



Jerry Kolpien,

Provider (SAC-IT, CPS, Recovery Coach)

Jerry is a dedicated recovery advocate with over 16 years of sustained recovery and professional experience supporting individuals navigating substance use and mental health challenges. As a Certified Peer Support Specialist, Recovery Coach, and a Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor in Training (SAC-IT), Jerry brings authenticity, empathy, and unwavering support to his work with teens and adults in the CCS program and throughout the community.

CCS Service Arrays

Substance Abuse Counseling

Peer Support

ISDE

Psychoeducation

CLTS Service Arrays

Parent/Unpaid Caregiver Support

Empowerment and Self-Determination

Counties Served

Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix

Buffalo, Rusk, Barron, Washburn, Burnett,

and Trempealeau.

Speciality Areas

Substance Use Recovery

Peer Support

Outdoorsmanship

Ex-Offender Reintegration



Jerry's story is one of resilience, loss, and transformation. His professional approach is deeply shaped by lived experience, carrying lessons from a journey that began in childhood and stretched into adulthood through trauma, addiction, incarceration, and homelessness. Growing up in a large family, Jerry's life was forever altered at just six years old by the tragic loss of his oldest brother. Soon after, his parents' divorce and other hardships brought instability that eventually placed him in the foster care system as a Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS). Those early years of grief and uncertainty left lasting imprints, setting the stage for the struggles he would face in his teens and young adulthood.

When Jerry aged out of foster care, he entered adulthood burdened with unresolved trauma, battling substance use disorder, depression, anxiety, and anger. His path led through incarceration, homelessness, and moments where hope felt distant and out of reach. Yet within those darkest chapters, while sitting in the county jail, the first seeds of change began to take root.

Since 2009, Jerry has embraced sustained recovery, his lived experience fuels his passion for helping others reclaim their lives and strengthens his ability to connect with individuals who feel stuck, misunderstood, or overwhelmed.

Jerry's guiding principle is to "meet people where they are at, but don't leave them there." Through one-on-one coaching, recovery planning, and active listening, he empowers clients to take meaningful steps toward healing and independence. His work extends into jails, shelters, and community spaces, where he facilitates recovery meetings and advocates for accessible pathways to wellness.

Grounded in compassion and honesty, Jerry creates a safe space for growth and change, offering both professional expertise and a relatable perspective of resilience. As a SAC-IT, he continues to deepen his clinical impact while staying rooted in the values of connection, respect, and hope. His presence is a testament to the power of lived experience and the possibility of transformation.

Outside of his professional role, Jerry is a proud partner and father to a teenage son. He enjoys making memories with his family, staying active in the recovery community, and volunteering in local jails and prisons. In his free time, he can often be found fishing, hiking, or tackling projects on his home's never-ending "honey-do list." Whether at work or at home, Jerry strives to live out the same principles of hope, perseverance, and service that guide his work with others.