

Progress & Connection

Strengthening the Continuum
of Care in New Jersey

2023

Annual Report



Who is the New Jersey Prevention Network?

Our Vision

Our vision is a healthy New Jersey, achieved by supporting wellness one person and one community at a time.

Our Mission

At the New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN), we work to create healthier communities by reducing the burden of substance misuse, addiction, and other chronic disease.

What We Do

NJPN is a multifaceted public health agency that supports substance misuse prevention, addiction treatment, and recovery support programs through collaboration and professional training for all of New Jersey.

A leader in the field of addiction, NJPN advocates for best practices across the continuum of care while providing educational pathways for professionals and resources to organizations that are the change makers in New Jersey.



Agency Spotlight



NJPN has hosted the largest annual addiction conference in New Jersey since 2000

21+

NJPN has led successful advocacy efforts for NJ policy changes such as raising the tobacco age-of-sale to 21 years



NJPN has helped over 2,000 licensed clinical addiction counselors and peer recovery specialists achieve certification in NJ

10+

Over 10 statewide prevention programs and initiatives representing all community sectors





MEET THE NJPN TEAM



From left to right: Zach Hertz, Carlo Favretto, Frank Garris, Jenna Brennan, Emily DeHaan, Kenneth Haskins, Malachi Walton, Mahid Bhuiyan, Kelly Fodera, Joe Ferrara, Samantha Harries, Marisa Lierni, Susanna Emmanuel, Alexandra Kerwin, Timothy Ryan, Diane Litterer, Janine Fabrizio, Tony Polizzi, Laura Borelli, Breyonna Kelton, Ashley Smith, Kerry Griffin, Jennifer Herchakowski, Melissa Jerden, Andrea Zapcic, Daniel Scharnitz, Jenna Reidy, Victoria Nagel

Current NJPN staff not pictured: Alexandria Afanador, Sal DeRose, Martin Giancarli, Brittany Richardson, Martin Giancarli, Mackenzie McDonald, Verona Kaizu, Carolina Martinez, Emmanuel Rosiji.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS & TRAINING

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NJPN's **Prevention Department** works closely with key statewide and local stakeholders to ensure effective prevention strategies are carried out across New Jersey. Our agency provides training and technical assistance to regional prevention agencies and leads statewide initiatives that help build healthy communities.

For a full list of NJPN prevention programs, visit: <https://www.njpn.org/prevention>



From left to right: Kadie-Ann Whyte-Smith, Jake DeLuca, Muna Hayajneh, Vaibhavi Barot, Jennifer Herchakowski, Colber Prosper, Dorothy Chaney, Ricki Barton, Alexandra Kerwin, Nicole Luna, Andrea Zapcic.

New Jersey Prevention Fellowship

In January 2023, NJPN launched the first ever **New Jersey Prevention Fellowship** to diversify the field of prevention professionals and increase the number of certified prevention specialists across the state. NJPN recruited, hired, and onboarded the first six NJ Prevention Fellows who became part-time employees for the agency. NJPN's Fellowship program kicked off with the world-renowned CADCA National Coalition Academy which was also open to prevention professionals working within partner agencies throughout NJ.

Risk Messaging Campaign

NJPN received funding from DMHAS to develop and implement a risk messaging campaign to engage youth and parents on the risks associated with substance use and how to have honest conversations about drugs. With formative research developed by the Public Good Projects and focus groups conducted with New Jersey youth, NJPN's creative team worked to develop the infrastructure for the Fall 2023 launch of the campaign.



MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION AND SCHOOL POLICY:


A Public Health Approach



Marijuana School Policy Toolkit

In March 2023, NJPN's prevention department published a new policy toolkit, *Marijuana Legalization and School Policy: A Public Health Approach*, to guide NJ school administrations on navigating policy changes regarding student use and possession of marijuana in the wake of adult use cannabis legalization. The toolkit was developed collaboratively with select partner agency staff and in consultation with David Nash, Esq. of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association.

