

NEWSLETTER



Q&A

WITH THE FOUNDER:

Medication-Assisted Recovery
Anonymous (MARA)

Q&A with the Founder of Medication-Assisted Recovery Anonymous (MARA)

Jeff is the founder of Medication-Assisted Recovery Anonymous (MARA), a supportive and nonjudgemental recovery community created to help individuals achieve and maintain a safer lifestyle. Editors' note: To maintain Jeff's confidentiality, the GAINS editorial team has omitted his last name from this article.

What motivated you to start MARA?

In many ways, MARA is a direct outcome of my life experiences. At a young age, I started using alcohol and drugs to cope with my fears. At age 14, I was expelled from school. Despite various stays at addiction treatment centers and psychiatric hospitals, I repeatedly returned to substance use until I was incarcerated at age 21. While there, I earned my GED. I was released when I was age 38. Since then, I've earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and an MBA in healthcare management. In 2017, I became a licensed chemical dependency counselor.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES HARMED BY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS



DEMOINTÉ WESLEY



GRACE CARSON

Restorative Justice: Helping Individuals and Communities Harmed by Substance Use Disorders

Peacemaking is a time-honored approach among Indigenous cultures that brings together individuals who have experienced harm, those who have caused harm, and community members to resolve conflict or disputes in a healing, rather than punitive, context. Central tenets of peacemaking—relationship building, rehabilitation, and community empowerment—have been absorbed into the correctional model of restorative justice, which has grown in popularity across the country. This model is primarily associated with the juvenile justice system but holds promise for adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) who are involved with the criminal justice system.

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Incarceration and Community Reentry of Older Adults



Laura Roan



Dan Pfarr



Incarceration and Community Reentry of Older Adults

As policy changes and reforms result in reduced incarceration among some younger age groups, adults who are 65 and older are making up a greater proportion of the incarcerated population. This shift has been documented in jail populations, and similar increases are noted in state and federal prisons: Projections indicate more than one-third of the incarcerated population will be over 55 years of age by 2030. Correctional facilities and reentry service providers face unique challenges surrounding the care of aging adults.

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Integrating Trauma-Informed Principles and Practices in Treatment Courts

Criminal Justice Learning Collaborative



Applications due:
December 6, 2024



SAMHSA's GAINS Center Has Announced a Trauma-Informed Treatment Courts Criminal Justice Learning Collaborative—Apply Today!

Application due date: December 6, 2024

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research, is continuing to provide direct training and technical assistance to jurisdictions across the nation to better support people with behavioral health needs who are involved in the criminal justice system. The GAINS Center is currently soliciting applications from jurisdictions interested in collaborating with subject-matter experts on *Integrating Trauma-Informed Principles and Practices in Treatment Courts* through a Criminal Justice Learning Collaborative (LC).

About the *Integrating Trauma-Informed Principles and Practices in Treatment Courts* LC

The primary goal of the *Integrating Trauma-Informed Principles and Practices in Treatment Courts* LC is for court-based teams to develop strategic plans to advance policies and practices in trauma-informed treatment court programs. This LC will bring together teams from various local jurisdictions and states to create coordinated strategic plans. These plans will address implementation strategies for integrating the principles of trauma-informed systems and associated practices into the everyday processes of their treatment court(s). The teams selected for this LC will work intensively to determine optimal ways to implement best practices and define success indicators, working with subject-matter experts during the implementation process and to facilitate peer-to-peer sharing.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

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