

# Concurrent Session 4: Embedding Lived Experience in an Overdose Fatality Review: Guidance and Facilitated Discussion

Moderator: Sam Robertson, Rainbow Health, Minnesota

# Speakers

- Joshua Barnett, Pinellas County, Florida
- Seth Dewey, Kansas



# Embedding Lived Experience in an OFR: Guidance and Discussion

Sam Robertson  
Rainbow Health, Minnesota

Developed in partnership with the National Council for  
Mental Wellbeing Lived Experience Workgroup

# Purpose



Meaningfully include persons with lived experience (PWLE) in the OFR process

*Nothing about us without us . . .*

# Importance of Engaging PWLE in OFRs



- Unique perspective
- Humanizing the data
- Empowerment and inclusion

# Assumptions

Before intentionally including PWLE, an OFR must have:

- Effective leadership driving the team
- Continuous improvement to ensure that recommendations are refined based on evolving best practices and emerging evidence
- A culture of inclusivity

# Seth Dewey

# Kansas Recovery Network



2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

Seth Dewey

# **Embedding Lived Experience in an OFR: Guidance and Panel Discussion**

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# Disclosure Statement

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*Information presented here is provided strictly for informational and educational purposes and does not necessarily reflect any current position of the  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners or its administration.*

# Administrative Data and Perspectives

## OFR Investigative Committees

- **Composition of OFR Committee**
- **Context of Quantitative Data**
- **Next-of-kin (NOK) Findings**
- **Real-world Experience/Expertise**
  - **Lived Experience and Recovery Community**

## Understanding Findings

- **Confirming Findings**
- **Alternative Perspectives**
- **Contemporary Issues/Needs**

# Value of Lived Experience

## **Intentional Inclusion**

- “Nothing About Us, Without Us”
- “We” vs. “They”

## **Real-world Insights**

- Person-centered approaches
- Perception is not always reality
- Nuanced-level understanding

## **Participation in Policy & Public Administration**

- Lived Experience in the OFR Investigatory Group
- Preparation for Stakeholder Engagements
- Tracking & Feedback of Recommendations

# OFR Participants With Lived Experience

## **Individuals in Recovery**

- Person who formerly used drugs
- Family member of a person who has recovered from drug use
- Certified Peer Recovery Specialists/Peer Coaches
  - Not all "Peers" are peers
  - Mental health (MH), co-occurring disorder (COD), substance use disorder (SUD)

## **Individuals in Early/Very Early Phases of Recovery**

- Persons who currently use drugs
- Family member of a person who uses drugs

## **Active Lived Experience and Harm Reduction (HR) Participants**

- Persons who currently use drugs
- Persons who engage in HR Support Programs; e.g., syringe services programs (SSPs)

## **Considerations of This Stakeholder Group**

- Prepare all participants
  - Trauma Hx is not always a barrier
  - Strength, catharsis, belonging
- NOK process for the bereaved

# "Thank You" From the PC-OFRC



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**Additional information on OFRs is available at:**

**[www.cossup.org](http://www.cossup.org)**

**[www.iir.com](http://www.iir.com)**

**[www.floridahealth.gov/opioids](http://www.floridahealth.gov/opioids)**



# Questions and Answers



# Guidance

# Recruitment

- Informed consent
- Emotional support
- Safe environment
- Debriefing sessions
- Ongoing support
- Vetting process



# Reasons to Develop a Vetting Process



- Emotional preparedness
- Confidentiality and trust
- Objectivity and impartiality
- Representativeness

# Addressing Inappropriate Comments



- Establish clear guidelines (ground rules)
- Training and awareness
- Pre-screening of materials
- Open dialogue
- Active facilitation
- Frame comments as learning opportunities
- Emphasize goal
- Confidential reporting mechanism
- Address individual concerns privately
- Continuous improvement



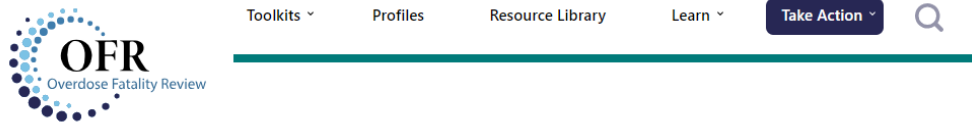
# Request Support

# Additional Support Available!



## OFR Email Exchange

- Great way to network with your peers!



## OFR Message Exchange Sign-Up

The OFR message exchange is a platform for those involved in Overdose Fatality Reviews to engage with one another. Enrollment in this message exchange is by permission only, and the [terms of use](#) apply.

The fields marked with the \* are required.

First Name\*

Last Name\*



## Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Request

- Expertise is available to support your OFR efforts
- We are here to help you troubleshoot day-to-day challenges as they arise



## Training and Technical Assistance Request

Regardless of funding source, anyone can request OFR training and technical assistance. Expertise is available to support the expansion and development of overdose fatality review (teams) through a variety of formats, including but not limited to:

- Host one-on-one calls to troubleshoot day-to-day challenges
- Identify available resources and materials
- Connect TTA requestor to peers in the field
- Present to team or meeting attendees
- Convene professionals to address a need
- Facilitate virtual meetings and workshops



# OFR Mentor Site Opportunities



- The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR promising practices while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers
- Interested sites can apply here

A flyer titled "Overdose Fatality Review Peer Mentor Site Opportunities". The flyer includes a description of the program's purpose, a list of activities for a typical OFR mentee experience, and a QR code for application. The flyer also features the OFR logo and the BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program logo.

**Overdose Fatality Review**

## Peer Mentor Site Opportunities

The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Peer Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR best promising practices, while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Peer Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers.

### OFR Peer Mentee Application

OFR peer mentor participants are matched to an experienced mentor site program that provides consultation and support through direct communication and a virtual\* OFR site visit, to see first-hand how OFRs work in practice.

A typical OFR mentee experience will include:

- One-hour introductory call at least one week before the OFR virtual site visit
- Two-hour OFR observation
- One-hour post review discussion call at least one week after the OFR virtual site visit
- Facilitated discussions with one or two OFR members as requested by peer mentee
- Feedback to IIR by both mentor and mentee about their experience

(\*Note: In-person virtual site visits are on hold during the COVID-19 response.)

Request a virtual site visit by completing this online form. ([http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite\\_Visit](http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite_Visit))

**OFR**  
Overdose Fatality Review

BJA's  
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# Questions?