Representatives from NJPN's prevention team tabled at the Association of Student Assistance Professionals Conference, resulting in over **300 downloads** of the school policy toolkit from NJPN's Prevention Hub website.

 **Download:** [Marijuana Legalization and School Policy: A Public Health Approach](#)

WISE Expansion

WISE is a nationally recognized wellness and prevention program to help promote healthy aging and lifestyle choices to avoid substance misuse. This program continues to expand reaching additional states across the country. NJPN has been able to reach more states by offering the WISE Facilitator training virtually.

NJPN trained over 160 new facilitators across New Jersey, New York, Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio.



TOBACCO PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Tobacco-Free for a Healthy New Jersey (TFHNJ) is New Jersey's largest collaborative effort to reduce the health consequences of tobacco use — including vaping — and the harm from secondhand smoke exposure through prevention, education and cessation in all 21 counties, including 11 Quit Centers. With funding from NJ Department of Health Office of Tobacco Control and Prevention, TFHNJ engages local coalitions and public health advocates to promote tobacco-free initiatives through 19 regional coalitions.

To learn more about **TFHNJ**, visit: www.tobaccofreenj.com

Incorruptible.U.S Statewide Summit

On Saturday March 25, 2023, over 240 youth tobacco action group (YTAG) members attended our annual Incorporruptible.U.S Statewide Summit at iPlay America in Freehold, New Jersey for a day of inspiration and fun. Our Tobacco team, along with Incorporruptible U college members, spoke about the evolution of tobacco prevention campaigns in New Jersey.

Our partners at Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids attended our Incorporruptible.U.S Youth Summit to help promote the #TakeDownTobacco campaign. Youth came together to learn why “taking down” tobacco is a critical issue and where they could take immediate action to encourage their peers and other adults to stand up to “Big Tobacco.” Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids also assisted with getting a proclamation issued by State Senator Vin Gopal of New Jersey and U.S. Senator Cory Booker to recognize the amazing work that our youth do in their communities.



Smoke-Free College Campuses

TFHNJ added to its mission to improve health and wellness of New Jersey college students by implementing 100% tobacco-free policies on college campuses — adding **Rowan University** in Fall 2023.



Don't Get Vaped In Training

TFHNJ recently updated the Don't Get Vaped In (DGVI) curriculum and created an interactive Kahoot quiz game to increase engagement during youth-to-youth training presentations.

To date, over 1,100 adults have been trained to facilitate the DGVI curriculum and over 19,000 youth have received DGVI education through TFHNJ.

Point-of-Sale Store Assessment Guide

The TFHNJ team created a guide to assist partners in conducting tobacco retail store assessments in their communities. The guide provides assessors in proper planning and etiquette when engaging retailers and collecting critical information regarding the types of products and marketing inside of locations that distribute tobacco products. *language about the % of failed ID checks; purpose*

Learn more about TFHNJ's Point-of-Sale tools:

<https://www.tobaccofreenj.com/point-of-sale>



TFHNJ partner Elise Knapp conducting a store point-of-sale assessment in Sussex County

CLINICAL TRAINING

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

With support from the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, NJPN works to increase the supply of trained addiction professionals to address New Jersey's behavioral health needs by providing a variety of professional development opportunities to support certification and licensure of NJ professionals to address substance use disorders.

To learn more about NJPN's **Clinical Workforce Training Department**, visit: <https://www.njpn.org/trainings>

Trainings & Impact

NJPN delivers initial coursework for individuals pursuing the **Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC)**, **Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)**, or **Chemical Dependency Associate (CDA)** credential.

In conjunction with this initial coursework, we provide evidence-based resources that support the course and internship work that students are engaged in. Additionally, we provide continuing education courses for **LCADCs** and **CADCs** to maintain their professional credentials and stay up to date on current field trends and best practices.

