



NEWSLETTER

June
2025

Job Postings:

www.indeed.com

- Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist
*Please see page 2 for additional information



A note from Jim...

Honoring Service:

Recovery and Resilience for Veterans

As we move into the heart of summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on a group whose service and sacrifice too often go unnoticed in the conversations around substance use and recovery—our veterans.

June is a time of transition for many, as school years end and families begin summer routines. For veterans, however, the transition from military to civilian life is ongoing and often complex. The invisible wounds of war—trauma, anxiety, depression, and chronic pain—can contribute to a heightened risk of substance use disorders. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, more than one in ten veterans has been diagnosed with a substance use disorder, a rate higher than the general population.

At Crawford County Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission we believe that honoring veterans means more than gratitude—it means offering support that is informed, respectful, and accessible. We are committed to providing trauma-informed care and ensuring our programs reflect the unique challenges veterans face. Whether it's peer support, integrated mental health services, or community outreach, our mission is to stand beside those who have served as they walk their journey toward healing.

This June, I encourage us all—staff, partners, and community members—to deepen our understanding and strengthen our resolve. Let us reach out, speak up, and continue building a network where every veteran feels seen, supported, and empowered in recovery.

To those who have served, and to those who support them: we thank you. Your strength and resilience inspire everything we do.

Our Vision:

The Vision of CCDAEC is to empower residents of Crawford County to prevent and to recover from the traumas of substance abuse for the purpose of improving their quality of living and their positive involvement in the community.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission, Inc. is to reduce the incidence and prevalence of substance abuse in Crawford County through implementation of prevention, intervention and treatment services which address the specific needs of Crawford County.



CRS

(Certified Recovery Specialist)

A Supportive Role for Recovery

The certified recovery specialists of CCDAEC are a very important piece of maintaining the sobriety of those who live with substance use disorder (SUD). The roles of the CRS are not only important but vast. The goal is to meet the client where they are at and support them as they make this journey in recovery.

Some of the roles and responsibilities of a CRS include:

- Collaborating with area resources to ensure clients' basic needs are met.
- Referring to case management and/or treatment services within CCDAEC as needed.
- Offering guidance with recovery through personal experience.
- Offering support and advocacy relating to obstacles that may occur during early recovery.
- Developing an individualized recovery plan.
- Assist clients with acquiring self-care skills such as budgeting, housekeeping, & interview skills.
- Monitoring participants' recovery stability.
- Transport or assist in arranging transportation for clients to treatment or other recovery support appointments/activities.

Current Job Openings for CRS

Minimum Education/Requirements:

- Maintain a minimum of 2 years of self-sustained recovery outside of a restrictive setting.
- Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) or Certified Family Recovery Specialist (CFRS) certification through the Pennsylvania Certification Board.
- Valid PA Driver's License and active automobile insurance.
- Ability to obtain a satisfactory Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History check, a DHS (Department of Human Services) Child Abuse History Certification, and FBI Fingerprint-based Criminal Background Check.
 - No felony convictions in the last 5 years.
 - Must pass pre-employment drug screen.

Positions Open:

1. Certified Recovery Specialist will be employed as a standard CRS.
2. Drug & Alcohol Peer Recovery Expansion Project (PREP) Recovery Support Specialist
Position is based in the Medical Medical Center.
Regular Work Hours:
2:30pm - 11:30pm

(Please see Indeed.com for additional info)





LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE



Pride Month is a vibrant and inclusive celebration that honors the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) community, their history, achievements, and ongoing struggle for equality. This annual event serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of acceptance, diversity, and love. It brings together individuals, organizations, and communities to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and celebrate the progress made towards a more inclusive society. Unfortunately, members of the LGBTQ+ community face many challenges that have contributed to a higher rate of addiction than those who identify as heterosexual. awarenessdays.com

Challenges The LGBTQ+ Community Faces

The LGBTQ+ community suffers from higher rates of substance abuse than the general population. This is due, in part, to several societally imposed obstacles that they face, often daily, that those who identify as heterosexual don't.

A few of these challenges include:

- Discrimination or stigmatization based on sexual orientation
- Hate crimes, emotional abuse, threats, public humiliation, or ridicule
- Discriminatory or harmful laws
- Rejection or shame from family or friends after coming out
- Lack of access to healthcare, such as gender-affirming care
- Loss of employment or not receiving promotions

Often, LGBTQ+ individuals will turn to drugs or alcohol to self-medicate. Substances can help temporarily numb uncomfortable feelings such as depression, anxiety, anger, or fear. Although substance abuse may appear beneficial initially, there are many long-term and negative consequences of hiding one's feelings.

