Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

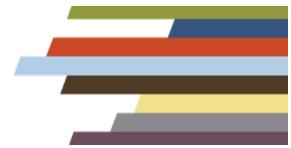
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

# Advanced Topics in Strengthening Youth/ Young Adult Peer Support

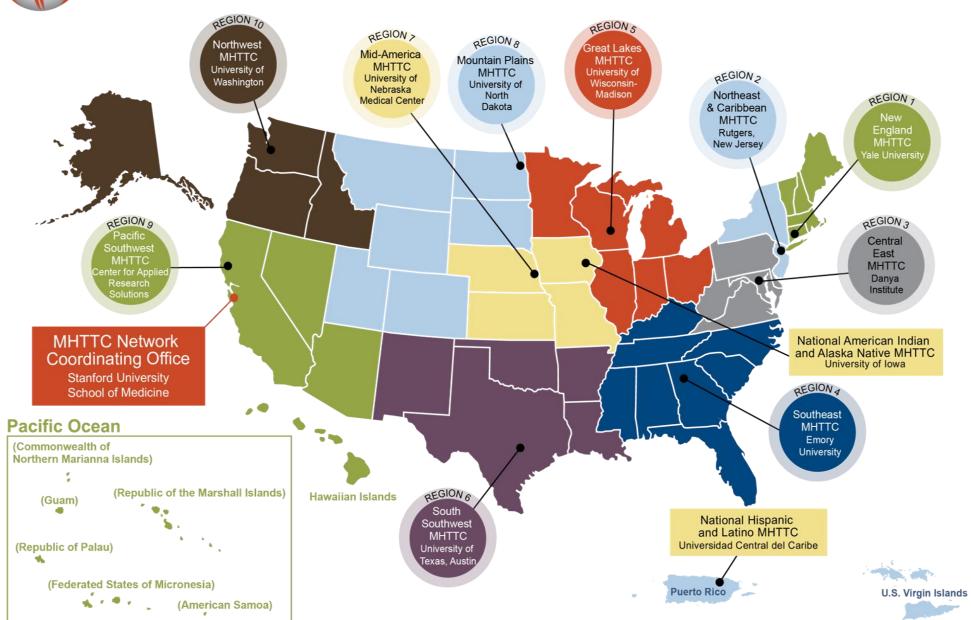
Creating Safety and Self Care Plans
December 17, 2020

In collaboration with Pathways Research and Training Center





#### MHTTC Network







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Pl and Co-Director



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Co-Director

### **About the Northwest MHTTC**

## The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network is about technology transfer.

We disseminate and implement evidence-based practices for mental disorders into our field.

#### Our target workforce includes:

behavioral health and primary care providers, school and social service staff, and others whose work has the potential to improve behavioral health outcomes for individuals with or at risk of developing serious mental illnesses.













### Northwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center

### **Our Role:**

Provide training and technical assistance (TA) in evidence-based practices (EBPs) to behavioral health and primary care providers, and school and social service staff whose work has the potential to improve behavioral health outcomes for individuals with or at risk of developing serious mental illness in SAMHSA's Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington).

### **Our Goals:**

- Accelerate the adoption and implementation of mental health related evidence-based practices including area of focus (EBPs for serious mental health issues) across Region 10
- Heighten the awareness, knowledge, and skills of the workforce that addresses the needs of individuals with serious mental health issues in Region 10
- Foster alliances among culturally diverse practitioners, researchers, policy makers, family members, and consumers of mental health services
- Ensure the availability and delivery of publicly available, free of charge, training and technical assistance to the mental health workforce in Region 10



### **About the Northwest MHTTC**

#### **Online Courses**



#### Research/Practice Briefs



Website with Events, Products & News



### Live Training



#### **Archived Webinars**









The MHTTC Network uses affirming, respectful and recovery-oriented language in all activities. That language is:

STRENGTHS-BASED AND HOPEFUL

INCLUSIVE AND
ACCEPTING OF
DIVERSE CULTURES,
GENDERS,
PERSPECTIVES,
AND EXPERIENCES

HEALING-CENTERED/ TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE INVITING TO INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN THEIR OWN JOURNEYS

PERSON-FIRST AND FREE OF LABELS

NON-JUDGMENTAL AND AVOIDING ASSUMPTIONS

RESPECTFUL, CLEAR AND UNDERSTANDABLE

CONSISTENT WITH OUR ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND PRODUCTS

Adapted from: https://mhcc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Recovery-Oriented-Language-Guide\_2019ed\_v1\_20190809-Web.pdf

