

BUILDING COMPASSION:

**HARMONIZING
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH &
ENGAGEMENT,
EVANGELISM AND
HARM REDUCTION**

Pastor Timothy Anderson
Rae Ann Barnett, RN, MSN-FNP
Monica Lee Ridgeway, BA, MPA



ABOUT US

Our Mission is to:

Unite diverse communities through compassionate outreach and engagement, bridging the gap between harm reduction principles, evangelism and community outreach. By fostering understanding, collaboration, and respect, we strive to create inclusive spaces where individuals can access support, resources and empowerment on their unique journeys towards health and well-being.





ABOUT US

Our Why

Rooted in the belief that every individual deserves dignity, compassion, and support, regardless of their circumstances or background. By bridging the gap between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement, we aim to create inclusive spaces where all voices are heard, valued, and respected. Our goal is to foster understanding, empathy, and collaboration, ultimately leading to holistic healing and positive transformation within our communities. Through our collective efforts, we strive to build bridges of compassion and solidarity, ensuring that everyone has access to the care, resources, and support they need to thrive."

Meet the Presenters



Pastor Timothy Anderson

Life Development
Corporation
Kingdom Fellowship
Christian Life Center



Rae Ann Barnett, RN, MSN-FNP

New Hope Church
Twin Rocks Bible Camp



Monica Lee Ridgeway, BA, MPA

Life Development
Corporation
The GMG Legacy
Foundation

Learning Objectives

In this session, our focus is on understanding and navigating the complex intersections between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement to effectively bridge any existing gaps. Participants will explore how traditional evangelism and outreach efforts often encounter challenges in addressing the multifaceted needs of communities, especially those marginalized or facing social disparities.

Goals

Understand the principles and goals of harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement.

Goal 2

Recognize the potential challenges and limitations of traditional approaches within each of these areas.

Goal 3

Explore the intersections between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement, and the importance of integrating these approaches for comprehensive support.

Goal 4

Identify key strategies for bridging the gap between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement.



Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, attendees will be equipped with the tools and insights needed to create more holistic, empathetic, and impactful outreach efforts that promote healing, empowerment, and social justice within their communities.

Goal 5

Explore practical tools and resources for implementing a more holistic and inclusive approach in community outreach and engagement efforts.

Goal 6

Reflect on personal beliefs and attitudes towards harm reduction and consider how they may impact outreach and engagement efforts.

Goal 7

Develop actionable steps for promoting collaboration and synergy between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement initiatives.

Goal 8

Commit to fostering a culture of compassion, understanding, and support within our communities through integrated approaches that prioritize the well-being and dignity of all individuals.



What is Community Outreach and Engagement?

- Involves connecting with individuals and groups within a community
- Aims to build relationships and foster collaboration
- Addresses shared concerns or goals
- Actively reaches out to community members
- Listens to their needs and perspectives
- Involves them in decision-making processes
- Empowers community members
- Enhances community cohesion
- Promotes positive social change through inclusive and participatory approaches

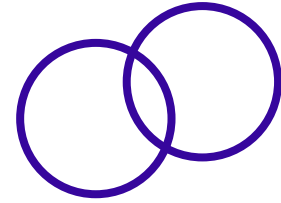


What is Evangelism?

- A religious practice aimed at spreading beliefs or teachings
- Involves sharing the message of a faith or belief system with others
- Often includes efforts to convert individuals to the beliefs being shared
- Can be conducted through various means such as preaching, teaching, or personal conversations
- Focuses on communicating the values and principles of a particular faith or ideology
- Seeks to inspire spiritual transformation or commitment in others
- Often motivated by a desire to bring others into alignment with one's own beliefs or worldview



What is Harm Reduction?



(H)arm (R)eduction

A movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

(h)arm (r)eduction

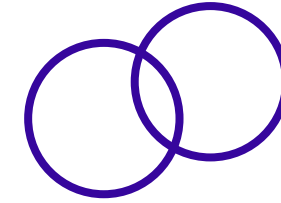
A set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.

OVERDOSE
DOES NOT
DISCRIMINATE

31 AUGUST

—
INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE
AWARENESS DAY

What is Stigma? Cycles of Drug User Stigma?



Stigma

A **social process** which can reinforce relations of **power and control**.

Leads to **status loss** and **discrimination** for stigmatized.

