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HOPE RECOVERY COMMUNITY'S PEER LINK PROGRAM

Service line provides people seeking help 24/7 assistance

Sara Crawford
 The Gazette

MEDINA — With the support of their peers, 90 percent of the 71 individuals who were served through Hope Recovery Community's Peer Link program within the month of September were connected to a permanent recovery service, according to Hope Recovery Community Executive Director Stefanie Robinson.

Hope Peer Link is a 24/7

peer-based support service that helps connect people in recovery to prominent support via people who are in recovery themselves, Robinson said. Currently, the team is composed of three people in recovery who have all been trained and certified as peer supporters.

"What we find is when people are seeking recovery, thinking about recovery, thinking about their relationship with

drugs and alcohol, it's just a tough process," Robinson said. "Sometimes our system makes it challenging for them to seek help. We put together a team and then the ADAMH Board supports us with funding to be able to help."

Robinson said that the Hope Peer Link program, which began in March, follows a similar process to what they had done in the past in giving peer support to those who need it.

The Hope Peer Link program supports people who are seeking recovery services, whether that be detox, inpatient or outpatient treatment, recovery housing and more.

"A lot of times when people are seeking those services, they might have to wait or they need support in navigating the system," Robinson said. "That's what our team does."

See **SERVICE, A2**

SERVICE

From A1

According to Robinson, the goal of the service is to ensure that people are remaining safe as they wait for perma-

nent services.

Medina County ADAMH Board Director Phillip Titterington said that they do not want to have people seeking recovery sit isolated and wait for the services they need.

"This way, they can reach

out to somebody and get that comfort or have somebody hold their hand and walk them through the process," Titterington said.

In the first six months, Robinson said that Hope Recovery Community hasn't

publicized the line as much to allow them to ensure that everything with the line was going correctly. Since its creation, Robinson said that numbers have remained consistent, with 40-60 people served each month.

Robinson said that one of the important factors of the program is that when someone calls for help and has someone in recovery answer the phone, there is often a connection made leading to real conversations about what is going on and the services needed.

"That's really the magic behind it," she said. "It's using peers to help other people find and seek and stay in recovery."

People who are seeking assistance in recovery can call the 24/7 Hope Peer Link line at (330) 952-3559.

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or scrawford@medina-gazette.com.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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