



Academy of Peer Services
Virtual Community News Digest
March 22, 2017

A news digest of the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community
<https://virtualcommunityblog.wordpress.com/>

Welcome to the Virtual Community News Digest (VCND), a summary of upcoming events, news items, and job openings for the peer support workforce in New York State.

Contents this Digest

- Deadlines
- Upcoming Events
- Research Studies Seeking Participants
- New Resources
- New Job Openings
- Contact Us!

Deadlines

Academy of Peer Services (APS) Term 1 ends Friday, March 31

If you are currently enrolled in the Academy of Peer Services,
Term 1 2017 will end on Friday, March 31st at 5 pm.
Please complete any courses and post-tests you have in progress before then.

--- Call for Proposals and Prospectus Deadlines ---

WRAP Around the World Conference,

Sacramento, CA | June 5-7, 2017

[Call for WRAP Workshop Proposals](#)

Deadline: March 23, 2017

Alternatives Conference,

Boston, MA | August 18-21, 2017

[Call for ALTERNATIVES Workshop Proposals](#)

Deadline extended, now due: March 24, 2017

Upcoming Events (listed chronologically)

----- **New York State Office of Mental Health** -----

Thursday, March 23, 2017 | 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 24, 2017 | 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

[Benefits and Entitlement Programs \(SSI, SSDI, Medicaid\)](#)

Presented by John B. Allen Jr. Special Assistant to the Commissioner, NYS OMH

2-Day Live Seminar and Webinar

On-Site Seminar Location:

Buffalo Psychiatric Center 400 Forest Ave,
Butler Building Auditorium,
Buffalo, New York 14213-1298

Webinar Access:

[Webinar Day One Link](#)

Event number: 643 873 850 | Password: nysomh123

[Webinar Day Two Link](#)

Event number: 647 992 498 | Password: nysomh123

SW CEU credits available. [Click here for a flyer with more information.](#)

----- National Webinar -----

Thursday, March 23, 2017 | 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET

BRSS TACS Recovery LIVE Webinar
Making the Case: Communicating the Value of Peer Support Services

[Visit the BRSS TACS website to register](#)

----- National Webinar -----

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 | 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET

Peer Specialist Webinar Series: **Community Inclusion and Peer Support
Supporting Increased Community Participation**

Presented by Matthew Federici of the Copeland Center

[Visit the Doors to Wellbeing Technical Assistance Center to register](#)

----- New York State Office of Mental Health -----

Friday, March 31, 2017 | 2:00–4:00 p.m. EST (2 hours)

Online Discussion (Webinar): Maintaining “Peerness” While Working

An online discussion about maintaining one's peer values, perspective, and identity while working with people who are mostly non-peers. Please be prepared to use your phone to ask questions. We will do this in a talk radio type of format. People will use the "raise hand" function and we will unmute your line and call out your name.

This will not be an anonymous event.

[Webinar Link:](#)

Event number: 647 471 704 | Event password: nysomh123

Audio conference information

Provide your number when you join the event to receive a call back.

Alternative to call back: You can call one of the following numbers:

Local: 1-518-549-0500

Toll Free: 1-844-633-8697

Toll Free: 1-866-776-3553

If you use one of the alternate numbers, follow the instructions that you hear on the phone.

----- Boston -----

Sunday, April 2, 2017 | 2:00–7:00 p.m.

25 Year Anniversary of the National Empowerment Center (NEC)

[Click here for more information](#)

----- New York City -----

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 | 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Consumer Leadership Meeting

Dept. of Mental Health and Hygiene – Office of Consumer Affairs

Location: Gotham Center 42-09 28th St., 14th Floor, Conference Room 14-43,
Long Island City, New York 11101

You must RSVP for this meeting. Call 347-396-7194 by March 31st.

Please bring I.D. in order to enter our offices.

To learn more, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at (347) 396-7194 or oca@health.nyc.gov.

