



# SAFER (Substance Abuse-Free Education / Intervention and Referral)

Hertel-Elmwood Recovery Center  
699 Hertel Avenue, Suite 350 Buffalo, NY 14207

## Did You Know?

Data from the SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed:

- 7.4 % of adolescents aged 12 to 17 (or 1.9 million people) used tobacco products or vaped nicotine in the past month. Vaping is by far the most common method of nicotine delivery with 74.9% reporting only vaping.
- Among people aged 12 -20, 14.6% (or 5.6 million) reported past month alcohol use. Youth aged 18-25 have the highest rates of binge drinking compared to other age groups.
- Cannabis is the most common illicitly used drug with 21.8 percent of people aged 12 or older ( or 6.1 million) using it in the past year. Nearly half (47.7% ) of individuals reporting cannabis use are between the ages of 12 - 25.

## SAFER Program

As our community experiences rising rates of vaping, cannabis, and use of other substances among adolescents and young adults, we are eliminating barriers to accessing services by providing intervention in the community.

Horizon offers the Substance Abuse-Free Education/Intervention & Referral (SAFER) Program that provides SBIRT services in the community. Services can be provided directly in Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Universities, and other community settings.

SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment) is a comprehensive, integrated, public health approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for persons with substance use disorders, as well as those who are at risk of developing these disorders.

## Why Screen for Substance Use Concerns?

- Unhealthy substance use is common
- Screenings open up a dialogue about other impacts on a person's life
- Early intervention can PREVENT development of more severe substance use disorders



*Our Mission: Together for Recovery.  
Changing Lives. Saving Lives.*

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## About SBIRT

- Screening quickly assesses the risk of substance use and identifies the appropriate next steps
- Brief intervention focuses on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward changing behavior. Comprehensive education will be provided on the risks associated with substance use and the developing brain.
- Referral to treatment provides those identified as needing more extensive treatment with access to specialty care.
- All services are culturally and linguistically appropriate and aligned with a trauma informed model.

## SAFER Program on the Run!

The SAFER Program offers mobile service delivery at your college or university. Our team can participate in campus-wide tabling events, such as orientation weeks, mental health awareness events, and more, and even set up at your school's counseling center. We're excited to collaborate with you to create a flexible schedule that ensures our counselors are available to support your students throughout the academic year. Please reach out to learn about our mobile services!

## Meet Our Team:

- Melissa Walter – Director of Child & Adolescent Services
- Erin Parr – Project Director
- Emmanuela Deng Gac – Project Coordinator
- 3 SAFER dedicated counselors and our current school-based team
- Molly Gibson – Case Manager
- Family Support Liaison
- Youth Peers through Mental Health Advocates of Western New York



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