

## Panel Session: Peer Recovery Specialists and the Opioid Epidemic in AR

### Abstract:

In 2018, our Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program reported a state average of 102.1 opioid prescriptions dispensed per 100 people. In Pulaski County alone, over 550 doses of Naloxone (an opioid overdose antidote) was administered by Emergency Medical Services (2018). In 2017, 416 Arkansans died by a drug overdose. So how do we fix this problem? There are many ways to look at helping those that have addiction issues. One of the ways we can help solve this problem is by training and utilizing Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS). PRSS are individuals who are in recovery from substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. Their life experience and recovery allow them to provide recovery support in such a way that others can benefit from their experiences. The PRSS can help the individual suffering from an addiction to make new friends, when s/he may have previously isolated him/herself, and begin to build alternative, and vital social networks. PRSS often facilitate recovery group activities that are structured as support groups. These groups typically involve the sharing of personal stories and some degree of collective problem-solving. Group education activities tend to focus on a specific subject or skill set and may involve the participation of an expert as well as the PRSS. These topics typically include job skills training, budgeting, managing credit, conflict resolution and recovery concepts.

### Objectives:

1. Understand the definition of a Peer Recovery Support Specialist.
2. Discuss the intensive training required to become an Arkansas Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist.
3. Learn how Peer Recovery Support Specialist support current clinical treatments for those with addiction and other co-occurring mental health disorders.

1611 Harmon Dr.  
Benton, AR 72015

# Joe W. Martin

Phone: 501-425-2494  
E-mail: joewmartin82@gmail.com

## Education

2011                      Arkansas Tech University                      Russellville, AR  
**Masters of Science – Disaster Management**

2004                      University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences                      Little Rock, AR  
**Emergency Medical Technician/Instructor**

2004                      University of Arkansas at Little Rock                      Little Rock, AR  
**Bachelor of Arts – Political Science**

## Work Experience

2019 - Present                      Arkansas Department of Health                      Little Rock, AR

### **Substance Misuse Section Chief III**

- Monitors Progress on all substance use disorder related federal grants
- Determines strategies to successfully complete all grant related activities
- Supervise a large size professional and administrative support staff
- Ensure Operational Compliance
- Participates in the development and implementation of policies and regulations
- Cultivate and maintain relationships with stakeholders
- Maintain budgets for federal grants and general revenue up to 5 million annually

2016 - 2019                      Arkansas Department of Health                      Little Rock, AR

### **Injury and Violence Prevention Section Chief I**

- Monitors Progress on all federal grants
- Determines strategies to successfully complete all grant related activities
- Supervise a large size professional and administrative support staff
- Ensure Operational Compliance
- Participates in the development and implementation of policies and regulations
- Cultivate and maintain relationships with the Injury Prevention Community
- Maintain budgets for federal grants and general revenue up to 2.5 million annually
- Director of the Arkansas Lifeline Call Center (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline)

2015 - 2017                      Southeast Arkansas College                      Pine Bluff, AR

### **Adjunct Emergency Medical Technician Instructor**

Teach a wide array of BLS skills such as Emergency Management, Incident Command, and Trauma Systems

2010 – 2016                      Arkansas Department of Health                      Little Rock, AR

### **Trauma Program Manager**

- Responsible for the management of over 250 state funded grants and contracts
- Supervisor to 2.5 FTE.
- Regional Representative for the South Central Regional NASEMSO Trauma Managers and serve on the Acute Time Sensitive Emergencies Committee
- Serve on several committees as the Trauma Systems Representative
- Subject matter expert on EMS, internal procurement policy, and legislative direction.



## **Jimmy McGill**

10123 Ferris Avenue, Sherwood, AR 72120

Work 501-478-9091/ Cell 501-516-6898 | [jimmy.mcgill@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:jimmy.mcgill@dhs.arkansas.gov)

### **Position**

State Peer Recovery Coordinator *Office of the Drug Director.*

### **Highlights**

IC&RC Peer Recovery

Counselor-in-Training (CIT)

Recovery Coach

Member of SAMHSA's Regional VI National Advisory Board

Experienced Keynote Speaker

Network/Team building

### **Accomplishments**

- Speaking publicly at hundreds of engagements throughout the State of Arkansas. Some events and venues that I have spoken at include The 2017/2018 Prescription Drug Summit, The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Event, The National Overdose Awareness Day at the State Capitol, and various rehabs, churches, drug court banquets, schools, and colleges.
- Nominee for the Diversity Award at University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College.
- Planning and hosting events such as the Annual Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Awareness event.
- Founder of Christmas in Recovery
- Developed the PACT (Peers achieving collaborative treatment) Project. Allowing Arkansas to place peer specialist inside the Drug courts, jails, emergency rooms, and reentry programs.
- Developed the launch plan for Arkansas Peer Recovery within Funded providers.
- Collaboratively developed the Arkansas model of Peer Recovery
- Experienced Keynote Speaker
- Trainer of Trainers for Peer Recovery Specialist
- Trained over 230 peers

### **Work Experience**

**2007 to 2011 C.E.M.P.**

**North Little Rock, Arkansas**

Owner. Music Production and Video Editing company.