Transgender individuals are especially vulnerable to turning to addictive substances to deal with anxiety or loneliness due to negative stigma and discrimination.

One study found that transgender students are 2.5 times more likely to use cocaine or meth and are twice as likely to abuse prescription medications (such as prescription opioids or benzodiazepines).

Common Co-Occurring Disorders In The LGBTQ+ Community

One thing that may provide internal conflict for members of the LGBTQ+ community is that, often, they are forced to live a "closeted" life. This is where they hide their sexuality from others in fear of rejection. Keeping one's sexuality a secret is a big psychological toll that may lead to mental health disorders and significant emotional distress, which can also lead to substance abuse.

Common psychological or emotional disorders present in the LGBTQ+ community include:

- Major depressive disorder
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- High levels of stress
- Suicidal ideation or attempts

In addition to their societal challenges, LGBTQ+ individuals may also be experiencing physical or health issues related to their sexuality.

These can also contribute to addiction and may include:

- Compulsive sexual behavior
- Sexual dysfunction
- Sex or HIV-related anxiety
- Sexual abuse or assault

Many individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ have a co-occurring mental or sexual disorder that either led to a substance abuse problem or is perpetuating this abuse.

When considering which treatment option is best for an LGBTQ+ individual, there should be a focus on addressing any co-occurring disorders to allow for the highest chance of sustained sobriety while in recovery.



CCDAEC

Crawford County Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission

(814) 724-4100

LOOKING FORWARD TO RECOVERY



It's not too early to start thinking about Recovery Month.

September is National Recovery Month

CCDAEC staff & area agencies like CFS (Center for Family Services) are busy planning for the Recovery Celebration. If you would like to help or be a part of this amazing event,

Please Contact:

Becca Smith (814) 573-1573

*Join us for Meadville's
14th Annual*

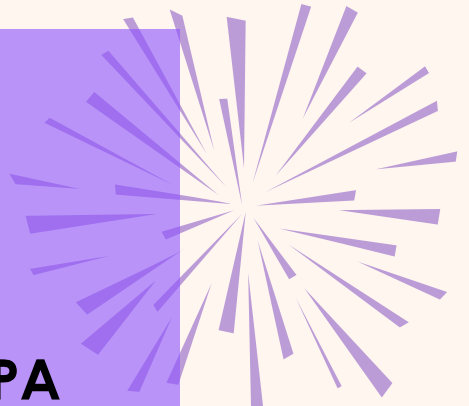
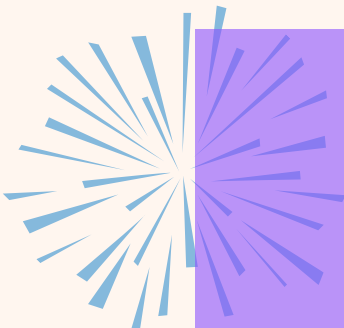
Recovery Celebration

Join Our Block Party

Saturday, September 6th

1pm -4pm

Diamond Park, Meadville, PA





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CCDAEC





Crawford County Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission

(814) 724-4100



LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Danish & Coffee	4	5 CLOSED	6	7
8 	9	10	11 Lunch in the LR	12 CLOSED	13	14 
15	16 Brownies from 12-2 pm!	17	18 Pool Party @ The REC! 1-3 pm	19 CLOSED Family Support Group 6-7 pm	20 hello SUMMER	21
22	23	24 Lunch in the LR	25	26 CLOSED	27 Coffee and Donuts!	28
29	30	 ANY QUESTIONS OR WANT TO SIGN UP FOR LAUNDRY CALL OR TEXT BECCA @814-573-1573 				



POOL PARTY

JUNE 18TH
1-3 PM

MEADVILLE AREA REC COMPLEX!

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN RIDES
PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND KIDS!
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME PLEASE
TEXT OR CALL OR TEXT BECCA
@ 814- 573-1573

THIS EVENT IS FOR LIVING ROOM MEMBERS AND CLIENTS OF CCDAEC ONLY!

Future Date to Remember:



**Trail to Recovery
5k Run/1mile Walk**



**Sunday, August 10th
9am at Ernst Trail**
(Bean's Auto side)



<https://www.givesignup.org/Race/PA/Meadville/JustSayNoDoa5kInstead>