

Local Site Visits (12:00 pm - 2:30 pm):

Pre-conference attendees will have the option to participate in one local site visit.

Chicago Recovery Alliance

The Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA), founded in 1992, is one of the longest-standing harm reduction programs in the country, and pioneered naloxone distribution in 1996. Today, the CRA offers a variety of mobile harm reduction services including distribution of injecting, smoking, and snorting equipment; overdose response trainings and naloxone distribution; harm reduction counseling; safer drug use supports including a robust drug checking service; HIV and HCV testing and linkage to care; and safer sex supplies.

During this site visit, participants will learn about the history and evolution of CRA's services and then see a brief demo on drug checking services.

Lawndale Christian Health Center

Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing high quality patient care on the West Side of Chicago. The LCHC mission is "to show and share the love of Jesus by promoting wellness and providing quality, affordable healthcare for Lawndale and the neighboring communities."

LCHC offers comprehensive primary care and medication for SUD in all of its clinical locations, with a particular emphasis via its SUD Clinic at 3824 W Ogden Ave., which offers low barrier, walk-in recovery services including medication and daily therapy/recovery groups (avg 15 patients per day for groups and wellness activities). LCHC also offers case management, resource support, integrated behavioral health and psychiatry, and peer/recovery coaching.

Guests will tour LCHC's SUD Clinic and Ogden campus (pharmacy, Green Tomato Café, fitness center, Farm on Ogden).

UI Health Mile Square Health Center

Mile Square Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay, insurance status, or citizenship status. The Main site is located in the IL Medical District and provides outpatient primary care, dental, behavioral health, and addiction services as well as integrated specialty services including cancer survivorship, infectious disease, and endocrinology. In 2021, Mile Square and Family Guidance partnered to create an integrated and co-located outpatient treatment program that provides methadone in addition to buprenorphine and naltrexone provided by MSHC for patients with OUD. This model allows patients to choose from all FDA approved MOUD and receive recovery support and counseling services.

Participants will meet with members of the MSHC and FGC team to discuss the integrated model, work-flows, barriers/facilitators to program implementation, and lessons learned.

Workshop (3:00 pm - 6:00 pm):

Collaborating to Address Systemic Racism in SUD Treatment: Anti-Racist Strategies

Uncover powerful strategies to dismantle systemic racism in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment through anti-racist practices. In this engaging session, the Opioid Response Network will delve into the intricate impact of racism on individuals and institutions, illuminating how personal biases and systemic structures shape our professional and personal worlds. Join us to discover transformative strategies and practical steps that empower individuals and organizations to champion anti-racist change, cultivate equity, and ensure fair treatment for all.

Learning Objectives:

- **Develop Personal Strategies:** Learn specific action steps to cultivate anti-racism within your daily life, challenging implicit biases and fostering inclusive mindsets.
- **Empower Organizational Change:** Explore effective anti-racism strategies that organizations can implement to create equitable policies, practices, and environments in SUD treatment.
- **Strengthen Leadership:** Discover innovative leadership approaches that prioritize racial equity, promote inclusive decision-making, and support systemic transformation.

By the end of this session, participants will be equipped with tangible anti-racist strategies to lead the change in their spheres of influence. Join us at AMERSA 2024 and be part of the movement toward racial justice in SUD treatment.

Film & Panel Discussion: *This is Me Loving You* (7:00 pm - 8:30 pm):

This event is hosted in partnership with PCC Community Wellness Center.

A personal documentary and intimate portrait of how survivors recover, *This is Me Loving You* charts the intersection of pregnancy, abuse and addiction as documented by two women in recovery. The film begins when Sydney, a gregarious heroin user, moves into a Chicago recovery home and befriends Julia, an alcoholic filmmaker—and the film’s Director. When Sydney gets pregnant and returns to her abusive boyfriend, both women re-enter a world of abuse and addiction where they must choose between protecting those they love and saving themselves—all during a historic overdose crisis.

This is Me Loving You uses first-person storytelling to help audiences understand addiction within the context of trauma and show how harm reduction at both a policy and interpersonal level can lead to lifesaving outcomes.

Director/Producer: Julia Hunter

Producer: Danny Alpert

Co-Producer: Kindling Group

The film will be followed by a panel discussion.