tell us about your deep immersion in the world of recovery support. How did your life journey lead you to co-found Lost Dreams Awakening (LDA), which specializes in removing barriers to treatment, prevention, and recovery?

I had a very public and horrific addiction and was repeatedly arrested. I was stuck in a pattern with nowhere to turn. No one in my family was like me. I am from a military family, and we were taught not to ask for help. My father was a Vietnam Veteran, and the family attitude was "You handle your business in-house." My broader community was similar, no one in my neighborhood who looked like me received treatment or talked about it, and I was never offered help for my addiction.

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THE IMANI BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT:

Faith-Based Recovery
Support for Black and
Latino Communities



The Imani Breakthrough Project: Faith-Based Recovery Support for Black and Latino Communities

The opioid epidemic has affected nearly all Americans in some way, but Black and Latino communities have been disproportionately impacted, due to disparities in access to services and treatment. While medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is considered the gold standard for reducing mortality and advancing recovery from opioid use disorder (OUD), research finds that Black and Latino individuals have reduced access to MAT and its positive outcomes. Additionally, there is evidence that a lack of culturally informed behavioral health treatments negatively impacts Black communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color. Criminal justice involvement due to drug-related offenses further compounds these challenges.

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Flashback on Self-Care for Criminal Justice Professionals

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The
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March 2023



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