

Tamra Oman is currently a Human Services Program Coordinator and Recovery Support Specialist at the Wisconsin Resource Center, a mental health treatment facility that is classified as a prison. She was the first “peer/consumer” to be hired in the State of Wisconsin to work in a correctional facility in the past 30 years. Ms. Oman is the 2015 recipient of the State of Wisconsin’s Virginia Hart Award, and her focus over the last 10 years has been working with individuals in the criminal justice system with histories of trauma, addiction, and mental health challenges. She has been an Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Counselor for the past eight years and during that time has also been a contracted agent who facilitates anger management and domestic violence groups within Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities, as well as reentry programming. She provides training for various different DOC staff audiences and county agencies, from administrators to new employees. Ms. Oman has also been a part of the development of a peer support program that has an interest in creating an environment that is mindful of the potential for vicarious trauma and its effects on the individuals who work serving others. She has created programming that correctional facilities use and continues to seek ways to be of service. Ms. Oman has been on many committees and boards in the Madison community and is a co-founder of Voices Beyond Bars and the nonprofit SISTER HOUSE.

Ms. Oman uses humor and compassion to connect with her audience and is often asked to present at conferences, trainings, and community events in Wisconsin and beyond. She brings a unique perspective based on her own personal and professional experiences. Ms. Oman is a proponent of systems creating a recovery “culture” that includes trauma-informed care, person-centered planning, strengths-based approaches, motivational interviewing, and evidence-based practices.