



January Newsletter

Changing Lives, One Day, One Goal,
One Person at a Time



Project ASSERT: Did You Know?

Project ASSERT (Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services, Education, and Referral to Treatment) is a pioneering initiative that integrates Wellness Advocates into hospital settings to address substance use issues directly within emergency departments (EDs). Established at Boston Medical Center, the program employs Health Promotion Advocates (HPAs) who conduct screenings, provide brief interventions, and facilitate referrals to specialized treatment facilities for patients exhibiting unhealthy alcohol and drug use.

Importance of the Mission

This approach bridges the gap between emergency care and sustained recovery, ensuring that patients receive immediate, nonjudgmental support. Wellness Advocates address underlying issues of substance use, offering a pathway to recovery while reducing strain on emergency services.

Potential Risks Avoided by Having Wellness Advocates in Hospitals

Reduction in Repeat Emergency Visits: Patients with substance use disorders often experience a "revolving door" phenomenon, repeatedly visiting EDs without accessing long-term care. Wellness Advocates intervene by connecting these patients to ongoing treatment, thereby reducing repeat visits and alleviating the burden on emergency services.

Overdose Prevention: By providing education on overdose recognition and distributing naloxone rescue kits, Wellness Advocates play a crucial role in preventing fatal overdoses among high-risk populations.

Facilitating Access to Treatment: Direct, facilitated referrals by Wellness Advocates significantly increase the likelihood of patients enrolling in specialized treatment programs, promoting sustained recovery and reducing the risks associated with untreated substance use disorders.

Addressing Social Determinants of Health: Substance use disorders are frequently intertwined with factors such as homelessness, unemployment, and trauma. Wellness Advocates help patients navigate these challenges by linking them to comprehensive support services, mitigating risks associated with untreated substance use and unstable living conditions.

Combating Stigma: The presence of Wellness Advocates fosters a more compassionate healthcare environment, encouraging patients to seek help without fear of judgment. This shift can lead to earlier interventions and better health outcomes.

Incorporating Wellness Advocates into hospital settings through programs like Project ASSERT has proven to be a vital strategy in addressing substance use disorders effectively. By providing immediate support, facilitating access to treatment, and addressing broader social determinants of health, these advocates help mitigate numerous risks, ultimately contributing to healthier communities.



SCAN ME

STRONGER TOGETHER | **SAGINAW**

ADDICTION SUPPORT GROUP

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Stronger Together — a Face Addiction Now - formerly known as Families Against Narcotics support group, offering a healing space for those impacted by a loved one's addiction.

**3057 DAVENPORT AVE.
SAGINAW, MI 48602**

**1ST AND 3RD
TUESSDAY OF
EVERY MONTH
AT 6:00PM**



STRONGER@FACEADDICTIONNOW.ORG

**CONNECT, FIND SUPPORT,
AND WORK ON YOUR
OWN RECOVERY.**

FAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION: FACEADDICTIONNOW.ORG

Your Support Can Make All the Difference

As we step into a new year, we reflect on the progress we've made together. From expanding our LifeSkills programs for youth to opening our new office space, your unwavering support has fueled our mission every step of the way. This year, we invite you to continue walking with us as we strive to empower even more lives and build a stronger, more united community. By making a tax-deductible donation today, you can help us expand our reach and create greater possibilities for the future.

Here's How You Can Help:

Donate online at: [WomenofColors.org](https://www.womenofcolors.org)

Mail your gift to: 3057 Davenport Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

Every contribution, no matter the size, moves us closer to our shared vision. Thank you for your continued belief in our mission—together, we are shaping a brighter tomorrow.



Evelyn McGovern
Cofounder/President



Is your loved one leading a destructive life?
That doesn't mean your life has to be
destroyed as well.

Stronger Together is here to help you cope.
Join us at WOC for an addiction support group
for family and friends of people struggling with
addiction.

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. 6 - 7:30 PM
3057 Davenport, Saginaw, MI 48602

President's Corner

As we welcome the new year, I find myself reflecting on both the challenges and the triumphs of the past twelve months. This year has been a testament to the resilience and strength of our Women of Colors family and the community we serve. Together, we've expanded our reach, created new opportunities, and worked tirelessly to support those in need. For me, this season carries a bittersweet note. While I carry the weight of personal loss, I am also reminded of the importance of connection, compassion, and shared purpose. These values have always been at the heart of Women of Colors, and they continue to inspire me as we move forward into 2024.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for your commitment to creating a better, more unified future. May the new year bring peace, hope, and healing to us all.

