

Reflections from Mission Creek Correctional Facility peer training

"Every walk in this life is a learning experience for me, being allowed to hold the space we held with these peers is immeasurable. Feeling the energy and the excitement of their learning is more than I could ever ask for in my career. I thank you, my peers, for your energy and purpose." -Prima Perez

"The CPC training was a yearlong endeavor to realize. It required countless hours of preparation and many meetings with the Correctional Program Manager, Correctional Unit Supervisors, Associate Superintendent, and Superintendent to discuss the purpose and scope of the peer certification. The challenge was trying to facilitate and mediate the needs of the trainers and the security needs of the facility. The hard work was worth it. The men gained an opportunity to make their story meaningful and a voice of resilience for other individuals facing the same struggles of coming out of incarceration. The weeklong training not only gave them meaningful tools but also created a sense of comradery that has continued outside of the training. This is so amazing to see men of different ethnic backgrounds support each other in one of the most 'racially' charged prisons in the state. The request for training such as this came from past community members who wanted an avenue to pursue recovery and utilize the skills they were learning in the 'real world.' I can't express the positive impact this has had and I hope it can continue." -Mr. Ramirez