

NEWSLETTER



Q&A with Dr. Mandy Owens

Assistant Professor, Addictions, Drug & Alcohol Institute, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine



Q&A with Mandy Owens, PhD, Assistant Professor, Addictions, Drug & Alcohol Institute, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine

You are a clinical psychologist and an addiction researcher. Some of your research focuses on treatment for individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs) involved in the criminal justice system. What led you to this work?

People in this sector often have personal experience with substance use, but that was not my trajectory. I became interested in substance use after my undergraduate work as a chemical dependency professional trainee at one of the few publicly funded treatment centers for substance use disorder in Seattle, Washington. At this center, 70 percent of our clients were court-mandated to treatment. During treatment, many would get re-booked, often for probation violations for using substances or a new charge. I became deeply interested in that cycle of "in and out" of jail, which led me to my graduate work and research career.

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Forensic Peer Mentor Training in Georgia:

Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to the Community

Forensic Peer Mentor Training in Georgia: Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to the Community

Certified peer specialists, peer mentors, and other peer support workers offer both lived experience and professional knowledge of systems and supports. They inspire hope, dispel myths, and help the people they serve set goals, develop strategies for self-empowerment, and move toward the lives they want to live.

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A Primer on Harm Reduction in Treatment Courts

A Primer on Harm Reduction in Treatment Courts

Harm reduction is an evidence-based approach to providing life-saving tools and strategies to create positive change in the lives of individuals who misuse substances. Unlike some approaches that concentrate primarily on abstinence, harm reduction focuses on risk reduction, health promotion, and personal empowerment to improve safety and well-being. The concept of harm reduction for substance use disorders has existed since at least the 1980s when syringe exchanges and other public health programs were implemented to reduce the spread of HIV. But in recent years, awareness of harm reduction has increased. It is one of the four key strategies included in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Overdose Prevention Strategy. It was also named a critical element of the Biden-Harris Administration's National Drug Control Strategy in 2022. The President's innovative strategy includes "expanding access to high impact harm reduction tools like naloxone [and] quickly connecting more people to treatment," said Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), in a May 2022 press release.

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Resource Spotlight

- [Assisting Incarcerated and Recently Released Consumers](#) | Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- [Signing Up for Medicare After Jail or Incarceration](#) | Department of Health and Human Services
- [A National Compendium of Court Navigation Programs](#) | Policy Research Associates and the State Justice Institute

Flashback on Drug Courts



[Improving Risk-Need-Responsivity Policies and Practice in Adult Drug Courts and Reentry Programs](#) | December 2019



[Drug Courts' Evolution toward Children and Family Services](#) | December 2018



[GAINS Webinar: MAT in Drug Courts: Addressing the Concerns of Court Staff](#) | April 2021



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5600 Fishers Ln | Rockville, MD | 20857 US

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