



Northwest (HHS Region 10)

**ATTC**

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network  
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

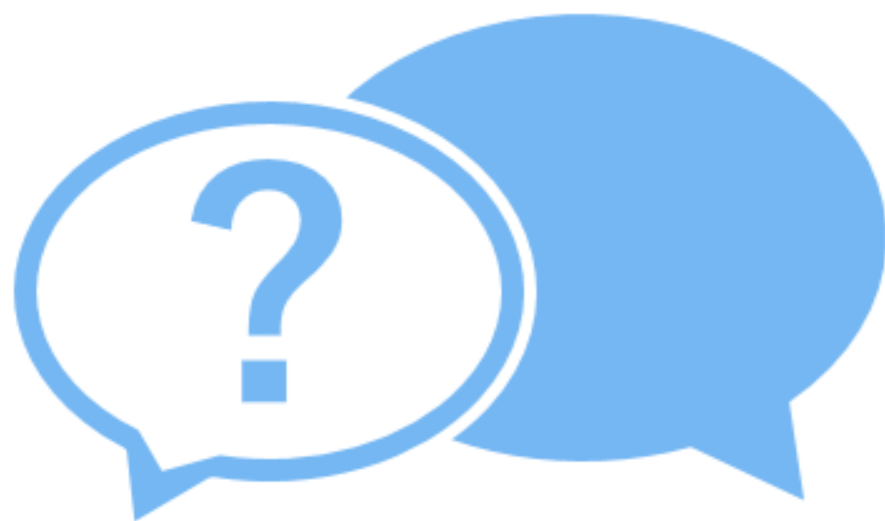


**Thank you for joining us! The webinar will begin shortly.**

Northwest ATTC presents:  
**The Power of Affirming Care in SUD Recovery**

- **Participants are automatically muted during this presentation**
- **Got questions?** Type them into the chat box at any time and they will be answered at the end of the presentation.
- An ADA-compliant recording of this presentation will be made available on our website at: <http://attcnetwork.org/northwest>

**Questions?** Please type them in the chat box!



**Look for our surveys in your inbox!**

**We greatly appreciate your feedback!** Every survey we receive helps us improve and continue offering our programs.

It only takes **1 minute** to complete!



## Certificates of Attendance are available for live viewers!



### Viewing Groups:

Please send each individual's **name**  
and **email address** to  
**[northwest@attcnetwork.org](mailto:northwest@attcnetwork.org)**  
within 1 business day.

Your certificate will be emailed within a week to the address you registered with.



# WRA WASHINGTON RECOVERY ALLIANCE



washingtonrecoveryalliance.org

# Who We Are – The Washington Recovery Alliance

- A statewide nonprofit uniting the recovery community
- Advocating for policy, education, and systems change
- Supporting coalitions across Washington

# Show Up For Recovery.

- Recovery rebuilds lives, families, and economies
- Recovery is about **rebuilding lives, families, and communities**
- Rural communities face **unique challenges** — isolation, stigma, limited services
- But they also have **deep strength and resilience**

**WRA**  
WASHINGTON  
RECOVERY  
ALLIANCE

  
KING COUNTY  
RECOVERY  
COALITION

# RECOVERY IN ACTION

November 18, 2025

4:30pm – 6:00pm



Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center

SPEAK YOUR TRUTH BUILD CONFIDENCE LEAD WITH PURPOSE

# el•e•vate

RECOVERY VOICES

**WEDNESDAY**  
December 10, 2025  
12 PM – 2:30 PM

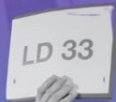
[tinyurl.com/ElevateDec2025](https://tinyurl.com/ElevateDec2025)



ELEVATE BUILDS LEADERSHIP AMONG PEOPLE IN RECOVERY TO INFORM POLICY CHANGE.

For more info, email us at:  
[hello@washingtonrecoveryalliance.org](mailto:hello@washingtonrecoveryalliance.org)

Be part of the **movement.**  
Registration required.



## JOIN US AT THE WASHINGTON STATE CAPITOL ON FEB. 5 FOR RECOVERY ADVOCACY DAY.

Hundreds of people in recovery, allies, and supporters will gather to share their stories, meet with lawmakers, and voice their support for policies that strengthen recovery and help shape policies that strengthen recovery housing, workforce development, peer support, and more.



To make sure you feel fully prepared, all participants are required to attend the **RAD Info Zoom Session (RIZZ)** on Saturday, January 24, 2026.

[give.classy.org/RAD2026](https://give.classy.org/RAD2026)

*This event is open to all Washington residents. Registration closes Feb 2, 2026.*



#RAD2026

Scan to register for RAD 2026



[give.classy.org/RAD2026](https://give.classy.org/RAD2026)

Registration is free. For more information visit the RAD 2026 event page. Receive the RAD Info Zoom Session details by email after registering.

