

2021 / Annual Report



PEER
WASHINGTON
HOPE - RECOVERY - PRIDE

Letter from Our CEO & President



2021 had all the makings of a perfect storm for individuals in our state struggling with mental health and substance use issues. As the economic dislocation and ongoing fears and isolation of the pandemic became entrenched, it was a devastating year for so many people. Yet once again, day after day, our community came together to demonstrate our profound resilience, commitment to each other, and capacity for hope.

Across the peer community I saw people turn their personal struggles into drivers of support for others. Peers took the opportunity to tell their stories louder than ever – and successfully moved the needle across Washington State on the critical importance of peer support services. Just as the state was confronting plunging tax

revenues alongside increasing demand for behavioral health services, our community was there demonstrating that investing in peer services is one of the most successful and cost-effective means to improving health outcomes and strengthening individuals’ recovery pathways.

As just one example of the power of peer support, in 2021 King County documented a 75% reduction in jail bookings and a 47% decrease in emergency department admissions for participants in Peer Washington’s peer services. Not only do peer services substantially reduce costs to other systems, but they are also truly life changing!

The Peer Washington community – staff, volunteers, and members alike – also rose in 2021 to meet the heightened challenges. We were thrilled to open Peer Olympia as our newest location with a full array of direct peer recovery support services. We began formally providing family navigation services at our sites, and extended peer services deeper into the community, including embedding Peer Services Specialists and/or Certified Peer Counselors within the King County Library System and Evergreen Treatment Services, and stepping up our work to support individuals who are justice-involved. We also launched our statewide Peer Workforce Development (PWD) division, folding a program that had previously been housed at Washington State University into our organization. PWD’s directive is to provide training and technical assistance to strengthen the peer workforce. The certified peer counseling training PWD developed and delivered this year for active-duty military at Joint Base Lewis McChord is now being rolled out to other bases around the country by the Department of Defense!

None of this would have been possible without our committed staff and volunteers. Daily, I am blown away by the level of compassion and care I see being shared in our programs. And, it would not have been possible without the deep commitment and investment of time, energy, and resources by our broader community of funders and supporters. On behalf of myself and our Board of Directors, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for joining us to turn what could have been a year of just storm and darkness into one of light and hope. Together, I know we will keep this momentum moving forward into the coming months and years ahead.

Joshua Wallace

Joshua Wallace
CEO & President





Financials
(unaudited)

Total Income
\$5,598,361

Total Expenses
\$5,337,465

Peer Washington

Peer Washington cultivates powerful, healthy lives by providing peer emotional support and development services to disparately impacted communities throughout Washington State. Peer-led and peer-run, we are the largest provider of community-based peer recovery services in our state. Our four direct service locations provide a full array of recovery supports, including 1:1 peer coaching, support groups, resource referral, family navigation, supported employment, and supportive housing.

By the Numbers	 individuals served	 accessed peer coaching	 participated in supportive employment and/or housing services	 unique support groups
Peer Seattle	857	145	230	30
Peer Spokane	710	95	107	10
Peer Kent	713	90	110	26
Peer Olympia	186	8	46	16

2021 Highlights & Bright Spots

Peer Washington

- ★ Expanded to 4 direct service locations around the state
- ★ Provided direct peer support services to 2,466 individuals with behavioral health and/or chronic health conditions in the midst of a pandemic
- ★ Launched Peer Workforce Development, our new training and technical assistance division

Peer Seattle

- ★ Delivered 1,514 peer coaching sessions
- ★ Launched the Foundational Community Supports (FCS) program to deliver supported employment and supportive housing services

Peer Spokane

- ★ Implemented the COVID Care Coordination program, providing PPE, food boxes, and other assistance people in quarantine
- ★ Launched Women in Recovery, a community-embedded support group in collaboration with Women’s Hearth that quickly became one of our most popular groups

Peer Kent

- ★ Embedded trained peers within the King County Library System and Evergreen Treatment Services
- ★ Provided compassionate support via the Washington Listens phone line in response to the pandemic

Peer Olympia

- ★ Held our Grand Opening attended by 80+
- ★ Awarded a surplus van by Intercity Transit to help ensure people can access services

Peer Workforce Development

- ★ Awarded the contract to provide training to behavioral health ombuds around the state
- ★ Created Crisis and De-escalation trainings for peers for use in training Washington State’s 988 crisis line workers

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1520 Bellevue Ave STE 100, Seattle WA 98122
info@peerwa.org | 206.322.2437 | www.peerwa.org