### Introductions







### Pathways Research and Training Center



PORTLAND, OREGON

Research, training and dissemination focused on improving outcomes for youth and young adults who experience serious mental health conditions

www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu

### Logistics

- Monthly virtual meetings on the third Thursday 10-11 Pacific Time.
- Registration required each time.
- In order to keep the meetings discussion-based and interactive, future registration will be limited to ~30 participants.
  - Participants from the previous month will get first notice to sign up for the next month.
- If you are unable to attend, notify PSU within 48 hours of the call so staff can offer your spot to someone on the waitlist.
  - If participants fail to do this, their spot will be forfeited to someone on the waitlist.
- Calls will be recorded and made available on the Pathways RTC website.
  - To maintain confidentiality, do not use identifying details in your questions, and submit questions with sensitive details to organizers only in the chat.
- Please share any resources, questions, topics of interest, with facilitators.
   We want to cover what is important to you!

## Agenda

- Discussion
- Prioritizing safety as a team
- Introducing safety and self care
- Basics of safety planning
- Safety plan examples
- Scenarios
- Questions

### Discussion

 How have you introduced safety plans to young people you have worked with in the past?

### Prioritizing Safety as a Team

- Work with your team to identify young people who may be particularly vulnerable during the holidays (due to lack of support, new triggers, etc.) or at heightened risk of crisis, and work together to identify strategies to support them
- Figure out who will be available to provide support to youth via call, text, etc. during which times
- Identify local resources that will be providing food, housing and crisis support during the holiday

## Prioritizing Safety as a Team

 What are some of the more vulnerable populations you work with?



### Introducing safety and self care

- Use your peerness: this is a weird time for everyone!
- Support the young person to identify their concerns, anxieties and triggers around the holidays
- Set expectations and boundaries around your own availability, especially if it will be less than usual
  - Set up connections with other staff if appropriate
- Help the young person to identify supports and coping strategies
  - How might these look different than in previous years?

## Using your "Peerness"

- Peerness refers to a youth peer support specialist's ability to relate to a young person using their lived experience, proximity in age/generational experience, and shared youth culture.
- How might one use their peerness to help a young person create a self care or safety plan?



### Safety plan

- Safety plans can look different, but there are a few basic things you might want to include
  - Triggers/warning signs: how do I know I'm in crisis?
  - Things I can do to distract myself
  - Coping strategies (things I can do alone, and with others)
  - People I can reach out to (natural supports like friends and family as well as paid supports like therapists or peers)
  - Things I want to remind myself when I'm in crisis: what do I value about my life? What is my "reason for living?"
  - Crisis line numbers
- Does the youth want/need to share their plan with anyone? Who?
   How will they do so

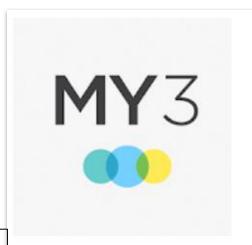
## Safety Plans

- Safety plans can be creative!
- Ask a youth how they want to document their plan – artwork, journal, poetry, etc.
- Check in with the youth to see who they would like to share their plan with
- See if any adjustments need to be made to safety plans for the holidays.

Discussion: How might safety plans need to be adjusted for the holiday season?

## MY PERSONAL CRISIS PLAN know I'm Some good ways to distract myself are: triggered when I notice: Things that help me when I feel Ways to keep myself and my space safe: this way are: Some safe people I can reach out to are: Other resources I can use to get myself care: CRISIS TEXT LINE: text HOME to 741741

from www.lindsayabraman.com



### MY3 - Support Network

MHA-NYC Communication

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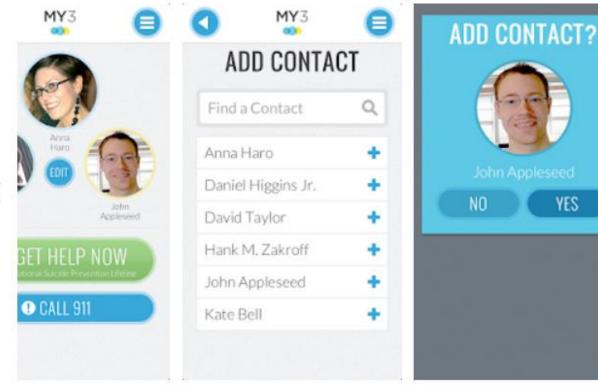
**E** Everyone

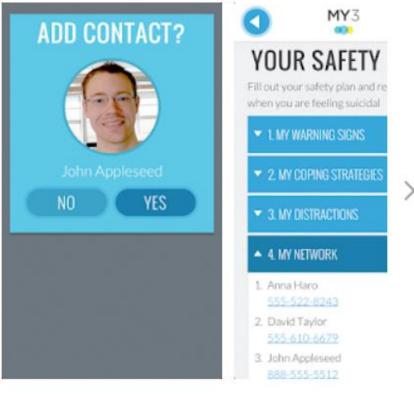
This app is compatible with all of your devices.

