

Mid-Year Report

Grantee: Witness to Innocence

People present: Trish Cocia, Cara Cavalovich, Randal Padgett, Conrad, Susan

Date: 10.5.21

Project:

What problem was being addressed? Aging exoneree need for support, combat loneliness.

What actions have been implemented? Hiring Randal full time as Peer Specialist

What went right? Transition from in-person to virtual/phone contact. Good communication between Cara and Randal, division of tasks (social work: peer). Trust and comfort of clients and team. Randal is grateful that he has a FT job through the grant. The peer model is credited to our conversations and annual meeting discussion.

What went wrong? Sad that have just made decision to postpone in-person annual gathering. Org shut down travel. Considering having a story-telling session which will give content for evaluations/grant requests as well as community building. Want to have memorial for 2 who died.

What surprises did you encounter/what was serendipitous? Town Hall meetings are well attended. The Speakers Bureau got technology out to everyone –phones, laptops, internet—shifted travel funds. Randal spoke about the surprise of becoming close friends with a couple other participants once he started focusing on the “elderly.”

How are you measuring effectiveness?

What changes will you make in the remainder of the year? Hope to be able to start home visits.

Are there other ways FFA can support your efforts? Need for peer specialist for families. Support for late life care of partners.

Prediction that the future will include a growing number of aging exonerees as more get released, hoping that need for abolition of death penalty ends.

Notes: This program seems to be finding its rhythm. It could be a model for other groups.