As the owner of C.E.M.P. I scheduled time slots for artists to come in and record their music at my production studio. I used several different softwares to produce vocal music, instrumental music, and music videos. Some of the software included Music Maker 14, Logic, Fruit loops, and Pro tools. Video Pad Editor was used for the video productions. I closed the studio in December of 2011.

**2016 to April 2018 The Exodus Project  
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Recovery Coordinator.  
Responsible for teaching recovery classes to inmates reentering society into the recovery community.  
Responsible for building a vast network of people to assist with reentry and recovery.  
Promotional marketing.  
Public speaking on behalf of the Exodus Project.  
Building harmonious relationships with other recovery teams and reentry centers.  
Harnessing the power of social media.  
Organizing guest speakers.

**2017 to April 2018 Freshly Renewed Faith-Based Transitional Living**

Facility Manager over four ACC houses and two sober living chemical free houses.  
Responsible for supervising house managers and drug testing.  
Court liaison for the facilities.  
Responsible for communicating and reporting to judges, parole officers, and probation officers and drug court personnel.

**Education**

Arkansas General Education Diploma — 2003  
University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College – 2016 – Present  
Peer Recovery Support Specialist  
Counselor-in-Training (CIT)

# CASEY COPELAND

12100 Vimy Ridge Road, Alexander, AR 72002 | H: 501-454-3668 |  
caseycopeland734@gmail.com

## Career Overview

Marketing Manager and Insurance Professional with management experience and exceptional people skills. Versed in agent development with a strategic and creative execution of business.

## Professional Experience

### **PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST**

**Lonoke County Jail-** Lonoke, Arkansas April 2019 to Current

Mentor inmates. Bring in recovery based programs as well as faith based recovery material. Schedule outside speaker to share experience, strength and hope with inmates. Administer one on one therapy sessions to establish goals for the future. This program is designed to reduce recidivism.

### **SUBJECT COORDINATOR**

**Jerico Way-** Little Rock, Arkansas February 2019 to April 2019

In charge of the TAPS Program, both new and renewal. Manages clothing closet.

### **DIRECTOR**

**Rock of Hope -** Little Rock, Arkansas April 2018 to Current

Building a referral network for new applicants. Holds all interviews and heads up the selection process for applicants. Completes all on-boarding procedures for new residence including drug testing and house inspections while maintaining all established relationships with current residence.

### **INSTRUCTOR**

**Exodus\_Life -** Little Rock, Arkansas Feb 2018 to Current

Teach an Entrepreneurship Course to ACC Inmates that qualify and are currently enrolled in the Exodus.Life Program. My Entrepreneurship Course is a 12 week program that trains and develops people in anticipation of their release from prison. The Course teaches people to become strategic thinkers, one that can utilize goal and plan execution on their road to be successful in life.

### **SALES CONSULTANT**

**Ashley Furniture Home Store –** Bryant, Arkansas Feb 2015 to Jan 2016

Assessed customer needs and tailored product presentation according to assessment findings to maximize sales opportunity. Named, "Top Producer" within the company in my fourth month.

## **PROPERTY MANAGER**

**Edgewood Memorial Park** – North Little Rock, Arkansas Jan 2014 to Feb 2015  
Managed all phases of business including the sale, creative design, payroll, and all administrative duties. Professionally counseled families in need of my services. Followed up with clientele to ensure a quality experience and that expectations were surpassed.

## **CO-OWNER AND OPERATOR**

**Two Men Working** – Little Rock, Arkansas Feb 2009 to Apr 2011  
Construction and design company with an emphasis on Sailboats. Handled all phases of business including marketing, procurement of materials, excellent customer service and satisfaction.

## **MARKETING MANAGER / INSURANCE PRODUCER**

**I Q Financial Services** – Little Rock, Arkansas Mar 2008 to Jan 2009  
Health, Life, and all personal lines licensed. Business development through direct marketing, professional & social networking, and professional business ethics. Provided excellent customer service to my policy holders. Achieved a certified status as a Marketing Specialist.

## **Education**

### **Peer Recovery Support Specialist Core Training**

Midsouth School of Social Work

University of Arkansas at Little Rock – Little Rock, AR, United States

### **Marketing Major**

University of Arkansas at Little Rock – Little Rock, AR, United States

## **Affiliations**

Business Networking International, Vice President 2006 - 2007

Ducks Unlimited, Board Chairman/Committee 2006 - 2007

Arkansas Toastmasters Club, Member 2006 - 2007

Saline County Builders Assoc., Member 2006 - 200

Pulaski County Builders Assoc., Member 2006 - 2008

Arkansas Young Professionals Network, Member 2006 - 2008

City of Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, Member 2006 - 2008