Add to Wishlist

Install

App "MY3" - identify 3 people to call in crisis and make a safety plan on your iPhone or android





## Activity

- You will be put into breakout groups
- In your group, discuss what kinds of safety plan you would use with youth and how you would introduce such
- Come back to the larger group and share your reflections from your breakout group

### Self-care

What are some activities you do for your own self-care?

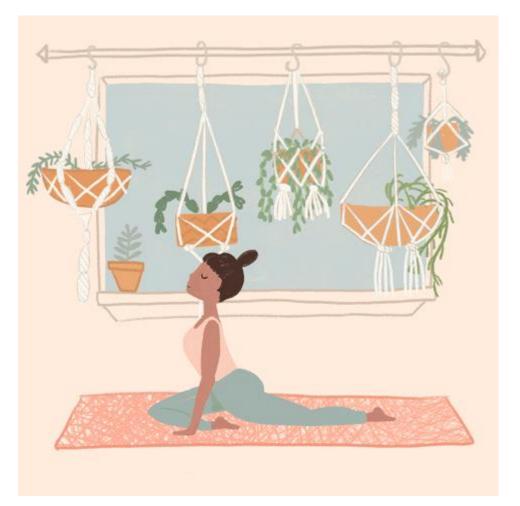


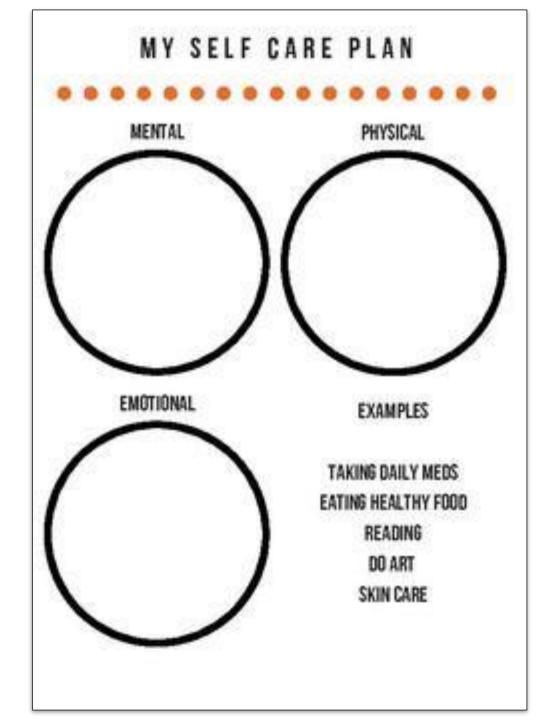
### **Creating Self-care Plans**

- Self-care is about sustaining a lifestyle that is healthy, brings joy, and allows one to face challenges – it's not just about "doing things you like."
- Self-care can be difficult and is an important part of recovery.
- That said, self-care can also include treating yourself ©

## Tips for Creating Self-care Plans with Youth

- Some young people don't like the term self-care.
- Use open-ended questions like:
  - "What are some things you can do daily to be healthy?"
  - "What do you enjoy doing?"
  - "What activities make you feel good?"
  - "What kind of music/art/exercise do you like?"





Bare bones example of a "self care plan" for young people who might not want/need as intensive safety planning

Tips to make a "coping skills toolbox" - a fun activity to do with youth and a useful resource!

### Let's make a Coping Skills Toolbox!

### What is it?

A Coping Skills Toolbox is a place for you to keep things that calm you down in periods of distress. If you have everything gathered in one place, it's easier to remember to use your coping skills, rather than using negative behaviors.

#### Distraction

(Taking your mind off the problem for a while)

#### Examples:

Puzzles, books, artwork, crafts, knitting, crocheting, sewing, crossword puzzles, sudoku, positive websites, music, movies, etc.

