



Speaker Biographies:

Aleksandra Zgierska, MD, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. She earned MD and PhD degrees in Warsaw, Poland before moving to Madison, Wisconsin, where she completed a family medicine residency and NIH-funded clinical research fellowship at the UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. She is the President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, Co-Director of the UW Hospital's Center for Addictive Disorders and Director of the Program for Pain and Opioid Education, Therapies and Studies (POETS). Dr. Zgierska provides addiction medicine and full-spectrum primary care. Her research, funded by the NIH and other agencies, focuses on improving outcomes in alcohol/drug use disorders, especially opioids, and she presents lectures related to opioid therapy and opioid addiction locally, nationally and internationally. In 2016, for her clinical, research and advocacy work in addiction medicine, she was voted by her peers as one of Madison and Dane County's "Top Doctors" and was awarded the title of "Distinguished Fellow" by the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Anthony (AJ) Ernst, Ph.D., LMSW-ACP is with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. He is Section Chief for Substance Abuse Services in the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery. AJ has led workforce development initiatives, co-occurring mental health and substance abuse systems integration, service to science academies, and training and technical assistance initiatives at the local, state, and national levels. AJ served as a Director with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Co-Occurring Center for Excellence and Director of SAMHSA's Native American Center for Excellence. AJ is active in the recovery community and resides with his wife and two daughters in the Town of Middleton.

Hank Weiss, PhD, MPH, MS, is an epidemiologist and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences, School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Wisconsin. He recently retired from state service where he was the lead for the injury and violence prevention program in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health in the Department of Health Services. He co-wrote and was the lead investigator on the \$3.9 million Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention for States grant from CDC. Dr. Weiss received his MS and MPH from Minnesota and PhD (Epidemiology) from Pittsburgh and has 30+ years in injury control. He has over 60 publications on such topics as injury surveillance, domestic violence, injury exposure to pregnant women, baby walkers, poisonings, bicycles, motorcycle injury, data linkage, and senior falls. He has authored many websites, chaired several national injury prevention professional organizations and was director of the University of Pittsburgh and University of Otago Injury Control Research Centers. He was awarded the Alex Kelter Visionary Award from the Safe Sates Alliance in 2009.



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Ryan Holzmacher, MD, serves as the Medical Director for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. He received his medical degree from Southern Illinois University and did his Internal Medicine Residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin followed by a Nephrology fellowship at the University of Wisconsin. He completed two additional years of advanced training in palliative care and pain management. Dr. Holzmacher practiced as a Nephrologist for 10 years in the greater Milwaukee area before transitioning to palliative care and pain management. In addition to clinical practice he has served as the medical director for numerous dialysis organizations as well as one of Wisconsin's largest hospice organizations. In his role as medical director for the Department of Corrections he is responsible for the policies that guide the population's care as well as working with numerous outside organizations to coordinate and improve care. His primary interests are in population health and public health policy.

Holly Audley serves as the Evidence-Based Program Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. In this role, Holly works collaboratively with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute and the Division of Adult Institutions, the Division of Community Corrections, and the Division of Juvenile Corrections toward the design and implementation of evidence-based programs. Holly is a twenty-one-year veteran of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections with extensive multidisciplinary team leadership experience—leveraging strong professional relationships to improve the quality of intervention services to a diverse clientele. Prior to committing herself to civil service, Holly taught at Rogers Memorial Hospital and Waukesha Memorial Hospital within their Adolescent Psychiatric Units and volunteered with the United States Peace Corps in rural Costa Rica. Holly earned her Master of Arts Degree in Administrative Leadership from Marian University, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Allen Nyberg is a leader in the recovery field of addiction with more than 10 years of “lived experience” and over 5 years of professional experience as a recovery community organizer, national trainer and speaker, recovery coach, mentor and advocate for those with the disease of substance use addiction. As Co-Founder and Housing Lead of the Madison, Wisconsin Chapter of Young People in Recovery (YPR), Mr. Nyberg led its development and membership while leading advocacy initiatives and brought resources to local recovery needs. As a person in long-term recovery himself, Mr. Nyberg continues to volunteer with Aaron's House and Connections Counseling; two esteemed organizations in the Madison area that utilize peer-based recovery support services.

Cody Fearing is completing a B.S. in Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies. They have presented on numerous topics related to recovery from the disease of addiction, most notably in identifying and creating a dialogue around the systematic barriers that people of color, impoverished and working-class populations, and LGBTQ+ communities face in their pursuit of recovery from substance misuse and mental health disorders. Cody is the Co-Chair of Live Free-Student Wellness and Recovery, a University of Wisconsin - Madison GSSF granted student organization that unites students in recovery from substance misuse disorder, addictive behaviors and mental health issues. In this position, they work as both a community organizer and liaison for organizational and administrative outreach amongst University Health Services, the Division of Student Life, the Multicultural Student Center, LGBTQ Campus Center, and other student organizations that advocate for student health/wellness and social justice. As a student in long-term recovery, they have experience in designing, managing, and implementing programming aimed toward advocacy, recovery-integrative education, creative self-expression, recovery-positive language/stigma reduction, and peer-support recovery models.