



PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS IN MONTANA

PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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jg | RESEARCH &
EVALUATION

RESEARCH NEED: MOUD TREATMENT PROVIDERS

- **Role of Peer Support Specialists (PSS)**
- **Motivations for becoming a PSS**
- **Barriers to PSS certification**
- **PSS recruitment**
- **PSS retention**



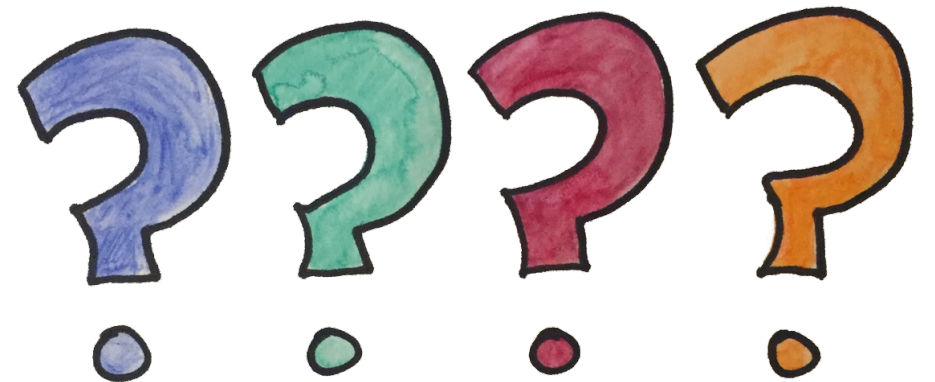
- **Accessibility**
- **Connect patients with social services to address the social determinants of health**
- **Reduced relapse rates**
- **Increase treatment retention**
- **Improve relationships with treatment providers and families**
- **Increase satisfaction with the overall treatment experience**
- **Promote access to treatment for marginalized groups**

RESEARCH SUMMARY OF PSS EFFECTS

Byrne et al. 2020; Jack et al. 2018; James et al. 2019; Kleinman et al. 2020; Magidson et al. 2021; Reif et al. 2014; Ryan et al. 2006; Ryan et al. 2008; Staton et al. 2021

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- (1) What is it like to be a peer support specialist and how does this differ by care setting?
- (2) What factors motivate individuals to undertake the peer support specialist training and certification?
- (3) What can be done to retain more peer support specialists once they are employed as a PSS?



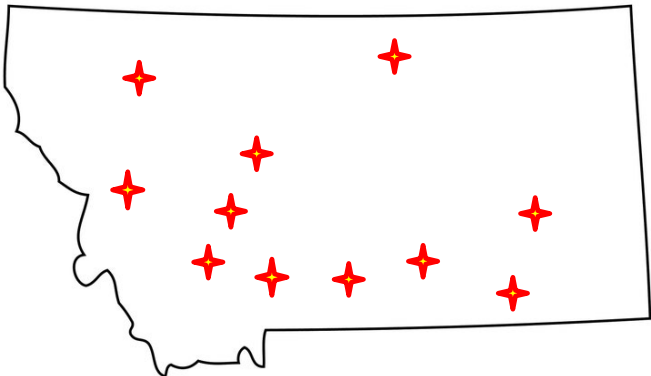
METHODOLOGY

- Convenience Sample
 - Montana Peer Network
 - Snowballing
- Data Collection
 - Interviews
 - Observations



Participants	#
Current PSS	23
Former PSS	3
Trained, Never Certified	7
Clinical Supervisors	9
Administrators	11
Total	53