Cycles of Drug User Stigma

- Stigma
- Stereotypes/Labels
- Expectations/Roles
- Limited Opportunities
- Internalized & Reinforced

Stigma vs Discrimination

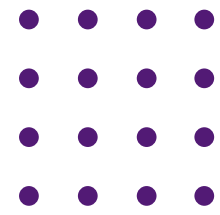
STIGMA is the belief.

DISCRIMINATION is the action.

OVERDOSE
CAN AFFECT
ANYONE.

31 AUGUST

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE
AWARENESS DAY



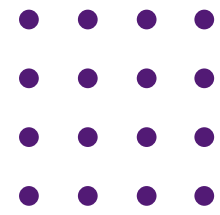
GOAL 1

PRINCIPLES

Understand the principles and goals of harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement.



- **Prioritizes the DIGNITY autonomy, and well-being while focusing on minimizing negative consequences rather than eliminating behaviours.**
- **Emphasize personal transformation.**
- **Build relationships, raise awareness and address needs.**
- **Involve community members in decision-making and recognize community expertise.**



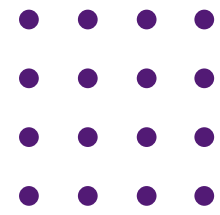
GOAL 1

GOALS

Understand the principles and goals of harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement.



- Increase access to education, resources, and support services for vulnerable populations.
- Build community and fellowship among believers and seekers.
- Raise awareness of resources available to community members and build TRUST, rapport and solidarity within the community.
- Empower community members to take ownership of their own well-being and advocate for their needs.



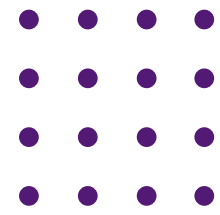
GOAL 2

PRINCIPLES

Recognize the potential challenges and limitations of traditional approaches within each of these areas.

- Stigma surrounding harm reduction may conflict with traditional principles of abstinence-only approaches.
- Cultural insensitivity or imposition of religious beliefs may alienate communities and hinder effective outreach.
- Limited resources and capacity for sustained outreach efforts and community engagement.
- Limited representation and inclusion of marginalized voices in decision-making processes.





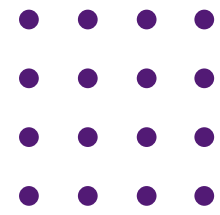
GOAL 2

GOALS

Recognize the potential challenges and limitations of traditional approaches within each of these areas.



- Education and awareness campaigns to address stigma and increase understanding of harm reduction.
- Foster cultural humility and respect for diverse beliefs and practices in evangelism efforts.
- Prioritize building trusting relationships with communities through transparent communication and genuine partnership.
- Cultivate diverse and inclusive spaces that amplify marginalized voices and foster collaboration across communities.



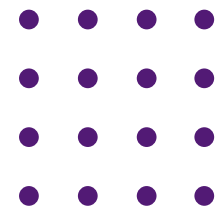
GOAL 3

IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATION

Explore the intersections between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement, and the importance of integrating these approaches for comprehensive support.



- **Recognize that integrating these approaches offers holistic support addressing physical, spiritual, and social needs.**
- **Emphasize collaboration and partnership to leverage strengths and resources effectively.**
- **Ensure interventions are non-coercive and empower individuals to take control of their health and spiritual journey.**
- **Recognize and respect diverse cultural and religious beliefs within communities.**



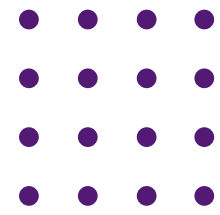
GOAL 3

SOLUTIONS

Explore the intersections between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement, and the importance of integrating these approaches for comprehensive support.



- **Develop programs that offer a range of services addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.**
- **Foster partnerships between harm reduction organizations, religious institutions, and community groups to provide comprehensive support.**
- **Promote understanding and dialogue between different sectors to reduce stigma and promote acceptance of integrated approaches.**
- **Provide training and resources to professionals and community members on the benefits of integration and how to implement collaborative initiatives effectively.**



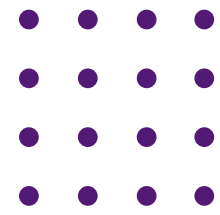
GOAL 4

KEY STRATEGIES

Identify key strategies for bridging the gap between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement.



