



CODINGTON COUNTY

RESTART Annual Report

JANUARY 2026

In 2025, Codington County and its partners launched the RESTART initiative with a clear vision: to create a community free of stigma, where recovery and second chances are celebrated, and every person has access to the support needed for lasting transformation. In its first year, the RESTART program moved from planning to action, initiating core services outlined in the grant proposal and establishing new collaborations among the courts, the State's Attorney's Office, law enforcement, community providers, and people with lived experience. Together, these partners created an Adult Diversion Program that offers a structured alternative to traditional prosecution, expanded case management and peer recovery support, and strengthened sober housing and recovery-focused events that help individuals rebuild stable, healthy lives.

This inaugural annual report documents the early results of that work, including high rates of successful diversion completion, meaningful contributions of community service, and hundreds of lives touched through housing, case management, peer support, and recovery-oriented activities. It also highlights the growth of overdose response efforts, including the distribution of naloxone and the expansion of post-overdose support in partnership with Emily's Hope, as well as the implementation milestones achieved across 2025 as new staff, programs, and partnerships came together. The accomplishments reflected in the following pages are a testament to the commitment of local leaders, providers, and community members who believe that timely, evidence-informed support can interrupt cycles of crisis and court involvement and offer a more hopeful path for individuals, families, and Codington County as a whole.



Angie Collignon

SUBSTANCE USE AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

DIVERSION PROGRAM

From July 1 through December 31, 2025, **84 individuals** were referred to the program, with **90% successfully completing diversion** and resolving their cases without a court appearance, helping reduce strain on court resources while maintaining public confidence in the justice system.

Launched on July 1, 2025, the Adult Diversion Program is a collaborative effort between the **Third Circuit Court** and the **Codington County State's Attorney's Office**, led by Judges Means, Elshere, and Schumacher, and State's Attorney Alison Bakken. The program offers eligible adults a structured, accountable alternative to the traditional court process, supporting both individual responsibility and community safety.

Participants completed **196 total** hours of community service, contributing over **\$2,322.60** in services to the community. This reinforced accountability, community restoration, and a shared commitment to safe, healthy neighborhoods.

The most common referrals involved underage alcohol consumption. With an average participant age of **20 years old**, the program emphasizes early intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation—contributing to safer outcomes for the community.

84

PEOPLE WERE REFERRED TO DIVERSION

82%

OF THE PEOPLE REFERRED INITIATED DIVERSION

90%

OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COMPLETED DIVERSION COMPLETED IT SUCCESSFULLY

ALISON BAKKEN

“

The diversion program saves a substantial amount of taxpayer dollars by connecting first-time offenders with resources while keeping them out of the revolving door of the court system.

”

STATE'S ATTORNEY

The individuals who completed diversion provided

196 VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

contributing over

\$2,322.60

in services to the community.

HOUSING



Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars (BSBB) helps connect individuals to sober transitional housing options after incarceration, to prevent people in recovery from becoming homeless or returning to the same environment that contributed to their addiction upon release from incarceration. In 2025, BSBB provided 34 opportunities for people to live in a sober environment that encouraged recovery and required residents to remain compliant with court requirements.

HOUSING STATUS CHANGE FROM ENTRY TO EXIT

- 48%** Improved housing situation
- 16%** Housing situation stayed the same
- 29%** Unknown housing situation
- 6%** Housing situation worsened

“The BSBB Transitional House is the best opportunity for moving forward in life that I've had. BSBB helps us out so much and it doesn't go unnoticed! The house has given me the ability to see a brighter future for myself to be independent and successful. To me, it means that there's always hope.”

RESIDENT



34

PEOPLE
RECEIVED
HOUSING
SERVICES

2,157

TOTAL
NIGHTS OF
HOUSING
PROVIDED



CASE MANAGEMENT

Case management services provided essential support to **32 individuals** residing in the Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars Sober House, delivering a total of **287 sessions** focused on helping residents stabilize and rebuild their lives. Through individualized guidance and consistent follow-up, case managers assisted participants in securing safe and stable housing, accessing medical care, obtaining transportation, pursuing employment opportunities, and meeting other basic needs critical to sustained recovery. This comprehensive, hands-on approach not only addressed immediate barriers but also empowered residents to develop long-term plans that strengthen their independence, well-being, and connection to the community.

“*What Kari has done for me, I wouldn't have been able to do myself. I honestly don't think I would have gotten as far as I did without her. She has helped me go through the process of transitioning from jail to the real world. She helped push me to do my best when I wanted to do nothing. She gave me the inspiration to do more with myself instead of going back to old ways. Without her help, I feel I would not have gotten to hold a job, have affordable housing, or even a chance to be with my two girls again. With her help, my family has placed much more trust in me. And I've gotten as little as just a push in the right direction to living my life as I should have been.*”

PARTICIPANT

PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS REFERRED

 **100%**
HOUSING ASSISTANCE

 **100%**
FOOD/FOOD STAMPS

 **97%**
MEDICAL/INSURANCE

 **94%**
TRANSPORTATION

 **94%**
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

 **6%**
LICENSE/ID CARD

 **3%**
BIRTH CERT/SS CARD

 **3%**
EDUCATION SUPPORT

OVERDOSE RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

Codington County, in collaboration with Emily's Hope, has expanded overdose response and prevention efforts by supplying the community with more than 800 doses of naloxone, increasing access to life-saving intervention. In addition, the county has established a Post-Overdose Response Team (PORT), a multidisciplinary group that connects with individuals within 24–72 hours after an overdose. The PORT team typically includes a peer support specialist, a case manager, and a law enforcement or EMS partner who work together to offer compassionate follow-up, linkage to treatment, harm-reduction resources, and ongoing support aimed at reducing repeat overdoses and strengthening pathways to recovery.



