#### August 2023

#### Connect. Empower. Restore.









RECOVERY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

REENTRY

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** 



Restore: Educate

### **Breaking the Stigma of Mental Health**

Join us for part 2 of our mental health webinar series where we will be discussing mental health stigma and why those with mental health issues should be open about their struggles.



Part 1 of our webinar series was a success, with over 100 attendees receiving valuable information about mental health. Click <u>here</u> to watch the recording of the previous webinar.

A recent study found that stigma has led to worsening outcomes for people with serious mental illness, with nearly 40% of those struggling reporting unmet treatment needs despite available effective treatments (National Library of Medicine).

Our goal is to help eliminate the stigma associated with mental health by providing valuable information, best practices, and resources.

Join us on August 23 at 2:00pm where Preston Moore will continue his presentation on mental health stigma.

1 CEU for social work will be awarded to participants.

Click Here to Register for the Webinar

# **Empower:** Learn & Grow

#### **New Partnership: On the Front Lines Community Alliance**

We are excited to announce our new partnership with On the Front Lines Community Alliance (OTFL).

On the Front Lines is a network of practice that focuses on the application of the peer support philosophy. The alliance fosters a platform where individuals can openly share their common concerns and challenges.



United by a shared vision of establishing an expansive recovery and resilience network encompassing organizations and professionals, and empowered by strong partnerships, On the Front Lines and relink.org have come together.

This collaboration is dedicated to enhancing access and the efficiency of community services through the pillars of collaboration, seamless coordination, and effective integration.

The OTFL network of professionals collaboratively offers innovative solutions and coping strategies, benefiting both community members and fellow professionals.

OTFL is based in Southwest Ohio, where they have made strong connections with service providers in the area. Relink.org is located in Northeast Ohio, where we are a member of a similar alliance called Better Together. Having connections like OTFL and Better Together in different areas of the state helps strengthen our database and allows us to make a great impact in our communities. Simply put, these partnerships are critical to our work.

We are thrilled to partner with On the Front Lines and are looking forward to making a positive impact in our communities.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about On the Front Lines, please reach out to <a href="mailto:onthefrontlinesalliance@gmail.com">onthefrontlinesalliance@gmail.com</a>.

Click Here to Learn More About Our Partnership

## Connect: Outreach

#### **Stories of Hope**

Relink.org is more than just a database; it is a beacon of hope. Every day, we hear inspiring stories about strong individuals who were able to overcome adversity using resources on relink.org. Team member Oneida Tidmore recently helped someone find housing using our database.



"I have been working with a relink.org user for 2 months. She called looking for an apartment with a Section 8 voucher. Every week, we touched base and I would encourage her to not give up and to keep look for resources. Thankfully, she finally found an apartment and got her record expunged. She will receive assistance with her rent for 3 months. She went from sleeping in her car to her own apartment."

These stories of hope are one of the reasons we are so passionate about our work. If you or a loved is in need of assistance, please visit relink.org to find help in your area.

Click Here to Find Resources

#### **Supporting Those in Reentry**



In September 2022, a safe and secure version of the relink.org database was launched in Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction (ODRC) facilities. The project has been incredibly successful with over 32,000 individuals using relink.org to plan their lives after release.

Next month, our team will be going to Grafton Correctional Institution to train ODRC staff and inmates on how to best utilize our database to find resources. Assisting the reentry community is a passion of ours, and we are looking forward to this opportunity to personally connect with returning citizens.

We are very encouraged by the early success of this project and plan to expand it in the near future. Next steps for this project are getting relink.org on the tablets of Ohio county jails.

If you are a member of the reentry community and would like to collaborate with our team, feel free to reach out to Director of Community Engagement Rachel Sobitz at <a href="mailto:rsobitz@relink.org">rsobitz@relink.org</a>.

#### Click Here to Find Reentry Resources In Your Area



If you have any questions or would like to collaborate with our team, feel free to email us at info@relink.org.