- **Cross-Sector Collaboration**
 - Encourage open communication and shared goals to promote collaboration and synergy in addressing community needs.
- **Education and Training**
 - Promote mutual respect and understanding to facilitate effective collaboration and teamwork.
- **Integrated Services Delivery**
 - Develop integrated service models that offer a range of support, including harm reduction services, spiritual guidance, and community resources.



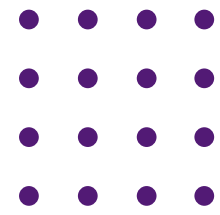
GOAL 4

KEY STRATEGIES

Identify key strategies for bridging the gap between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement.



- **Cultural Competency**
 - Tailor outreach efforts and engagement strategies to resonate with the cultural values and preferences of the target audience.
- **Empowerment and Participation**
 - Empower individuals to take ownership of their health and well-being through education, advocacy, and support.
- **Stigma Reduction**
 - Challenge stigma and discrimination associated with harm reduction practices and religious beliefs.



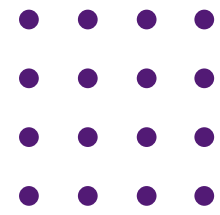
GOAL 5

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Explore practical tools and resources for implementing a more holistic and inclusive approach in community outreach and engagement efforts.



- **Community Needs Assessment**
 - Conduct surveys, focus groups, or interviews to gather insights into the specific needs and challenges of the community.
- **Resource Mapping**
 - Identify existing resources and services available within the community, including healthcare facilities, social service organizations, religious institutions, and grassroots initiatives.
- **Cultural Competency Training**
 - Provide cultural sensitivity training to ensure that outreach efforts are respectful and inclusive of diverse cultural backgrounds.
 - Incorporate cultural traditions, language and customs into outreach materials and activities.



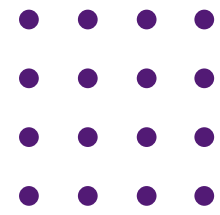
GOAL 5

GOALS

Explore practical tools and resources for implementing a more holistic and inclusive approach in community outreach and engagement efforts.



- **Capacity Building**
 - Offer training and skill-building workshops for community members, volunteers, and organizational staff to enhance their ability to address diverse needs effectively.
- **Partnership Development**
 - Forge strategic partnerships with local stakeholders, including government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and faith-based organizations.
- **Technology and Innovation**
 - Leverage technology tools and digital platforms to facilitate outreach and engagement, such as social media, mobile apps, and virtual events.



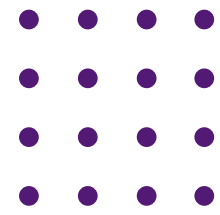
GOAL 6

REFLECTIONS, BELIEFS & ATTITUDES

Reflect on personal beliefs and attitudes towards harm reduction and consider how they may impact outreach and engagement efforts.



- **Self-Reflection**
 - Take the time to examine yourself and reflect on any preconceived notions or stigmas associated with substance use, addiction, and related issues.
- **Open-Mindedness**
 - Approach harm reduction with an open mind and willingness to learn about alternative perspectives and approaches.
- **Collaboration and Support**
 - Engage in discussions and dialogues with peers and community members.



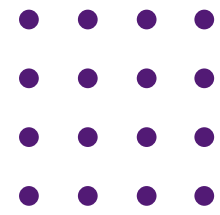
GOAL 6

REFLECTIONS, BELIEFS & ATTITUDES

Reflect on personal beliefs and attitudes towards harm reduction and consider how they may impact outreach and engagement efforts.



- **Empathy and Compassion**
 - Cultivate empathy and compassion towards individuals who may be struggling with addiction or facing challenges related to substance use.
- **Cultural Sensitivity**
 - Respect cultural diversity and avoid imposing personal beliefs on others during outreach and engagement efforts.
- **Continuous Learning**
 - Stay informed about evidence-based practices.
 - Attend training workshops, summits, conferences to continue to expand knowledge and skills.



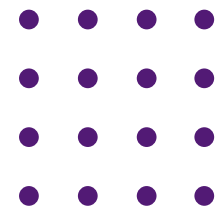
GOAL 7

ACTION STEPS



Develop actionable steps for promoting collaboration and synergy between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement initiatives.

- **Identify Common Goals**
 - Determine shared objectives and priorities among harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement initiatives and align efforts toward common outcomes
- **Establish Partnerships**
 - Leverage collective resources, expertise, and networks to enhance the impact of initiatives and reach a broader audience.
- **Coordinate Activities**
 - Coordinate outreach events, workshops, and campaigns to integrate harm reduction principles with evangelism and community engagement activities.



