

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

Supporting Peer Work During a Pandemic

Acknowledgement

This webinar is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$ 1,967,147 with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official view of, nor an endorsement by, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).

Disclaimer

The content and opinions expressed in this presentation are solely those of the presenter and not necessarily those of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Attendees should note this presentation is being recorded and may be published on the Council's website and in various media (including print, audio, and video formats) without further notice.

Presenters

Kerri Scharfenberg

DOES Program
Manager

Colorado Coalition for
the Homeless

Denver, Colorado



Thomas Hora

Housing First Peer
Support

Colorado Coalition
for the Homeless

Denver, Colorado

Discussion

- How did the pandemic impact your work as a peer?
- How did you navigate the shift of services during COVID?
- How has the pandemic impacted your mental health and well-being? How are you taking care of yourself?
- How is the organization taking care of you or what support would you like from your organization during this time?
- How do your peers work together to support each other?
- What do you need to feel supported while continuing to support others? What values, practices, or policies are helpful for you?
- What boundaries have been important for you to establish to take care of yourself?
- How do you balance your personal experience of trauma on top of secondary traumatic stress that comes from helping?

More Discussion

- How did you begin work as a peer and get into your current role?
- What was the transition like from a peer to a peer mentor? What have you struggled with and what has worked well?
- What training or orientation helped you to feel comfortable doing the work?
- How can organizations avoid tokenizing peers even though their trauma is known?
- What are common mistakes organizations have when hiring peers?

Q&A

Katherine Cavanaugh
Consumer Advocacy Manager
kcavanaugh@nhchc.org