



## Stories in Black and White: Honoring Voices of Loss and Recovery

### **Mission/Goal**

Our goal is to reduce the stigma around substance use disorder by sharing real stories from people affected by substance use and the overdose epidemic—honoring those we’ve lost and lifting up recovery and resilience. By listening to lived experiences, we hope to spark honest conversations about substance use disorder and help our family members, friends, and neighbors find support and a path forward in a dangerous and changing drug landscape.

### **Summary**

“Stories in Black and White: Honoring Voices of Loss and Recovery” will feature black and white photos of each person with a brief narrative describing the individual and their life. Participants will submit a digital photo and answers to a brief questionnaire to help us write an impactful and honest narrative. Each photo will be reproduced in black and white, mounted, and framed along with the narrative, and the exhibit will be on display at strategically placed locations within the community. The exhibit can be kept in the community for as long as the community champion believes it to be beneficial. In addition, each participant will receive a copy of the photo and narrative once the exhibit has concluded.

“Stories in Black and White: Honoring Voices of Loss and Recovery” is a collaborative initiative between the project coordinators and the community champion. Each partner plays a distinct role with defined responsibilities, working together to ensure the successful planning and execution of the exhibit.

### **What is your role as a community champion?**

- The community champion is the first point of contact to learn more about the exhibit
- Suggest and confirm location(s) and date(s) for exhibit
- Suggest potential funding sources for costs associated with exhibit (i.e. settlement funds)
- Collaborate with the project coordinators on what local resources to include at exhibit
- Assist with finding individuals interested in participating in the exhibit
- Be the local contact for location, participants, and additional resources for exhibit
- Advertise and promote the exhibit
- Be present during the exhibit and assist with set-up and breakdown of the exhibit

### **What is our role as project coordinators?**

- The coordinators are the point of contact for anyone interested in participating in the exhibit

- Coordinate with the community champion to create a timeline for implementing the exhibit
- Provide parameters for requested photos
- Provide list of questions to be answered for narrative
- Assist with formatting the photos and narratives
- Assist with advertising and promoting the exhibit
- Assist participants with the photos and narratives
- Support participants throughout the exhibit
- Assist with set up and break down of exhibit
- Assist with identifying potential funding sources for exhibit

### **Additional Details**

#### **Exhibit Timeline**

This will be discussed with the community champion as we know that different communities have different needs. The exhibit does not have to stay in one location the entire time and can be moved around the city/county to different high traffic areas that will be impactful.

#### **Pictures and Narratives**

Once the exhibit ends, participants will receive their own picture and narrative.

#### **Responsibility for the Exhibit**

The community champion is responsible for setting up the exhibit and maintaining it for the duration of its scheduled run. Project coordinators will provide support during the initial setup and final takedown, as needed.

#### **Support for Participants**

The Colorado Consortium's Affected Family and Friends Workgroup will be available throughout the process to assist participants and offer individual support.

#### **Potential Costs**

Frames

Print photos

Easels to display photos (optional)

Rental space (ideally free)

#### **Contact Information**

If you are interested in learning more about our efforts to shift perceptions on substance use and would like to have an exhibit in your community, please contact Becca Barnhart at [bbarnhart@cdcfoundation.org](mailto:bbarnhart@cdcfoundation.org).

This project is supported in-part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$17,000,000, with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. A portion of this funding supported the project described in this material. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, the U.S. Government, or the CDC Foundation.