

MEET THE PRESENTERS

And learn more about the topics they will present.



BEN CORT

Chief Executive Officer,
Cort Counseling



BIO:

Ben's passion for recovery, prevention, and harm reduction comes from his own struggle with substance abuse. Sober since 6/15/96, Ben has been a part of the recovery movement in almost every way imaginable; from a recipient to a provider to a spokesperson. In 2007 Ben left his position as an HR director inside of a Denver-based S&P 500 firm to help start the Colorado-based nonprofit, Phoenix Multisport, now "The Phoenix". As an original board member and then their first full-time employee, Ben was instrumental in building this organization that has received frequent national recognition for its innovative approach to building sober communities around sport and healthy activities. In 2012, Cort joined the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) where he ran the marketing, business development and admissions departments for their substance abuse treatment services known as CeDAR. He left that role in 2017 to consult inside of the treatment community, athletics, and organized labor. Throughout this time Ben has remained active in the discussion around marijuana, assisting several states' efforts to hold back Big Marijuana and always advocating for recovery. These efforts keep him close to the national discussion and make him a frequent guest in the media. Ben has earned a reputation as being pro-logic and recovery-oriented rather than anti-anything.

Ben is considered a subject matter expert on ethical treatment practices, having written a widely adopted curriculum on the subject and frequently discussing the topic on national platforms and media. He is also utilized by professional sports leagues, clubs, and collegiate athletic programs to determine the appropriate treatment for their athletes, coaches, and their families as well as develop recovery-oriented policies. Ben also spends a good deal of time inside of organized labor assisting unions with training, policy and program development as well as crisis management.

Ben is a Jr Fellow at the University of Florida inside of their drug policy institute, a board member for NALGAP (National Association of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender treatment providers, and their allies), a Board member at SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) and faculty at numerous institutes. He is a published author (Weed Inc, HCI/Simon and Schuster 2017). His TED talk "Surprising Truths About Legalizing Cannabis" has been viewed over 4 million times. In November of 2019, Ben moved from a consulting role with the Foundry Steamboat Springs to CEO. When not working or hanging out with his wife and three kids, Ben can be found chasing trout with his flyrod or buried deep in a book.

21st Century Marijuana: How It's Changed, and Its Impact on Mental Health and Treatment.

Recent political changes in relation to marijuana are only part of the story. This presentation will review the publicized and politically charged world of drug policy and how it has undergone immense changes over the past several years. As well as, how those changes manifest not just in policy but also in the physical makeup of the cannabis plant and products derived from components of the plant. Not only has the perception of the plant changed, the actual plant itself has undergone dramatic changes as it has been industrialized and brought into a commercial market. As public opinion has softened towards cannabis the effects of consuming today's marijuana remain poorly understood as do methods for effective intervention on the THC dependent individual.