



New England (HHS Region 1)

MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Juan Vélez Court

Peer Services Coordinator

Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration

Juan Vélez Court is a person with lived experiences related to mental health challenges that works to inspire others to find their own path to recovery. Residing in Puerto Rico, Juan works as the Peer Services Coordinator for the Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration of the island. He's a certified Peer Specialist who also trains peers that work in mental health and substance use service settings. He directed and produced a short film, *Eternal Thought*, based on his story in 2011, and has been a resource for local news, television, and radio stations, speaking about recovery support services and Systems of Care (SOC). Additionally, Juan provided technical assistance for Puerto Rico's SOC grantees. Juan is a former President of Puerto Rico's Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Council and was a panelist for SAMHSA's 2017 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Event. Juan is also a certified eCPR Facilitator and is a consultant with C4 Innovations, where he focuses on leadership development and peer wellness.

Most recently, Juan launched a podcast titled, *"Happy to Fail,"* which chronicles chapters of his life, with the goal of demonstrating that people with mental health challenges can live happy, healthy, and productive lives. Juan's ultimate goal is to support the development of communities that want to celebrate life where people are not afraid to smile, find success, and overcome challenges.

