

**NEWS from the Office of Recovery Reinvented and the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**N.D. Department of Human Services partners with the Office of the First Lady and Office of Recovery Reinvented to launch Recovree's peer support software in the state – winner of the Innovate Recovery Competition**

**BISMARCK, N.D.** – The North Dakota Department of Human Services, the Office of the First Lady and Office of Recovery Reinvented announced the launch next week of Recovree Peer Support Software in the state. This is the latest development in North Dakota's ongoing effort to reinvent addiction recovery and improve individual and community outcomes.

At Recovery Reinvented 2018, First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum recognized Recovree as the winner of the \$50,000 Innovate Recovery Competition. The purpose of the competition was to generate the most innovative solution to impact recovery in North Dakota. Recovree's software supports peer specialists with workflow management and provides tools to create more meaningful conversations, intervention opportunities, efficiencies and data to ultimately improve outcomes.

"The Innovate Recovery Competition surfaced many great ideas that would help North Dakota eliminate the stigma surrounding the disease of addiction," Helgaas Burgum said. "It's exciting to see those ideas turn into action. Providing peer support specialists with the right tools to drive better outcomes will help more people and ultimately save more lives."

An event will be held Oct. 24 in Fargo, where peer support specialists who attend will have the opportunity to sign up for a free subscription to the Recovree software. The event will take place from noon to 3 p.m. at Dakota Medical Foundation, 4141 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Fargo. Registration is free and available online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recovree-peer-specialist-software-tickets-51293226421?aff=ebdssbeac>.

"We're inspired by North Dakota's leadership and the speed at which they are providing access to Recovree's software for peer specialists across the state," said Luke Kjolsing, chief recovery officer at Recovree. "We created software to help peer specialists with their workflow management and to improve engagement with the people they serve. We're driven to help more people find recovery and thrive."

Peer support specialists have "lived experience" and use that experience to establish positive rapport, serve as a pro-social model, offer insight to the individual's care team and provide support focused on advocacy, coaching and mentoring. Peer support has existed in the behavioral health field for decades; however, its rapid growth in recent years is due to the increasing evidence supporting its effectiveness.

Recovree is comprised of a peer support specialist and a client app. Clients use the app to complete daily reflections and log experiences to identify challenges and showcase progress. Peer support specialists can view each client reflection through their individual portal. In addition, the peer specialist portal is used to track time spent with clients, notes about client interactions and export information for reimbursement and grant reporting.

For peer support specialists interested in this free subscription and unable to attend the in-person event on Oct. 24, an online version of the event will be available at a later date.

The Behavioral Health Division is responsible for reviewing and identifying service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system to ensure health and safety, access to services and quality of services. The division is also responsible for establishing quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program services and facilities and provides policy leadership in partnership with public and private entities. For more information, visit [www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov](http://www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov) or contact the division at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719, TTY 800-366-6888 or [dhsbhd@nd.gov](mailto:dhsbhd@nd.gov).

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