Geography



Settings



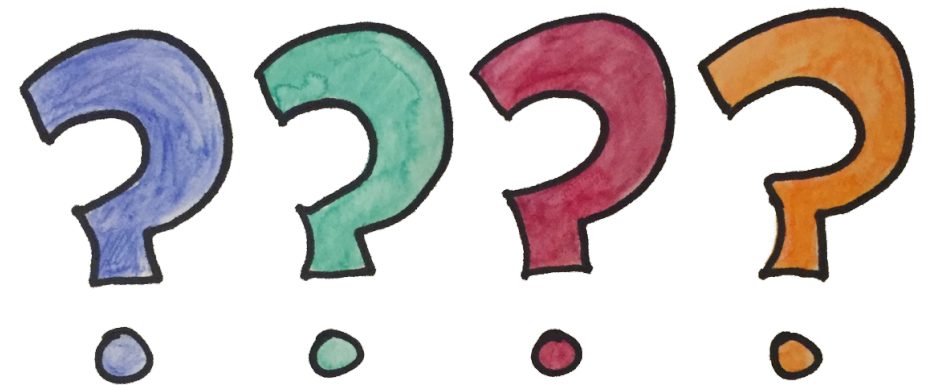
Gender





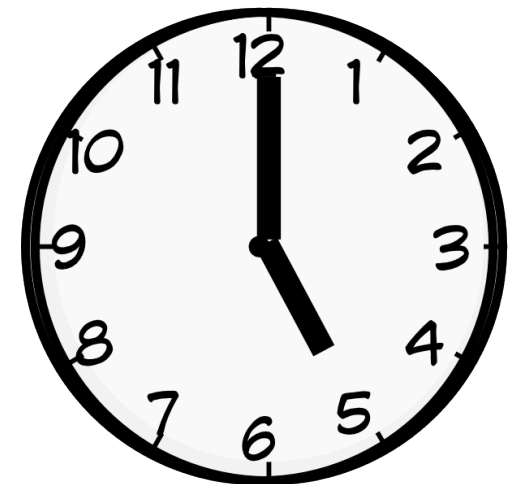
Research Question 1

What is it like to be a peer support specialist and how does this differ by care setting?



Care
Setting

“And so, they still go home at five o'clock like the clinic workers do. They're not allowed to do, in a lot of cases, what they're meant to do. They just truly don't advocate because their job ends after that appointment's over. My job is more thorough.”



Benefits

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Clinical Supervision

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“Well, when we do clinical supervision, it's all of us in the room with her so there's 12, 13, 14 of us... It's more of a presentation than anything. Make it more one-on-one. More individualized.”



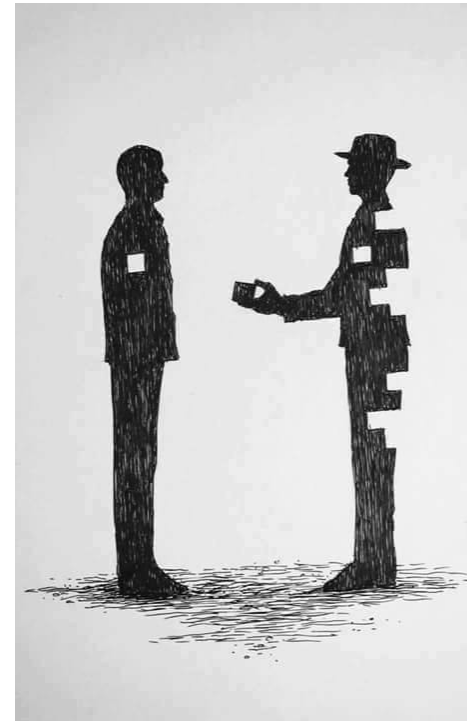
Research Question 2

What factors motivate individuals to undertake the peer support specialist training and certification?



Altruism

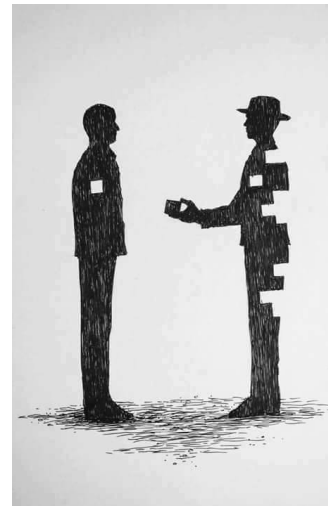
“ . . .it's more altruistic. So, it's a foot in the door for a career. But if someone's going into this for the money, there's a lot easier avenues that they can be taking”



Altruism

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“I wanted to go back out and pay it forward and start to help people to figure out addiction before they go through all the trials and tribulations that I had to put myself through in order to be where I am today”

