

# **PRIORITY SPOKANE** Our Priority Reducing Trauma & Violence: 3 Steps

1. Addressing trauma caused by COVID-19 through the peer led COVID Stress & Trauma Education Program.
2. Preventing trauma by reaching students with virtual one-on-one free tutoring and using that reach to connect families to additional resources as needed.
3. Expanding Peer Support to reduce trauma and prevent violence:

Spokane County has some of the highest child abuse, domestic violence, and youth suicide and self-harm rates in Washington State. As a result, the reduction of family trauma and violence was identified as a priority for Spokane County in 2019, and COVID-19 has only exasperated these issues. After extensive research and a community mapping process in partnership with the Spokane Regional Health District, Priority Spokane and our 25 member organizations identified Peer Support as a proven best practice to help prevent and address family trauma and violence in our region. Peer Support is also a valuable tool to address COVID related stress and trauma while providing needed community supports.

## **We are expanding the use of Peer Support in Spokane County to:**

1. Prevent family trauma and violence by modeling and encouraging healthy coping, communication, and relationship skills.
2. Improve outreach to and engagement of underserved and marginalized communities.
3. Enhance the quality and equity of current services by implementing peer perspective, voice, and choice.
4. Reduce suicide rates (those who utilize peer support experience 36% less suicide attempts than those who do not).
5. Provide meaningful employment and support to individuals more likely to experience joblessness (formerly incarcerated, institutionalized, homeless, disabled, etc.)
6. Reduce hospitalization rates and the associated costs. Those who utilize peer support experience 2.9 fewer hospitalizations compared to those who do not.
7. Reduce costs of traditional care. Peer Support is shown to produce a cost savings of \$5.58 for every dollar spent.

## **We are doing this by:**

1. Expanding equitable access to different peer support trainings for individuals.
2. Expanding access to peer support implementation trainings and technical assistance for organizations.
3. Providing a support network for current and future peer support professionals.
4. Providing funding and support for the creation of new peer support positions.
5. Increasing awareness and visibility around the value of peer support.



**PEER SUPPORT**

**What is Peer Support?** Peer support is a best practice that occurs when people with lived experience are trained and equipped to provide connections, knowledge, experience, emotional, social, or practical support to others facing similar obstacles. Peer Supporters have their own professional role in the behavioral health field with their own values, ethics, and practices.

For more information visit [www.PrioritySpokane.org](http://www.PrioritySpokane.org) or e-mail [PrioritySpokane@outlook.com](mailto:PrioritySpokane@outlook.com)

## PRIORITY SPOKANE'S 2020 MEMBERS



### **Avista Corporation**

Britt Bachtel-Browning, Senior Counsel (*Secretary/Treasurer*)

### **Better Health Together**

Alison Poulsen, Executive Director

### **City of Spokane**

Mayor Nadine Woodward

Councilwoman Kate Burk

### **Community Building Foundation**

Katy Sheehan, Executive Director

### **Community Minded Enterprises**

Lee Williams, Executive Director

### **Eastern Washington University**

Dr. D. Patrick Jones, Executive Director Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis

### **Empire Health Foundation**

Emma Noyes, Program Associate (*Vice Chair*)

### **ESD 101**

Dr. Michael Dunn, Superintendent

### **Gonzaga University**

Mary Joan Hahn, Director of Community & Public Relations

### **Greater Spokane Incorporated**

Stacia Rasmussen, Director of Education & Workforce

### **Innovia Foundation**

Dr. Mason Burley, Director of Community Impact (*Chair*)

### **Kaiser Permanente**

Kelly Stanford, VP of Clinical Operations & Market Integration

Kim Wicklund, Director Community Health

### **Kalispel Tribe of Indians**

Curt Holmes, Executive Director Public & Gov. Affairs

### **Law Office of DC Cronin**

Dennis Cronin, Attorney

### **Lutheran Community Services**

Erin Williams, Inland NW District Director

### **MultiCare Health Foundation Inland NW**

Carolyn Kadyk, Executive Director

### **Numerica Credit Union**

Manuel Hochheimer, AVP of Business Development

### **Providence Health Care**

John Kleiderer, Chief Mission Integration Officer

Sara Clements-Sampson, Community Benefits Manager

### **Spokane County**

Commissioner Mary Kuney

Gerry Gemmill, CEO Spokane County

### **Spokane Regional Health District**

Amelia Clark, Administrative Officer

### **Spokane Valley Fire Department**

Greg Rogers, Division Chief Fire Prevention

### **United Way of Spokane**

Tim Henkel, President and CEO

### **Washington State University**

Dr. Jim Mohr, Vice President Student Affairs

### **Women Helping Women Fund**

Heather Hamlin, Executive Director (Chair)

### **YWCA**

Morgan Colburn, Director of Counseling, Advocacy, Outreach

## PRIORITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Ryan Oelrich, CoChair, Priority Spokane  
Linda Safford, CoChair, Trauma Informed Therapies  
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## OUR STAFF

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