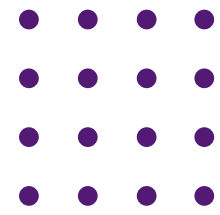
GOAL 7

ACTION STEPS

Develop actionable steps for promoting collaboration and synergy between harm reduction, evangelism, community outreach, and engagement initiatives.



- **Share Resources and Tools**
 - Share educational materials, best practices and tools across all sectors.
- **Promote Cross-Training**
 - Provide opportunities for cross-training and skill development among staff and volunteers involved in harm reduction, evangelism, and outreach.
- **Evaluate and Adapt**
 - Continuously monitor and evaluate collaborative efforts to assess their impact and effectiveness.
 - Use feedback and data-driven insights to address the needs within th community.



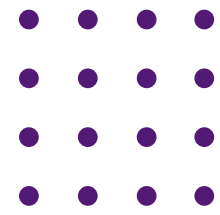
GOAL 8

THE COMMITMENT

Commit to fostering a culture of compassion, understanding, and support within our communities through integrated approaches that prioritize the well-being and dignity of all individuals.



- **Promote Empathy and Understanding**
 - Foster a culture of compassion by promoting empathy, understanding, and non-judgmental attitudes towards individuals facing challenges related to harm reduction, evangelism, and community outreach.
- **Prioritize Dignity and Respect**
 - Uphold the dignity and worth of all individuals, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances.



GOAL 8

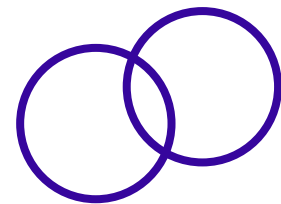
THE COMMITMENT

Commit to fostering a culture of compassion, understanding, and support within our communities through integrated approaches that prioritize the well-being and dignity of all individuals.



- **Provide Holistic Support**
 - Offer comprehensive services and resources that promote well-being, resilience, and self-empowerment.
- **Combat Stigma and Discrimination**
 - Advocate for inclusive policies and practices that promote equity, diversity, and social justice within our communities.
- **Build Community Connections**
 - Create spaces where individuals feel accepted, valued, and supported in their journey towards healing and transformation.

Pastor Tim Anderson Life Development Corp.



RootHarvest

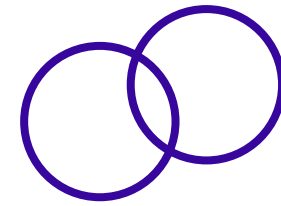
- Addresses food justice issues, ensuring that people have access to affordable, nutritious food options, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location.

M.O.V.E./L.O.V.E.

- Mentorship and developmental program for grades 6th-12th.
- Implements academic coaching and mentorship programs to address the educational gap.



Pastor Tim Anderson Kingdom Fellowship CLC



Kicks4Kids

- Provides shoes for the youth in the community.

Back to School Supplies

- Partnering with JCPS to provide backpacks for students within the community.

Food Pantry

- Provides food for those in the community in need.



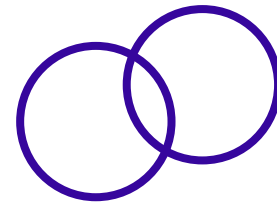
Rae Ann Barnett New Hope

Food Pantry

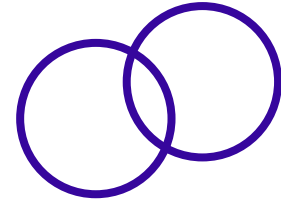
- Meet nutritional needs of the community in Hazard, KY.

Cup of Hope

- street feeding ministry providing hot meal twice each week



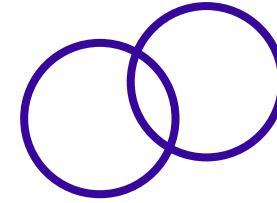
Rae Ann Barnett New Hope Partnerships



The Baby Pantry

- Partnership with the Kentucky Infant Development Station, Inc.
 - Provides baby care items for at risk babies aged birth to 3 years old.
 - Provides partnering services, including harm reduction, HIV and HCV testing, education and prevention, referrals and etc.