“ Our partnership with Codington RESTART has allowed the Emily's Hope Post-Overdose Response Team to grow in both reach and impact. Through our collaboration and shared commitment, we've been able to expand the Team to provide support to the Watertown area, both efficiently and effectively. Our team is deeply appreciative of this partnership and the positive difference we can make together. ”

DIANA LEAL

“ As the Emily's Hope naloxone program continues to expand, we are very grateful to be guided by the insight of those most familiar with the needs of their communities. We are deeply appreciative for the impact our partnership with RESTART has had in helping us expand naloxone access in Codington County. ”

MARLEY MILLER

808 NALOXONE UNITS
DISTRIBUTED

Use of Naloxone is not tracked



PEER SUPPORT

Codington County formally partnered with Face It Together (FIT) to enhance recovery options using the COSSUP grant to fund one full-time peer support specialist in Codington County. The FIT office is located within the office of Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars. Peer Support is a free service for those struggling with substance use disorder and their loved ones. FIT coaches have lived experience with addiction and can truly connect and understand the challenges of recovery.

190 PEER SUPPORT SESSIONS PROVIDED

“Peer Support for me has meant that someone else ‘gets it’ they’ve walked the same destructive path as I have and found Recovery as I have it means knowing I have a safe place to go to when things get tough or when things go great in life without judgement, it’s not just a support system it’s a way of life with someone who once again ‘gets it’ walking the path of Recovery takes a village and Peer Support is part of that Village and I know I never have to be alone.”

PARTICIPANT

Peer Support Coach Jessica Cooper has played a vital role in strengthening recovery support in Codington County. Through **190 one-on-one coaching sessions**, she has helped **26 individuals** develop coping skills, connect with community resources, and build supportive pathways toward long-term stability and well-being.



RECOVERY EVENTS

Through its sober social events, BSBB creates safe, community-building opportunities that promote healthy relationships and recovery. In 2025, these events saw **1,950** engagements, including major gatherings like Recovery Fest (**250 attendees**), Family Christmas Pictures (**120**), Zoo Day (**113**), and multiple Recovery Smoothie Days (**70 & 60**).

47

RECOVERY EVENTS HELD

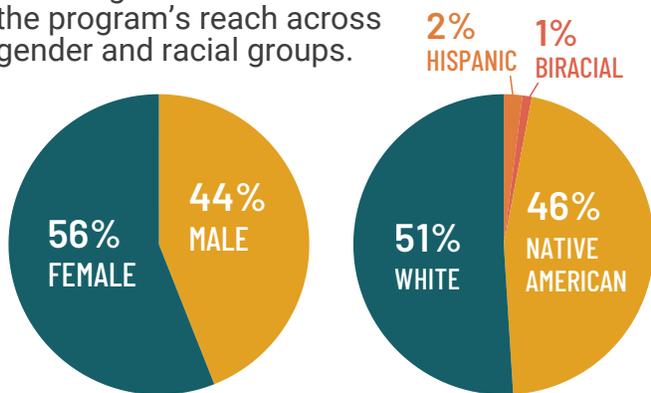
1,950

TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS



2025 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

In 2025, the Codington County RESTART program served a diverse population reflecting the community it supports. Participants were 56% female and 44% male. The majority identified as White (51%), followed closely by Native American participants (46%), with smaller percentages identifying as Hispanic (2%) and Biracial (1%). These figures demonstrate the program's reach across gender and racial groups.



JOIN US ONLINE

In Codington County, recovery isn't just possible, *it's already happening.*

We've launched RESTART, an effort to share real stories, connect you with local resources, and remind everyone that it's never too late to start again. Whether you're worried about yourself, a friend, a coworker, or a loved one, there's support, and there's hope. In 2025, we had over 223,869 views of our resources on Meta, 30,233 views on Snapchat, 4,438 impressions on YouTube, and 8,561 views on the RESTART page.



These are places to talk about alcohol, cannabis, opioids, and stimulants – without shame, without judgment. Because what feels normal isn't always harmless.



JANUARY 2025

- Received COSSUP grant

MARCH 2025

- Implementation of Transition to Success, a community-wide case management system

APRIL 2025

- Hired Grant Coordinator
- Hired a Peer Support Coach through Face It Together

MAY 2025

- Hired Production Monkeys to build and create our RESTART awareness campaign
- Created a partnership with Emily's Hope to set up two Naloxone Distribution Boxes in Watertown

JUNE 2025

- Partnered with Watertown Fire Rescue, Prairie Lakes Hospital, HIDTA, and Overdose Response Strategies to utilize and support OD Map

JULY 2025

- Adult Diversion started

AUGUST 2025

- Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) officially kicked off
- Pretrial Services workgroup was officially established

OCTOBER 2025

- RESTART substance use awareness social media marketing campaign began
- Substance Use Steering Committee meeting held

NOVEMBER 2025

- Applied for Opioid Settlement grant to support pretrial services