

How it Works

Each DADS team is built around the needs of the father and his children regardless of custody status. WVP support includes a support team of peer mentors and a supervisor with clinical support and resources as needed.

What does the team do?

This team develops an individualized plan addressing specific focus areas for each member, giving them the support and tools they need to help make gradual and sustainable changes.



Who are the mentors?

The mentors are men with shared life experiences who have overcome similar hurdles. This gives them a unique perspective when providing assistance and emotional support. They know what these fathers are going through because they have been there. These shared experiences help build trust with the members.

What is the goal?

The DADS team provides support and resources for enrollees to achieve and maintain sobriety.

Mentor: _____

Phone: _____

Who is Eligible?

Dad's Advocacy Development Service (DADS) is available to Pacificsource Community Solutions members in Marion or Polk counties seeking support with recovery and parenting. Involvement with the DADS program is strictly voluntary.

Enroll in the Program

To refer members or learn more, contact the WVP Peer Support Team:

Email: PeerPrograms@mvipa.org

Phone: 503-485-3221

Fax: 503-485-3224

A program offered by:



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Dad's Advocacy Development Service (DADS)



*Empowering Fathers
to Build Lives Free of
Alcohol and Drugs*



WVPHealthAuthority.org

What is DADS?

The Dad's Advocacy Development Service (DADS) is an equitable and inclusive peer mentor program that helps fathers who struggle with substance use disorders. The 18-month program is culturally and linguistically responsive and partners men with a peer mentor who has lived experience to support them in meeting the goals they've set for themselves and their children.

DADS can help members with:

- Learning how to navigate the health care system
- Building and maintaining a healthy family
- Assuring that children are in a safe, stable, and drug and alcohol-free home
- Introducing men to the recovery community, treatment services and mental health professionals when needed
- Identifying personal goals both in health and lifestyle and creating a plan to achieve these goals
- Assisting with housing, education, employment, transportation, and other needed services
- Developing a personal plan to stay clean and sober
- Connecting with parenting and bonding programs
- Connecting with support groups
- Choosing a family planning method

Testimonial from a Mentor

Hello, my name is Tony and this is my story ...

I began a life of gangs and drug addiction in middle school. I was in and out of juvenile detention for committing crimes due to my addiction and when I entered high school it got worse. **I started a cycle of arrest and accruing more criminal charges.** I started to abuse alcohol and marijuana, and at 18 I tried methamphetamine for the first time. I enjoyed the feeling I got from the high which covered all the other feelings I did not want to feel.

As months turned into years I realized that I was so lost in my meth addiction I was stealing from stores and loved ones. Through the years I had destroyed many relationships, friendships and anything that was meaningful to me. I spent most of my 20s in and out of jail. **Through these years of addiction I felt hopeless and believed that I could not ever stop using drugs or committing crimes.** The addiction had me convinced that I could never get clean and sober. I was in and out of rehabilitation centers, and got kicked out of several for using and not complying. I was always depressed, stressed and hopeless. I felt like I would die an addict.



I'm grateful for the people in my life and for all who did not quit on me when I wanted to quit. I want to encourage other fathers to follow the road of recovery from their addictions.

In 2012 my best friend was murdered a week before I went into jail. During my sentence I got sober and had time to think about staying sober. I found a faith in my Higher Power which started me down the road of recovery. When I was released from jail I had lost my

children to DHS, and it hurt so much not having them in my life. During this season I decided to change my friends and the places I hung out and got involved in recovery groups, programs and church which helped get my children returned within four months.

Today I am grateful to say that I have my children in my life and have 10 years of sobriety. I'm grateful for the people in my life and for all who did not quit on me when I wanted to quit. I want to encourage other fathers to follow the road of recovery from their addictions. I cannot express enough how important it is to find support.

I now work as a DADS mentor for WVP Health Authority. I help other fathers overcome the exact same things that I have been through. I believe the DADS

program will help and support a father struggling with addiction. **If you surround yourself with likeminded individuals in recovery, you will become the father you are truly meant to be.**