

PEERS FEEL ISOLATED, SHAMED and SILENCED BY the PEOPLE THEY NEED to HELP THEM

PEERS are TREATED AS EQUALS and EXPERTS in THEIR OWN CARE and WELL-BEING

STIGMA
DISCRIMINATION
RACISM
SHAME
ABUSE
COLONIZATION
POVERTY

"There was a 30-day restriction on communication at the 12 step program. I got kicked out for lending a mom my phone to call her kids."

"Addiction does not discriminate, but treatments do. Privilege gets you treatment."

"If their rules don't work for you, you're suddenly 'non-compliant'."

"I just gave up on my doc. Now I use alcohol and meds for pain."

"When they take your kids, it removes your reason to live."

"The hospital pushed me out the door."

"If I could stay clean for two weeks on my own, I wouldn't NEED detox."

NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES WITH THE SYSTEM

CORRECTIONS

rules

wait

one person

one connection

POSITIVE EXPERIENCES WITH THE SYSTEM

"We know ourselves better than anyone else."

"I need community and belonging"

"I had one person believe in me - that is why I'm here."

"Healing is a process...it takes time."

"I need a safe space to heal and pray in my own way."

"Nobody is being prepared to age out."

"It was always no, NO, NO...until someone said yes."

"For a week, someone I knew died every day."

WHAT MATTERS

EDUCATION

THE KIDS

"Teach them about Indigenous identity, culture...how to set boundaries and how to communicate."

"Scare tactics don't work. Bring in peers to talk about the the whole picture - not just demonize drugs."

"We need to teach them about civic duty, about being in a community."

"I wish I had learned life skills in school instead of calculus."

PROVIDERS

"I feel like they don't understand ADHD and addiction."

"There should be mandatory education on mental health for providers."

THE PUBLIC

"Peers can challenge the 'It can never happen to me' mindset."

WHAT MATTERS

EMPOWERMENT

PEERS AS TEACHERS

"Let us pass on the gift of lessons learned."

PEERS AS EXPERTS

"We can design treatment that works for us."

AS INDIVIDUALS

"I proved everybody wrong - I got better."

"I needed to learn how to write cheques, how to grocery shop..."

AS A COMMUNITY

"We need to be together to heal."

WHAT MATTERS

CHANGE

THE CONVERSATION

"We need to decriminalize the action if we're going to humanize the person."

THE SYSTEM

"Homelessness is the first thing that they need to tackle...housing and food."

"Criminalization keeps people in the system."

COMMUNITY
RESPECT
STRENGTH
RESILIENCE
CULTURE