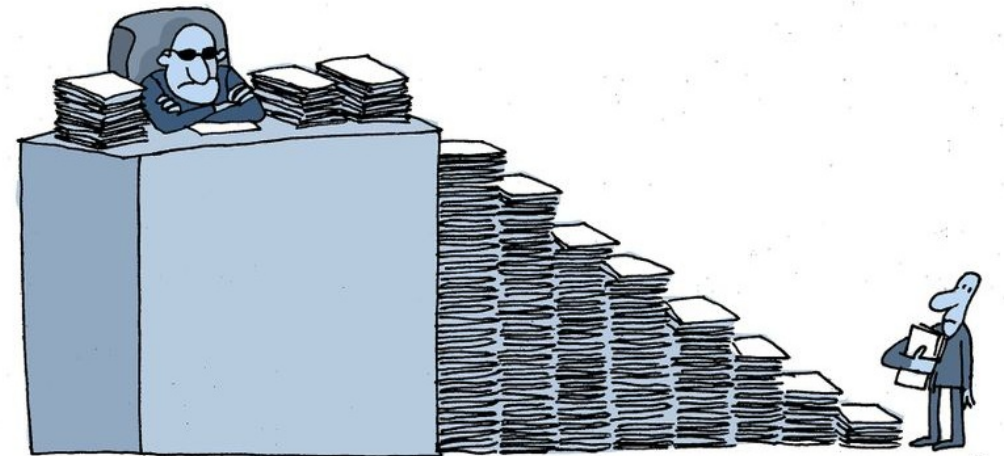


BARRIERS TO CERTIFICATION



Bureaucracy

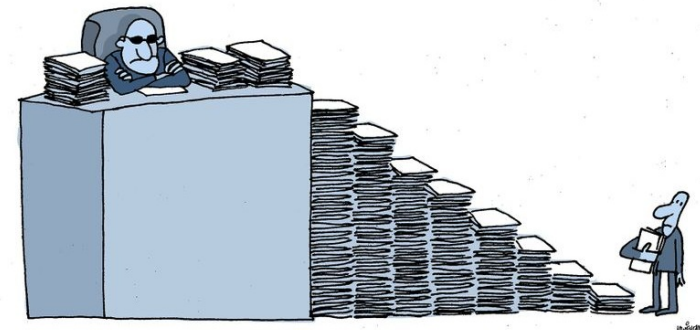
“I've seen people go through and get their peer support license within a couple months. Myself, it took about six months because of the felony background and what I've done. I had to supply a lot more documentation, a lot more things than somebody else that maybe just had something small. [My felonies] were drug-related charges so...”



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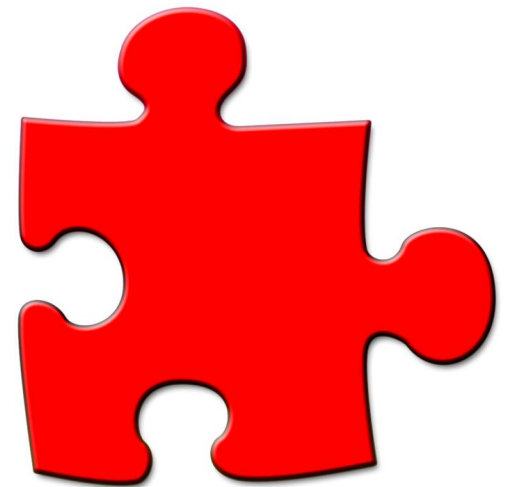
“I had six DUIs from 1980 to 2000 stretched out. And they wanted me to describe each one of them. And I was like, ‘are you kidding me?’ And they already knew. They had my background; they do a background investigation. They know what you've done, but they want you to describe what happened”





Fit

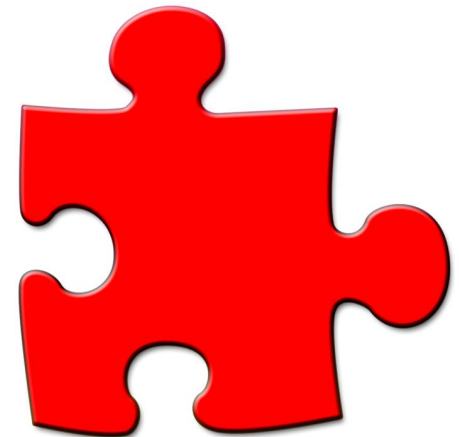
“I mean it took me years to get comfortable going out and filling out applications and you know, dressing appropriately and all the things that go along with being a success. It didn't happen overnight for me and it doesn't happen overnight for a lot of people so I think people get intimidated”



