



INTERCEPT 3 TOOLKIT

Recovery Alliance Duluth



Recovery Alliance Duluth (RAD), the first recovery community organization in Northeast Minnesota, was established in 2019 and has quickly become an integral piece of continuity of care for people with substance use issues in the region. RAD peer recovery specialists are dedicated to using their lived experience and training to provide individuals with recovery support that is nonjudgmental, voluntary, nonclinical, and flexible. Their conversations are strength-based, positive, transparent, and realistic. Since 2021, RAD has partnered with the St. Louis County, Minnesota, Jail to provide peer support services to inmates. RAD peer recovery specialists are available for individual peer support and hold a weekly women's group to support inmates preparing to transition back into the community. RAD peers actively listen and build trust with participants. When individuals are not immediately interested, RAD does not give up; *it continues to reach out*. RAD is supported by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP).

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RAD's mission is to build and mobilize a compassionate community to support individuals seeking or maintaining recovery to inspire hope, create connection, and eliminate stigma.

RAD is an independent recovery community organization that is led and informed by the recovery community. RAD honors multiple pathways to recovery, is inclusive of cultural differences, and recognizes that recovery is an individual, personally directed journey. RAD believes in meeting people where they are and with what they need, and it knows that substance use disorder is a chronic disease that requires long-term support and care.

RAD's Strengths

- RAD believes that peer recovery support services are effective when they are individualized and self-directed. To that end, RAD meets people where they are to engage in services and maintains a consistent schedule of peer recovery support opportunities for individuals who are in jail and in the community.
- RAD's mode of delivering peer recovery support is flexible (virtual, in person, phone, text, and email).
- RAD provides participants with transportation to important appointments. Transportation services are available to individuals who are in jail and in transition, as well as to individuals in the community.
- RAD helps its participants with basic needs items.
- RAD hosts an in-person all-recovery meeting for women in jail, as well as in-person and virtual all-recovery meetings in community settings.
- RAD provides connections to community resources and assistance in navigating them.
- RAD understands that community is vital to recovery and provides this connection through free community activities. *In 2021, RAD engaged more than 5,000 community members through free and accessible recovery community activities.*

Lessons Learned

- RAD values the opportunity to introduce its programming to potential participants. It believes that the introduction is impactful when delivered by an individual with lived/shared experience.
- RAD's service model must remain flexible for the participants to engage in its services. When their needs change, RAD changes.
- The RAD organization is independent, which allows for autonomous decision making. This independence bolsters RAD's ability to remain neutral and provides an opportunity to build trust with its participants.
- Building an effective collaboration with jail leadership and program staff members is paramount to the delivery of RAD's services.

“The only thing that kept [me] positive and willing to grow was being able to talk to someone about the future and how that would look.”

—RAD participant

“Participants tell us how grateful they are for our time, our ability to relate, how we listen, and how our service is supportive and not forced.”

—RAD peer