313

**Total CADC & CDA
Students Served**

78

**STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM OUR
INITIAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE
270-HOUR COURSEWORK TRACK**

90

**GRADUATES OBTAINED
EITHER THE CADC OR
LCADC CREDENTIAL**

80

**CERTIFIED CLINICAL
SUPERVISOR (CCS) GRADUATES**

15

CDA GRADUATES

Telehealth Legal Standards Training

NJPN's Clinical Addiction Training department created the *Telehealth Legal Standards* course to help licensed professionals understand NJ telehealth regulations that were recently updated following the expiration of COVID-19 pandemic waivers. NJPN provided an intensive 3-hour telehealth workshop on April 26 and June 23. In addition to this workshop, we created a Telehealth Addendum pamphlet to be distributed alongside the Mandatory Legal Standard booklets distributed the previous grant year.



NJPN clinical trainers Tony Polizzi and Malachi Walton with the Telehealth Legal Standards addendum.



Trainee Feedback

"Thank you so much NJPN. I am eternally grateful for everything I have learned during these classes. The support I have received from every has been incredible and will forever shape me as I grow into the clinician I hope to be." I want to thank [TTA] because I probably would have been lost in the initial enrollment if they didn't have such patience, kindness, and faith in the students at NJPN. They were supportive during a tough time for me as well!"
-L/CADC Graduate

"Virtual options are incredibly useful especially with a skilled instructor as we students have been given the advantage of having classes with. I am able to manage time more efficiently in my personal life due to not having to worry about travel time and costs of commuting."
-L/CADC Course Student

PEER RECOVERY TRAINING

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NJPN's **Peer Recovery Support Training Program** provides initial and renewal training opportunities for peer recovery specialists providing direct service in New Jersey DMHAS Peer Initiatives. In addition to training opportunities, the training program provides comprehensive wraparound service which includes application assistance, reimbursement of application and testing fees, individual support sessions, group support sessions, and professional development events.

To learn more about NJPN's **Peer Recovery Support Training Program**, visit: www.njpn.org/peer-recovery-support

Peer Certification Training

NJPN's peer department delivers training courses for those working to be certified as both a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) and National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist (NCPRSS). NJPN offers both initial training to those just beginning their career as a peer recovery professional, as well as renewal courses for those maintaining their credentials.

352

Individuals received or maintained CPRS

95

Individuals received or maintained NCPRSS

Initial Coursework

139

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
RCA TRAINING

122

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
ETHICS TRAINING

Renewal Coursework

357

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
ADVOCACY TRAINING

213

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
MENTORING AND
EDUCATION TRAINING

109

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY
TRAINING

505

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
RECOVERY WELLNESS
TRAINING

Peer Training Expansion

NJPN's peer team collaborated with external professional consultants in the field to develop **six new trainings** to provide to certified peer recovery specialists to apply towards renewal of their certification.

Introduction to Providing
Peer Recovery Services
for the LGBTQ+
Community

Practical Application for
Inclusive Peer Recovery
Support Services for the
LGBTQ+ Community

Power &
Privilege 1.0

Power &
Privilege 2.0

Reshaping Our Narratives for More
Positive Outcomes: The
Importance of Language and Story
for Peer Recovery Specialists

Mental Health
First Aid



NJPN's Peer Team Developed 12
Maternal Health Trainings Which Fall
Under One of Three Tracks →

Maternal Health Initiative

NJPN collaborated with the New Jersey Department of Human Services and Division of Mental Health Addiction Services to support the Nurture NJ Maternal and Infant Health Strategic Plan by expanding training on best and emerging practices that will help improve maternal health. NJPN has partnered with community organizations to create unique trainings centered around specialized topics relevant to the field of peer services.

Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion

Harm Reduction

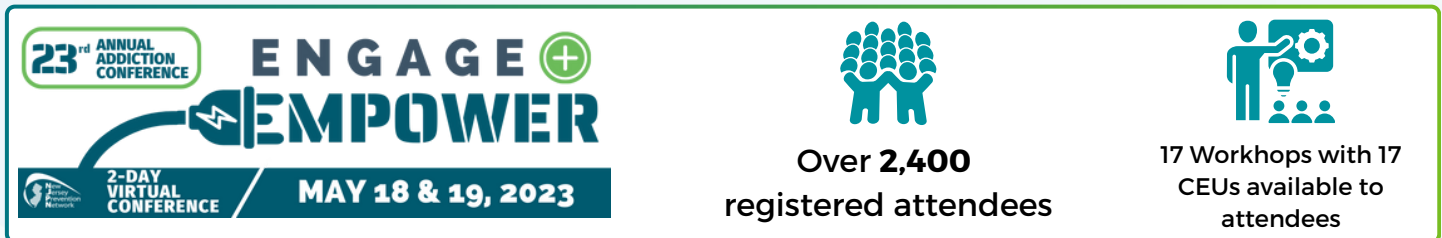
Identifying and
Understanding Addiction

NJPN CONFERENCE & PEER SUMMIT

NJPN FINANCIALS

2023 NJPN Annual Conference: Engage + EMPOWER

Each year, NJPN gathers professionals from prevention, treatment, recovery, and adjacent fields for the largest statewide conference of its kind in New Jersey. NJPN has hosted its Annual Conference every year since 2000, bringing in experts covering a broad range of topics that interconnect with substance use disorder to expand the reach and impact of the continuum of care here in the garden state. In 2023, the NJPN Annual Conference was hosted virtually with over **2,400 registrations**.



Keynote & Featured Speakers



Dr. Sabrina N'Diaye
Integrative Psychotherapist
and Founder of the Heart Nest
Center for Peace and Healing



Carlton Hall
President and CEO,
Carlton Hall Consulting



Brian King
Director, Center for Tobacco
Products, US Food and Drug
Administration



Judson Brewer
Associate Professor & Director of
Research and Innovation, Department of
Behavioral and Social Sciences at Brown
University School of Public Health

Peer Recovery Support Summit

NJPN's Peer team hosted its 6th Annual Peer Recovery Support Summit, *Advance, Connect, Transform: The Future of Peer Recovery Support*, virtually on September 1, 2022. The event featured keynote speakers, interactive workshops, and recovery-oriented activities brought together exclusively for everyone working in the peer recovery support services field. Over **500 peer professionals** from across the state attended.

Featured Keynote Speakers



Erayna Sargent
*Finding Your Way to
Relief*



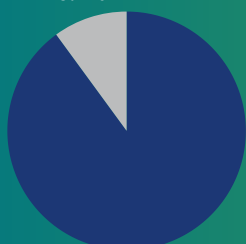
William Stauffer, CCS, CADC, LSW
*Being the Giants Whose Shoulders
We Stand On*



**2022 NJPN PEER
RECOVERY SUPPORT SUMMIT
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

Expenses

Management and General
10.1%

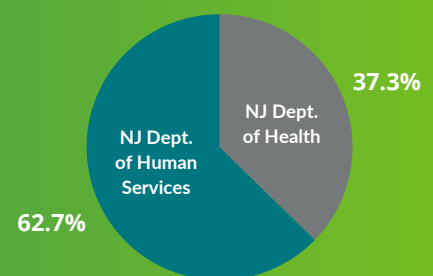


Program Services
89.9%

July 2022 - June 2023 Financials

| | |
|--|-------------|
| RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR | \$1,023,472 |
| TOTAL REVENUE FY 2023 | \$7,299,230 |
| NET INCOME FY 2023 | \$11,907 |
| TOTAL EQUITY AS OF JUNE 30 | \$1,035,379 |

Funders



Total Revenue: \$7,311,137

SUPPORTING THE CONTINUUM OF CARE



New Jersey Prevention Network



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