Fit

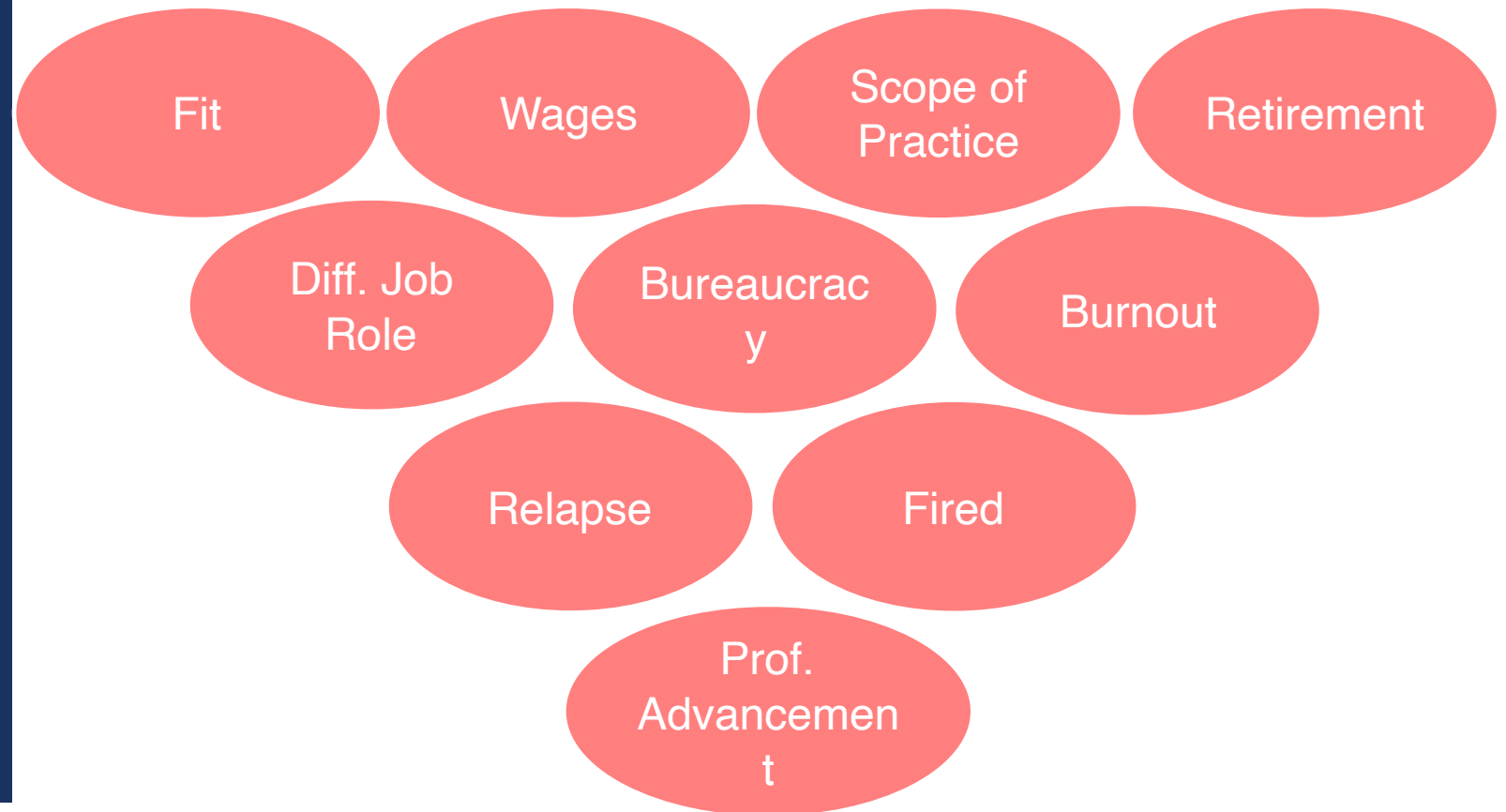
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“ . . . there were still folks in my class that did not understand that they didn't hold a license as soon as they passed the test and got a certificate”



