



Privacy Information

Alternative Peer Groups (APGs) offer young people with substance use challenges a chance to connect at least once a week with peers in an environment that is fun, safe, substance-free, and recovery-focused. By participating in support groups with other peers who share similar concerns, youth can learn more about their particular circumstances and develop health and wellness skills. The Alternative Peer Group provides an opportunity for sharing experiences and ideas in a caring and supportive environment. Many young people feel they are the only ones dealing with a particular issue. Through group participation, they learn they are not alone and create new relationships that support their recovery by promoting engagement in substance-free, social opportunities. Participation is completely voluntary.

The Alternative Peer Group is facilitated by a young adult trained to use their own lived experience to inspire other young people in taking action towards the creation of better outcomes for their future. Group facilitators are supervised by a licensed counselor.

What information is collected and how will it be used?

The following information is collected by the Alternative Peer Group:

- Demographics (race, gender, etc.)
- Frequency/duration of engagement in the Alternative Peer Group
- Satisfaction with programming
- Recovery capital, or the total resources that one must find to sustain recovery

CONFIDENTIALITY

How will the collected information be used?

Information collected will be anonymously shared with evaluators, funders, APG administrators, and those working to make improvements in the Alternative Peer Group programming or model and to identify trends that help or create barriers to recovery.

Confidentiality is a crucial aspect of Alternative Peer Groups. Contact with the APG Facilitators and counselors is confidential under federal and NH state law, and group members are encouraged to keep information in the group private unless there is a safety concern. Exceptions to confidentiality are cases of mandated reporting due to concerns of suicidal or homicidal behaviors as well as cases of abuse and neglect, including the unlikelihood of court ordered records that must be shared.



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In NH, youth can consent to substance use treatment and supports without parental consent at age 12. This means that parents and caregivers will not be informed about what youth share in an Alternative Peer Group, as well as individual peer support and/or counseling sessions, without explicit written consent by the youth to share information with parents/caregivers. Please understand that we believe in collaborative efforts to support youth, and that in order to maintain the trust of the youth we provide services to, we hold strongly to these policies.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand the above information that will be collected, how privacy will be protected, and that I consent to (myself or my child/ward) completing a survey questionnaire at initial engagement in the APG and every six months, thereafter.

Signature of youth

Date

Signature of caregiver/guardian

Date