



# Reentering Society and Finding Peer Support

# Bobby Dorton, Peer Support Specialist

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I am an empathetic person who loves advocacy, speaking up, and being the voice of reentry and recovering addicts. I have lived experience with prisons and substance misuse.





## My Story

My name is Bobby Dorton. I'm an Alaskan Athabascan Native, originally from the interior village of Northway. I was incarcerated for nearly five years in Alaska's correctional system and was released in July of 2018. I am currently on parole.

Since my release, I have been actively working to reintegrate into my community of Fairbanks. I am also the community co-chair for the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition.

Most importantly, I'm a Peer Support Specialist and my strongest passion is peer support for justice-involved Alaskans!

# What is Peer Support?

Effective peer support is an exchange of philosophies and brainstorming to identify courses of action, choices, and opportunities. It's walking alongside another as they travel a personal and individual journey of accomplishment. It's individualized because each person has their own path to follow. Peer Support is not offering advice (though ideas are shared), it is not telling another what they have to do, nor is it counseling or therapy.

Peer Support maintains five factors:

- **Hope** (seeing a better future).
- **Shared Responsibility** (we are not alone).
- **Education** (continuing).
- **Self-Advocacy** (sharing our story).
- **Support** (offering help until it's not needed, and giving back).



# Peer Support After Incarceration (Resources)

- *Reentry Case Management through Reentry Coalitions*
- *Tanana Chiefs Conference Reentry Program*
- *True North Recovery*
- *Partners for Progress*
- *JAMHI Health & Wellness*
- *Cook Inlet Tribal Council Reentry Program*
- *Alaska Native Justice Center*
- *Alaska Reentry Partnership*

# What's Ahead for Peer Support?

*Continued Peer Support Certification*

*Peer-Led Supportive Housing and Employment*

*Traditional Peer Support*

*Peer Support Working Alongside Behavioral Health Aides*

*Reentry Peer Support and Case Management*