# Join the Movement.



## Recovery In Action

- November 18

## Elevate Recovery Voices Training

- December 10

## Recovery Advocacy Day (RAD)

- February 5, 2026

[washingtonrecoveryalliance.org/events](https://washingtonrecoveryalliance.org/events)

# Today's Presenter



**Hallie Burchinal**  
Executive Director  
Center for Growth and Empowerment

*Hallie Burchinal (she/they)* is the founder of CAT Spokane, and is now the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Growth and Empowerment (CGE), a nonprofit behavioral health organization in Spokane, Washington. She has more than a decade of experience in the substance use disorder field, including leadership at Compassionate Addiction Treatment and the launch of CGE's Rainbow Recovery program. Hallie is passionate about building affirming, community-connected care environments that center dignity, inclusion, community, and belonging as essential elements of recovery.



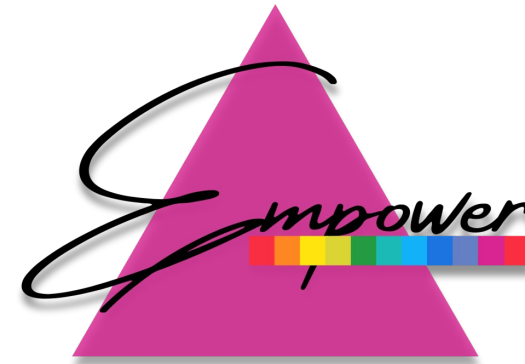
# ***The Power of Affirming Care in SUD Recovery***

Presented for the Northwest ATTC  
Webinar Series



# Hallie Burchinal she/they

- ▶ Substance Use Disorder  
Professional  
Community Health Worker
- ▶ Founder / Executive  
Director  
Center for Growth and  
Empowerment



**CENTER FOR GROWTH  
AND EMPOWERMENT**

Our mission is to provide affirming, inclusive, and compassionate recovery services that support the healing and empowerment of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.



Recovery is not just clinical,  
it's human, cultural, and  
relational.

- ▶ Affirming Care:
- ▶ Validating identity
- ▶ Dignity
- ▶ Belonging

Goal: Practical strategies within  
SUD treatment settings

# DISPARITIES IN SUD & RECOVERY OUTCOMES

LGBTQ+ ADULTS ARE 2X MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

TRANSGENDER ADULTS HAVE UP TO 4X HIGHER RATES THAN CISGENDER PEERS.

MANY DELAY OR AVOID TREATMENT DUE TO FEAR OF BIAS OR PAST HARM.

NON-AFFIRMING CARE LEADS TO HIGHER DROPOUT.

## Why These Rates Are Higher

CHRONIC MINORITY STRESS.

FAMILY REJECTION AND SOCIAL STIGMA.

HIGHER EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA AND VIOLENCE.

FEWER SAFE, AFFIRMING TREATMENT OPTIONS.

Identity isn't the risk factor.

Inequity is.

A photograph showing the backs of two people wearing colorful, crinkled scarves. The person on the left has curly brown hair and wears a scarf with a purple, yellow, white, pink, blue, and brown chevron pattern. The person on the right has straight brown hair and wears a rainbow-colored scarf. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting with a blue sky and green foliage.

## Affirming Care Means:

- ▶ Validating identities and lived experiences.
- ▶ Using inclusive, non-stigmatizing language.
- ▶ Creating safety, trust, and belonging.

