

Devin Dawson (They/Them/Their)

Mentor| In-Person Preferred • Telehealth Available

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

LGBTQ+ Health & Wellness • Emotional Intelligence • Anxiety & Depression • Executive Dysfunction • Grief & Loss Support • Eating Disorder Recovery • Self-Care Strategies • Trauma Recovery • Conversion Therapy Survival • Suicidal Ideation Support • Sexual Assault Recovery • Community Advocacy • Independent Living Skills • Interpersonal Communication

ABOUT DEVIN

Devin Dawson brings profound personal experience and unwavering resilience to their role as a Peer Specialist with Eau Claire Cruisers. At 31, this nonbinary advocate has transformed their own journey through significant challenges into a powerful source of healing and support for others in the LGBTQ+ community and beyond.

PERSONAL JOURNEY & LIVED EXPERIENCE

Devin's path to peer support began early, with anxiety manifesting at age eight due to unstable living situations. Their courage in coming out as gay at eleven, despite facing family rejection and loss of privacy, demonstrates the strength that would carry them through subsequent challenges.

Their lived experience includes:

- Surviving conversion therapy as a teenager
- Overcoming family rejection and being disowned at eighteen
- Navigating college independently without family support
 - Processing sexual assault trauma
- Breaking cycles of unhealthy coping mechanisms

- Finding healing through education and service to others

A pivotal moment came through an introductory Social Work course that helped Devin realize their power to rewrite their story. This revelation led them to choose healing, stop drinking, and dedicate their life to helping others with similar experiences find strength and community.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES

Devin offers comprehensive support in building independence and life skills:

Independent Living Skills:

- Mindful cooking and nutrition
- Personal budgeting and financial planning
- Home organization and time management
- Resume construction and job search strategies
 - Building sustainable resource networks
 - Employability skill development

Mental Health & Wellness:

- LGBTQ+ affirming support
- Trauma-informed peer counseling
- Anxiety and depression management
 - Grief and loss processing
 - Self-care strategy development
- Interpersonal communication skills

Specialized Trauma Support:

- Conversion therapy recovery
- Sexual assault survivor support
- Family rejection and estrangement
- Suicidal ideation and crisis support
- Eating disorder recovery guidance

APPROACH TO PEER SUPPORT

Devin's approach is rooted in creating safe, understanding spaces where clients can:

- Process their experiences without judgment
- Develop practical life skills for independence
 - Build confidence and stability
- Connect with community and resources
- Find their own path to healing and growth

Their extensive personal experience allows them to meet clients where they are, offering hope and practical guidance from someone who truly understands the journey.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & ADVOCACY

Devin is passionate about community action and LGBTQ+ advocacy, understanding firsthand the importance of representation and support for marginalized communities. They work to create inclusive spaces and promote understanding through their peer support work.

PERSONAL INTERESTS & WELLNESS

Devin maintains their own wellness through creative and social activities:

- Board games and video gaming
 - Fantasy literature
- Dungeons & Dragons (experienced Dungeon Master with 10+ years)
 - Singing and cooking
- Sewing (recently discovered passion)


These interests often become tools for connection and healing in their peer support work, demonstrating that recovery and wellness can include joy, creativity, and community.


EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT


Devin's transformative experience in Social Work education sparked their commitment to helping others. They continue to develop their skills and knowledge to better serve their community.

Devin's story is one of remarkable resilience—transforming pain into purpose and using their experiences to light the way for others. Their combination of lived experience, practical skills, and genuine empathy makes them an invaluable resource for anyone seeking support, particularly those in the LGBTQ+ community or facing similar life challenges.

Contact Eau Claire Cruisers to connect with Devin:

 eauclairecruisers@gmail.com

 715-450-6472

 3207 Eldorado Blvd, Eau Claire, WI 54701