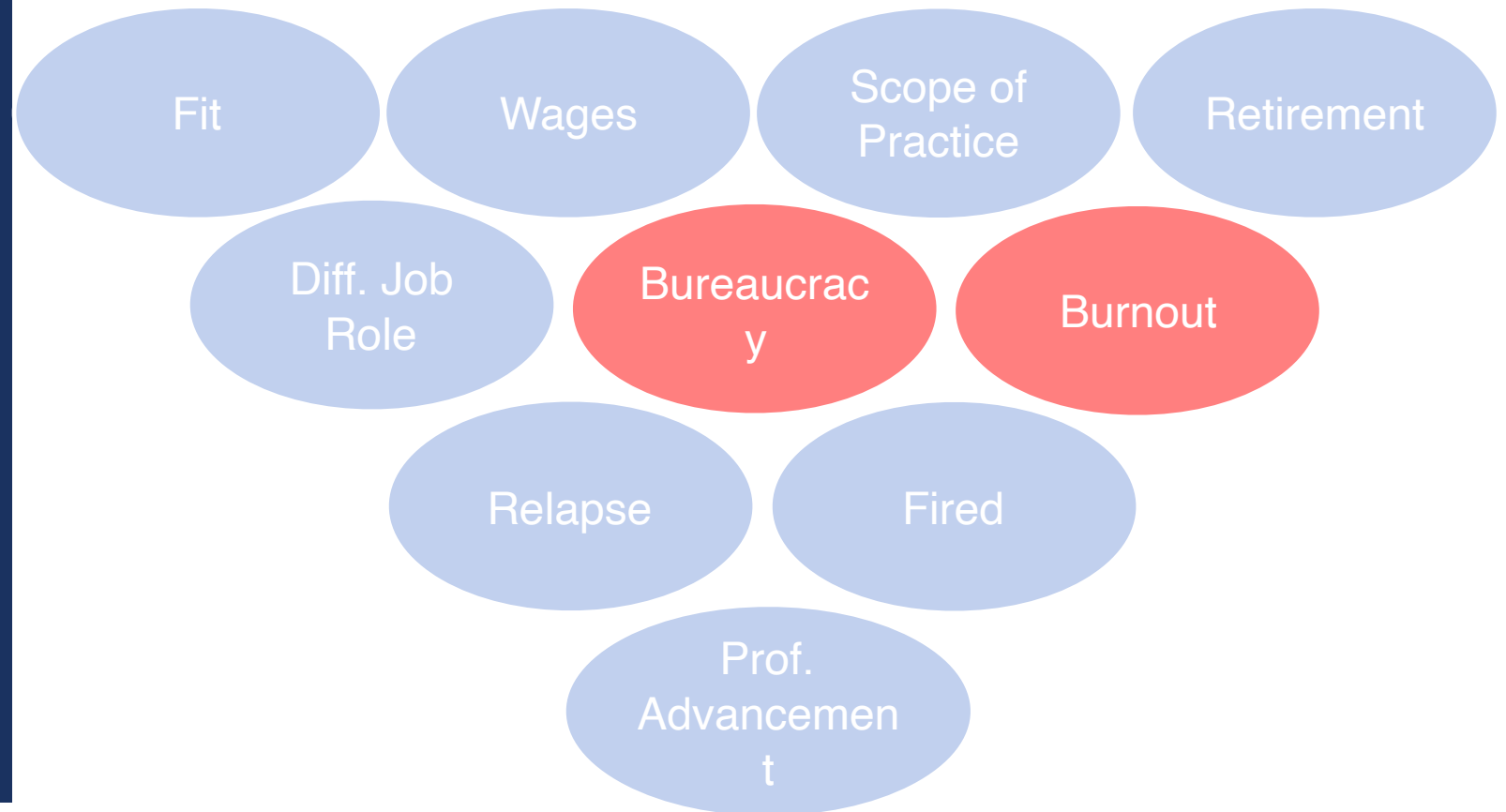
Research Question 3

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Bureaucracy

“You come in expecting to just be able to be here in the recovery hall, hanging out with people, teaching them about recovery, listening to them, just being a support, but what ends up happening is you end up doing hours of notes a day. Constant notes in the Medicaid system and the billing system.”



Burnout

“I do know of a couple people that are in that boat, and both of them are burnt out and said, "I can't do this anymore," and walked away.”

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Preliminary/Probationary Certification**
- **Diagnosis**
- **Prerequisite to PS101**
- **Peer-to-Peer Mentoring**
 - Certification Assistance
 - Mock Interviews



QUESTIONS?

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