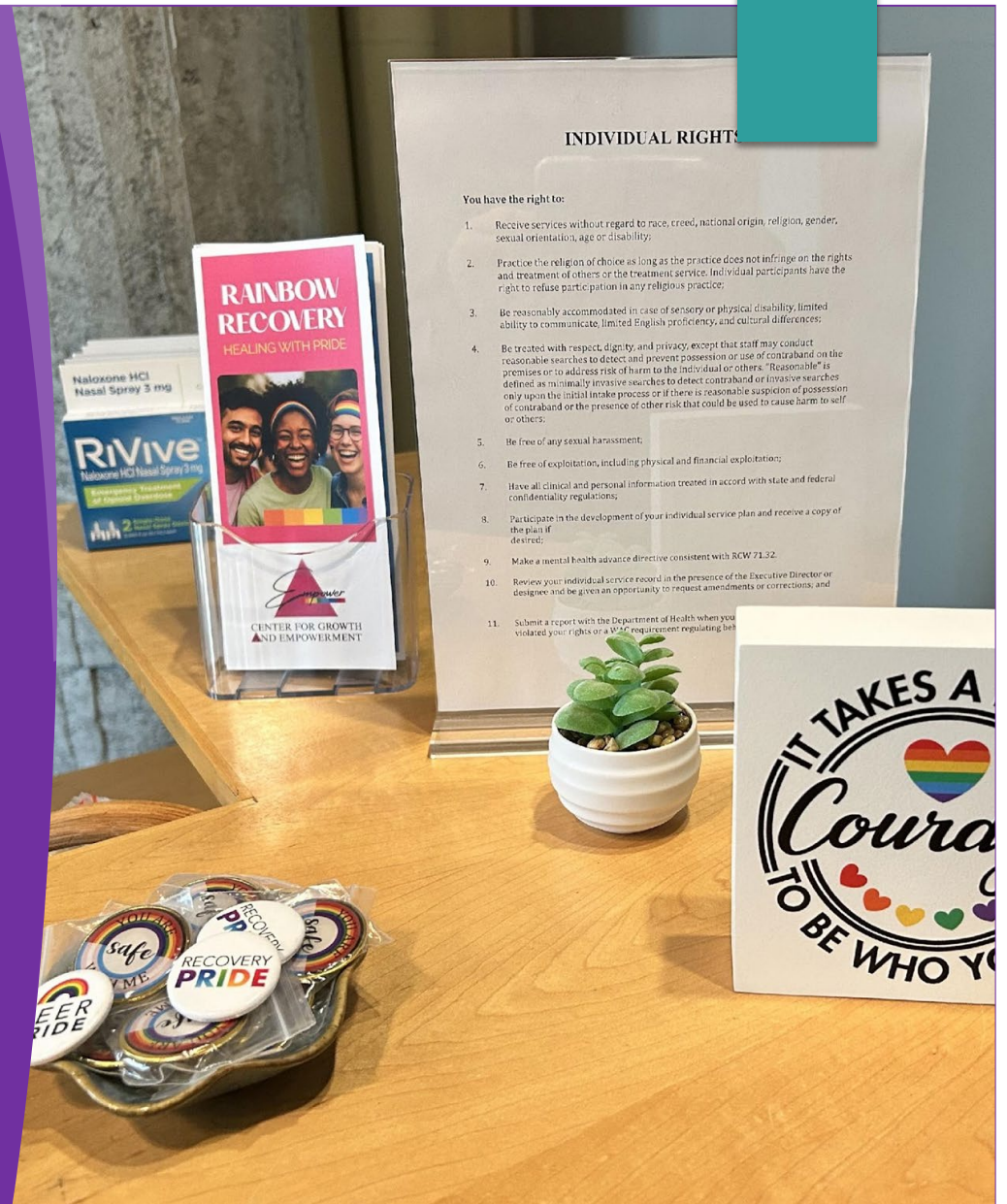
# Four Principles of Affirming Care

**Language & Communication:** Respect pronouns, avoid stigma.

**Environment & Policy:** Inclusive visuals, forms, restrooms.

**Clinical Practice:** Trauma-informed, strength-based, identity affirming.

**Community Connection:** Link to affirming recovery supports.



## INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

### You have the right to:

1. Receive services without regard to race, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability;
2. Practice the religion of choice as long as the practice does not infringe on the rights and treatment of others or the treatment service. Individual participants have the right to refuse participation in any religious practice;
3. Be reasonably accommodated in case of sensory or physical disability, limited ability to communicate, limited English proficiency, and cultural differences;
4. Be treated with respect, dignity, and privacy, except that staff may conduct reasonable searches to detect and prevent possession or use of contraband on the premises or to address risk of harm to the individual or others. "Reasonable" is defined as minimally invasive searches to detect contraband or invasive searches only upon the initial intake process or if there is reasonable suspicion of possession of contraband or the presence of other risk that could be used to cause harm to self or others;
5. Be free of any sexual harassment;
6. Be free of exploitation, including physical and financial exploitation;
7. Have all clinical and personal information treated in accord with state and federal confidentiality regulations;
8. Participate in the development of your individual service plan and receive a copy of the plan if desired;
9. Make a mental health advance directive consistent with RCW 71.32;
10. Review your individual service record in the presence of the Executive Director or designee and be given an opportunity to request amendments or corrections; and
11. Submit a report with the Department of Health when you have violated your rights or a WAC requirement regulating behavior.



# Unintentional Bias & Microaggressions

- ▶ Subtle, often unintended actions or comments that signal exclusion.
  - “Do you have a girlfriend?” (to a man)
  - Misgendering after correction
  - “I don’t see labels.”
- ▶ Intent ≠ Impact: even well-meaning words can cause harm.
- ▶ Impact: erodes trust, triggers shame and increases dropout risk.
- ▶ **Repair: acknowledge, apologize briefly, adjust.**

# Practical Strategies:

REVIEW AND UPDATE  
INTAKE FORMS.

PROVIDE STAFF  
TRAINING ON BIAS &  
CULTURAL HUMILITY.

USE AFFIRMING  
LANGUAGE IN  
GROUPS.

ADDRESS  
MICROAGGRESSIONS  
IN REAL TIME, WITH  
COMPASSION.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY  
THROUGH INCLUSIVE  
COMMUNITY EVENTS.

ADD INCLUSIVE  
VISUALS INTO YOUR  
SETTING.



What's one  
change I can  
make this month  
to make my care  
more affirming?

"Small, consistent actions create lasting change."

***Thank you!***

***Hallie Burchinal***

***Center for  
Growth and  
Empowerment***

***cgespokane.org***

*“The question is never ‘Why the addiction?’ but ‘Why the pain?’”  
— Gabor Maté, *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts**



# Surveys

## Look for our surveys in your inbox!

**We greatly appreciate your feedback!**

Every survey we receive helps us improve and continue offering our programs.



It only takes **1 minute** to complete!