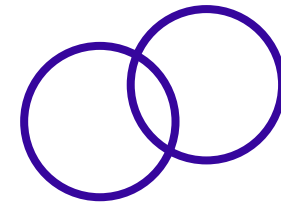


Rae Ann Barnett Twin Rocks Bible Camp

- Camp ministry offers free summer camp experience for children.
- Approximately 95% of camp attendees are from at-risk homes, foster care, and low-income families.
- Some children have been victims of exploitation in the sex and drug trade.
- Mission group engage in various community services activities including food ministries and baby pantry support.



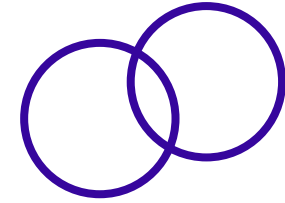
Monica Lee Ridgeway Life Development Corporation



- ElevateEquity
 - Focuses on closing the wealth gap and increasing ownership through economic development initiatives.
- Offers trauma-informed care spaces for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, in partnership with Best Life Louisville Mental Health Services.



Monica Lee Ridgeway Life Development Corporation

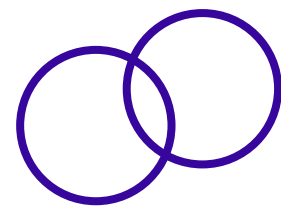


- Cultivates partnerships with organizations like Emmaus Ministries, Inc., Blak Koffee, and Vissionaireum to strengthen community support and resources.
- Implements programs focused on closing the wealth gap, increasing ownership, and tackling educational and food justice issues.



Monica Lee Ridgeway

The GMG Legacy Foundation



The GMG Legacy Foundation is dedicated to fostering equity, leadership, education, inclusion, and diversity in Western Kentucky and the Tri-City Area. Through strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and community-driven initiatives, we aim to empower leaders, improve educational outcomes, and cultivate inclusive environments where diversity is embraced and celebrated.



Group Activity

01

Activity One

This community activity will focus on addressing and tackling food justice issues that promote equity in nutrition and food access. How can you harmonize community outreach and engagement, evangelism, and Harm Reduction.

02

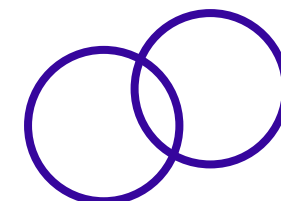
Activity Two

This community activity will focus on people who use drugs (PWUD) and participate in sex work. How can you harmonize community outreach and engagement, evangelism, and Harm Reduction.

03

Activity Three

This community activity will be a community and resource fair for a community that doesn't have resources like the community on the east side of the city. How can you harmonize community outreach and engagement, evangelism, and Harm Reduction.



How can we Harmonize Community Outreach, Evangelism and Harm Reduction

Respect for Individual Beliefs

Recognize and respect the diversity of beliefs and values within communities. Approach outreach and engagement efforts with sensitivity to cultural and religious differences.



Compassionate and Non-Judgmental Approach

Emphasize empathy, understanding, and acceptance in interactions with individuals, regardless of their beliefs or lifestyle choices. Avoid stigmatizing language or attitudes.



Education and Awareness

Provide accurate information and education on harm reduction strategies, religious teachings, and community resources. Empower individuals with knowledge to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



How can we Harmonize Community Outreach, Evangelism and Harm Reduction

Collaborative Partnerships

Foster partnerships and collaborations between religious organizations, community groups, healthcare providers, and social service agencies. Work together to address overlapping issues and maximize impact.



Promote Dignity and Respect

Uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals, regardless of their circumstances. Treat everyone with respect and dignity, valuing their inherent worth as human beings.



Continuous Learning and Adaption

Stay open to feedback and learning opportunities. Continuously evaluate and adapt outreach and engagement strategies based on community needs, feedback from stakeholders, and evolving best practices.



Resources

Grim, B. J., & Grim, M. E. (2019, October). Belief, behavior, and belonging: How faith is indispensable in preventing and recovering from substance abuse. *Journal of religion and health*.

