

Paul Gonzales, CADCI, CRMII, PSS-MH
Bay Area First Step

Paul is a person in long term recovery from substance use disorder. He works for a nonprofit CBO in rural Coos County Oregon called Bay Area First Step (BAFS). He started off with BAFS in 2018 as a peer support specialist and quickly excelled into a leadership role serving as the services and outreach director. Paul completed an internship while employed at BAFS and obtained his CADCI (Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor). Paul has served as the lead site investigator for several community-based research studies where he has developed a passion for public health research. He also serves on the Coos County Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (LADPC) and holds the position of chairman of the board for the South Coast Gospel Mission.