



Have you found your *PDP? *purpose, drive & passion

By Southeast Health Group

When people in recovery talk about how they stay sober, they often credit their PDP. Finding purpose, drive and passion makes every day worth living. It gives you ways to express gratitude for the many things sobriety has to offer.

Meet Amber Kisamore.

Amber started working for Southeast Health Group as a peer specialist in May 2017.

“I wanted to give back, inspire hope, and show people I care,” said Amber. “I know first-hand that there’s hope. You can have a relationship with your kids again. You can have a normal life.

***“I love my job,
and I can finally
say I have found
my purpose.”***

You need hope in order to move forward in your life.”

Amber was in active heroin addiction for ten years and experienced the deaths of several close friends. These losses convinced her to enter recovery and do what she could to help others trapped in addiction. Since she started as a peer specialist, Amber has received extensive training and will

soon be a Certified Peer and Family Specialist. She plans to continue on a path of helping others.

“The best part of being a peer specialist is being part of other people’s daily lives. You get attached, you build trust, and you get close to the work. You have to be able to support a person no matter what. You give support whether you agree with their choices or not.”

Amber is proud of the successes that happen at Peer 613, a peer support program located at 613 Barnes Avenue in La Junta.

“Everyone who walks in this door is treated with dignity and respect,” she said. “No judgement is placed, and no one is treated on a higher or lower level. When you’ve been down a path and people know what you’ve been through, it’s easier to relate.”

Peer 613 offers many programs and activities to support individuals in recovery from both mental illness and substance use disorders. The next four-week WRAP class is starting on Tuesday, March 19th from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm at the 613 Barnes Avenue location. WRAP stands for Wellness Recovery Action Planning.

A support group for family members happens on Wednesday



Amber Kisamore, Peer Specialist.

nights from 6-7 pm, led by Rebekah Mazarella and Eric Gronemeyer. The informal roundtable is designed to help family members cope with the fear and frustration of watching a loved one use substances. The public is invited to attend all Peer 613 programs and activities at no charge.

“This is the most rewarding job I’ve ever had,” said Amber. “I love my job, and I can finally say I have found my purpose.”

For more information on becoming a Peer Specialist, or attending a peer program in La Junta or Lamar, call Southeast Health Group at 800-511-5446.