#### **Opposite Action**

(Doing something the opposite of your impulse that's consistent with a more positive emotion)

- Affirmations and Inspiration
   (ex: looking at or drawing
   motivational statements or
   Images)
- 2. Something funny or cheering (ex: funny movies / TV / books)

## **Emotional Awareness**

(Tools for identifying and expressing your feelings)

#### Examples:

A list or chart of emotions, a journal, writing supplies, drawing / art supplies

#### Mindfulness

(Tools for centering and grounding yourself in the present moment)

#### **Examples:**

Meditation or relaxation recordings, grounding objects (like a rock or paperweight), yoga mat, breathing exercises.

### Crisis Plan

(Contact info of supports and resources, for when coping skills aren't enough.)

Family / Friends
Therapist
Psychiatrist
Hotline
Crisis Team / ER
911

## Put it all together:

Once you've gathered all of your items, put them together in a box or other container, decorate it to your heart's content, and put it in a place where you'll remember it. Then USE IT!

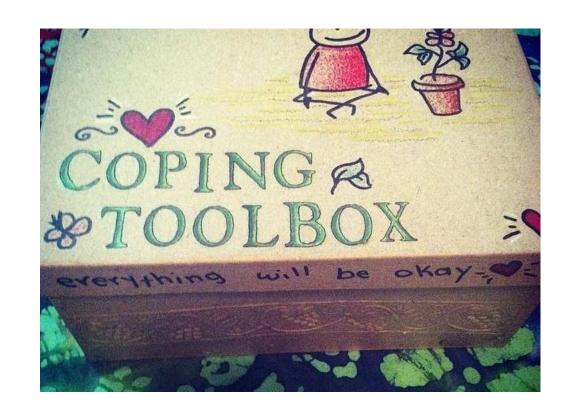
### BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

summerofrecovery (aka false-spring-queen)

Have a kickass recovery day:

## Activity

- You will be separated into breakout groups
- With your group, discuss what you would put in your own coping box
- Come back and share with the larger group



## Questions?

## Scenarios

I am working with a youth and feel that their guardian consistently disrespects me. I am not sure how to address this without possibly impacting my work with the youth. Thoughts?

## Scenarios

I am working with a young person who is gay, and their parents don't know. I am trying to encourage them to share this with their parents but they are reluctant to. What should I do to support the youth?



Please write any ideas you have for upcoming topics in the chat

### Wrap-up



Please email or chat us if you are interested in being a recurring participant

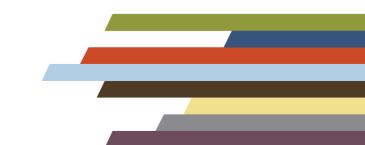


Are there any final questions or comments?



## After today's session, please complete the evaluation survey

- •Will be shared in the chat box
- Helps our team plan future sessions as well as evaluate today's session
- > There will NOT be certificates or CEUs offered for today's session

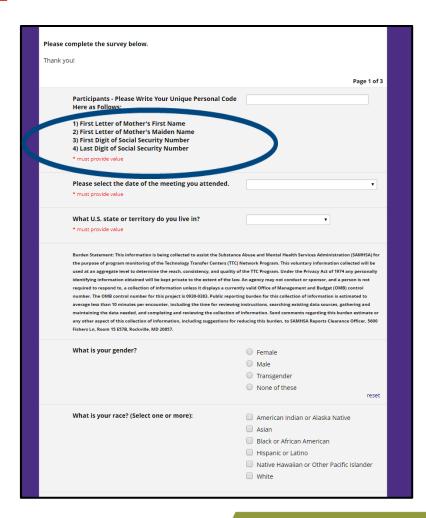


## Your Feedback is Important:

### Post-event surveys are *critical* to our work!

- Please complete the confidential evaluation by following the link that will be emailed to you.
- Evaluation data is necessary for continued funding to offer programs

Your feedback helps us to improve and develop future programing.



### We greatly appreciate your feedback!

### Keep in touch with the Northwest MHTTC

**Upcoming training** 

New online training

Resources & Research Updates



Visit us online:

www.mhttcnetwork.org/northwest



Get our newsletter:

bit.ly/nwmhttcnews



**Email us:** 

northwest@mhttcnetwork.org



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@NorthwestMHTTC



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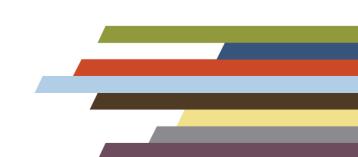
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### **Support and Disclaimer**

This work is supported by grant SM 081721 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.





## Thank You!



Northwest (HHS Region 10)



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