

# RRP 120 — Luciano, Ebony & Jack / Hope Dealers: Peer Services — We're Here to Love You Until You Can Love Yourself

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**Presenter:** Peter B. and Julie L. **Episode Length:** 1:18:00 **Release Date:** June 26, 2026

Recorded live at True Colors Recovery in Portland, this roundtable brings together three returning guests — Luciano Nicolas (Director of Operations, Atlas Treatment Center), Ebony Brawley (Multnomah County Deflection and Outreach Manager, 4D Recovery), and Jack Taylor (Recovery Service Support Coordinator, True Colors Recovery). Together with Peter and Julie, the group breaks down peer services from every angle: what they are, how they differ from sponsorship, the barriers people face in reaching out, and what it looks like when someone meets you exactly where you are — on the streets, in jail, in a tent with a dog you won't leave behind, or just not ready yet.

## Key Points

- **[00:04:00]** Jack introduces True Colors Recovery — a drop-in recovery community center primarily serving the LGBTQ+ community, but open and welcoming to all. Meetings range from AA and Dharma to an upcoming SAA meeting. Walk-in hours: 12:00 PM–8:00 PM, Sunday through Friday. Peer mentors Mordecai and Leo specialize in supporting transgender community members through sobriety and the affirmation journey at the same time.
- **[00:08:30]** Ebony describes her role as Multnomah County Deflection and Outreach Manager for 4D Recovery: teams go out to East County and within six blocks of the Central Library downtown to reach the houseless population with supplies, wound care, and same-day assessments. "We're like little hope dealers out there."
- **[00:11:30]** Luciano introduces Atlas Treatment Center — PHP, IOP, OP, and a DUI program — and the peer service and housing partners they connect clients with, including The Peer Company, Sober Housing Oregon, Sober Living PDX, Galia Recovery, and Northwest Recovery Homes.
- **[00:13:00]** Peter asks the group to define peer services for listeners who may not know the term. Ebony: "A peer is an individual who has lived experience with substance use disorder — they help navigate recovery, self-sufficiency, and reintegration into society." The group digs into how peer mentors differ from sponsors: more professional boundaries, no 12-step work, focused on removing barriers and navigating systems rather than deep personal friendship.
- **[00:19:00]** Luciano shares how peer mentorship changed his own life — connecting with a peer specialist at a True Colors meeting while leaving Providence Hospital, getting into detox that same day, and on July 3rd hearing the one sentence that kept him from walking out: *"In reality, if you leave now, you may not come back."*
- **[00:21:00]** Jack describes the True Colors intake process: answering every call — including from people still in jail — listening without judgment, telling his own story, and connecting people with peer mentors. "I'm the glue." No one is turned away.
- **[00:26:00]** Ebony on outreach: building trust over weeks or months, sometimes visiting the same person many times before they say yes. The story of two brothers who took nearly a year to finally agree to go to detox — and what happened when one left early.

- **[00:44:00]** Common barriers explored: fear of losing a tent or belongings, not being ready today, court dates and appointments — and pets. Luciano: Galia Recovery offers dog-friendly housing. Ebony describes posting anonymously in Facebook pet groups to find fosters for people's animals while they go to treatment. The Pathway Center — a 24-hour sobering and deflection center — will also store belongings while someone sobers up.
- **[00:57:00]** Jack's story: homeless at the Holgate MAX station in 2015, soaking wet in shorts and a tank top in the rain, he passed out — and woke up to find a brand-new warm puffy coat zipped around him by a stranger he never identified. "When I think about it, it stirs something in me."
- **[01:06:00]** Jack on the promise of recovery: "If you can get one month, you can get two. If you can get two, you can get 12. Sky's the limit — you don't have to be broken. You can become whole." Jack is celebrating ten years of continuous sobriety.
- **[01:13:00]** Closing statements — Jack: *"If you go to a meeting or a place and you don't feel you fit in, go somewhere else."* Ebony: *"You're worth it. If you are alive, you matter."* Luciano: *"We're not here to judge you. We're here to help you. We're here to guide you, and we're here to love you until you can love yourself."*

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## Websites Discussed

- True Colors Recovery
- 4D Recovery
- Atlas Treatment Center
- Galia Recovery
- The Peer Company
- Pathway Center
- Sober Housing Oregon
- Sober Living PDX
- Northwest Recovery Homes
- Oxford House
- SnowCap Community Services
- Real Recovery Podcast

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