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Project, R. (2021, March 23). Why communities of faith should support harm reduction. *Getting to Tomorrow*. <https://gettingtomorrow.ca/2021/02/13/why-communities-of-faith-should-support-harm-reduction/>



Resources

Harney, K. (2017, July 17). 10 lessons Jesus teaches us about evangelism. outreachmagazine.com. <https://outreachmagazine.com/features/19433-jesus-evangelism.html>

Dreams, C. (2023, August 1). "A more loving, just church": Harm reduction and faith communities. Filter. <https://filtermag.org/faith-in-harm-reduction/>

T. Anderson, personal communication, March 10, 2024.

R. Barnett, personal communication, March 10, 2024.

M. Ridgeway, personal communication, March 10, 202

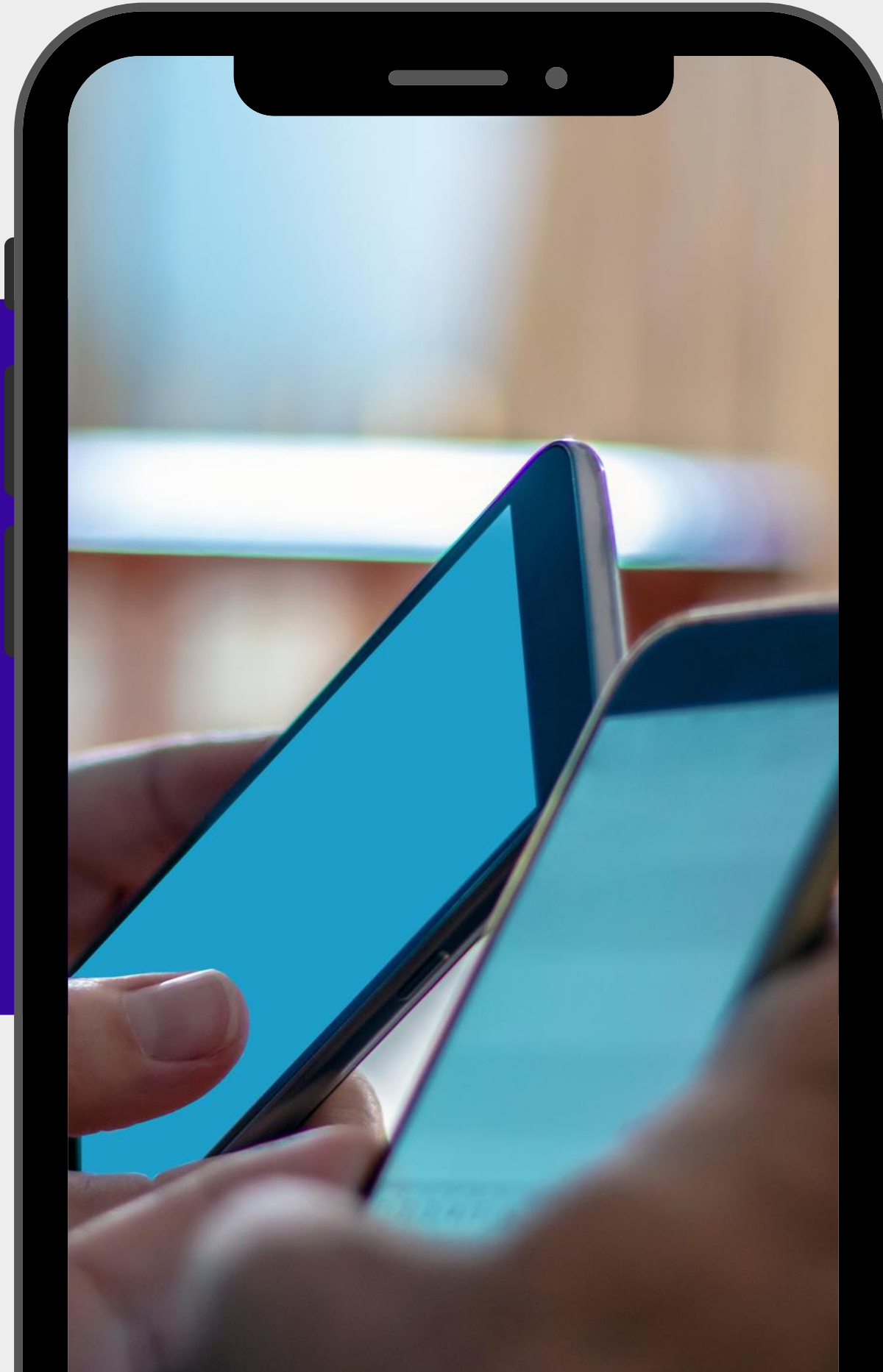


Stay Connected

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QUESTIONS?



Thank You

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended the presentation today.

