



**FIRST STEPS  
TOGETHER**  
FAMILIES IN RECOVERY SUPPORT

## Upcoming Webinar Series



FIRST Steps Together is excited to announce our 2024 webinar series introducing our innovative resource [\*Taking the FIRST Steps Together: A Guide to Creating Collaborative Peer-Led Services for Parents Affected by Substance Use\*](#). This webinar series is for anyone who is looking to launch, further develop, or enhance their peer-led, home visiting, or clinical services, for families impacted by parental substance use. The webinars will take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:30-11:00am EST.

Each month we will highlight a chapter of the Guide, exploring the concepts, offering examples from practice and tools to use to support both staff working in this field and the families they serve. Attendees are welcome to join individual webinars of interest, or the series as a whole. All webinars are free of charge and open to professionals working in this space.

[Click Here to Register](#)

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### JANUARY

#### **Building the Foundation: Chapter 1.1: Foundational Concepts and Theory**

January 23, 2024 - 9:30 to 11:00 AM

*When building a house, there is a reason that the foundation is poured first.  
It is the solid ground upon which all else is built.*

In this webinar, we will begin to explore some of the foundational concepts and learnings our program is built on. This includes understanding the essential, valuable role peer staff bring in leading this work. We will also discuss the importance of language choice in all we do. This includes advocacy with, and for families through direct service work and with larger systems. We will touch on how trauma, substance use, and parenting intersect, and explore the power of healing centered/trauma-informed work delivered by peer staff in the home setting. In using this FIRST Steps Together approach we can strengthen parent-child relationships, empower families, and support the parenting and recovery journeys.

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### FEBRUARY

#### **Building the Foundation: Chapter 1.2: Preparing the Organization**

February 27, 2024 - 9:30 to 11:00 AM

*Peer recovery support programs thrive when built within organizations that deeply value the unique lens of lived experience.*

At FIRST Steps Together, we understand and promote a recovery-oriented culture at all levels; from direct services and staff supervision to community partnerships and organizational leadership. This dedication is seen throughout our culture, values, policies, and procedures. This webinar will explore the importance of recovery-oriented systems and organizations, promoting wellness, recovery, and self-care, prioritizing staff wellness to prevent burnout and crisis response

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## **MARCH**

### **Building the Foundation: Chapter 1.3: Recruiting, Hiring and Training**

March 26, 2024 - 9:30 to 11:00 AM

*Relationships are the catalyst to change and central to our work. Building successful, collaborative relationships begins with recruiting, hiring, and training new staff.*

In this webinar, we will focus on how to build a collaborative team and include diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the process. We will provide insight into hiring candidates who bring lived experience and expertise to working with those parenting in recovery. We will also explore the strengths and benefits of candidates who may not have “traditional” work or educational backgrounds and the qualities and competencies desired for working with families impacted by parental substance use.

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## **APRIL**

### **Building the Foundation: Chapter 1.4: Supervision**

April 23, 2024 - 9:30 to 11:00 AM

*The most important policy or practice to support staff wellness is supervision.*

Regularly receiving supervision improves the services we provide. This results in better care and outcomes for families. All staff benefit from regular encouragement, guidance and feedback from team members and Supervisors. In this webinar we will explore the different types of supervision utilized in FIRST Steps Together with a specific focus on Reflective Supervision and its benefits for both staff and the families they serve

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## **MAY**

### **Serving Families: Chapter 2.1: Engagement**

May 28, 2024 - 9:30 to 11:00 AM

*The process of engagement often requires a significant investment of time to build trusting relationships.*

At FIRST Steps Together, we use the initial engagement period to show potential participants how peer-led services may look and feel different than other services they have previously received. In this webinar we will discuss what that looks like, tools we use during the engagement period and why there may be benefits to an extended engagement period for parents who have a history of substance use.

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**JUNE**

**Serving Families: Chapter 2.2 Home Visiting**

June 25, 2024 - 9:30 to 11:00 AM

*Providing services in the home setting allows families to receive uniquely tailored parenting and recovery supports they might not otherwise be able to access.*

In this webinar, we will explore the benefits of home visiting and how we use the FIRST Steps: My Family Portfolio and open-ended questions to address our areas of focus: recovery, parenting, care coordination and meeting concrete needs.

[Click Here to Register](#)

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To download an interactive copy of the guide, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [Nahia Kassas](#).

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FIRST (Families in Recovery Support) Steps Together is a home visiting program dedicated to serving and empowering families on their parenting and recovery journey. Our program offers specialized support in the home, community, or virtually, from peer specialists and/or mental health counselors.

The program is open to any person 18 years old or older, who has used opioids, stimulants, and/or other substances, AND who is pregnant or expecting a child, or has at least one child.

FIRST Steps Together is funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is administered by the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition.

For more information about our program, please visit [FIRSTStepsTogetherMA.org](https://FIRSTStepsTogetherMA.org)