----- New York State Office of Mental Health -----

Friday, April 7, 2017 | 10:30–12:00 p.m. EDT

Webinar: Updates on the Peer Specialist Certification in New York State

Presenters:

- Tara Davis, Certification Coordinator, The New York Peer Specialist Certification Board
- Joseph Swinford, Office of Consumer Affairs, NYS Office of Mental Health.
- Amy Colesante, Executive Director, Mental Health Empowerment Project

There are many advantages of becoming a certified peer specialist. Such peers are recognized as being qualified to work with individuals based on “The Shared Personal Experience” paradigm. This recognized qualification is acknowledged by professional affiliations, state, and national legislation.

This discipline enables the opportunity for peer networking, in addition to involvement and impact through NYPSCB sponsored education opportunities and committee work enhancing professionalism in the field and becomes strong basis for employment hiring and professional advancement. Programs utilizing certified professionals to provide peer support services may be qualified to bill Medicaid.

Webinar: Updates on the Peer Specialist Certification in New York State (Continued)

The clients and the family members served become beneficiaries of continuously improved services brought about through standards of training and competency that will meet standards required for licensing, accreditation, and third-party payers. These marketable credentials not only enhance the range of services delivered by the treatment process; they also provide opportunity to establish, maintain, and update the delivery of higher professional standards. This presentation will provide up to date information on Peer Certification.

Webinar Link:

Event number: 644 498 663 | Event password: nysomh123

Audio conference information

Provide your number when you join the event to receive a call back.

Alternative to call back: You can call one of the following numbers:

Local: 1-518-549-0500

Toll Free: 1-844-633-8697

Toll Free: 1-866-776-3553

If you use one of the alternate numbers, follow the instructions that you hear on the phone.

----- National Webinar -----

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. ET

Peer-Run Respite: Effective Alternatives to Hospitals

Description: Leaders of Peer-run Respite from around the country will provide an overview of Peer-run Respite and how they voluntarily engage people and offer a continuity of care which is often unavailable with traditional care and hospitalization. Success stories will be shared, along with reports from the latest research on Peer-run Respite effectiveness. **Moderator:** Oryx Cohen, MPA

Presenters

- Steve Miccio – Executive Director, Projects to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled, Inc. (PEOPLE, Inc.)
- Bevin Croft, M.A., M.P.P., Human Services Research Institute
- Daniel B. Fisher, MD, Ph.D. – Chief Executive Officer, National Empowerment Center, Inc.
- Jayme Lynch – Director of First Peer Support and Wellness Center in Decatur, GA
- Camille Dennis – Program Coordinator, SHARE! (the Self-Help and Recovery Exchange)
- Faith Boersma – Wisconsin Peer-Run Respite
- Roslind Hayes – Statewide Coordinator of the Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers (PSWRC)

[Click to register](#)

----- **New York State** -----

Thursday/Friday, April 27-28, 2017

NYAPRS 13th Annual Executive Seminar: All Hands on Deck

[Click for Sponsor and Vendor Prospectus](#)

----- **Buffalo** -----

April 28, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

2017 Healthy Alternatives through Healing Arts (HAHA)

(Buffalo Psychiatric Center)

[Click to learn more](#)

Save the Date / Mark Your Calendar

----- **New York City** -----

July 13, 2017

New York City Peer Specialist Conference

(registration coming soon)

----- **Statewide** -----

**OMH Recipient Advisory Council (RAC) by video conference
(unless otherwise specified)**

-- May 22, 2017 - video conference

-- July 31-Aug. 1, 2017 - in-person

-- Nov. 13, 2017 - video conference

Participate in Research Studies!

----- **University of Pennsylvania** -----

We are seeking people to complete a short survey for a research project investigating how people learn and use a program called WRAP to pursue recovery. This survey is part of a project to help us understand how to make WRAP more helpful and more accessible to more people.

University of Pennsylvania – WRAP Study (continued)

For this survey, we are looking for people who meet the following criteria:

- Adults (at least 18-years-old)
- Graduated from WRAP programming within the past 6 months to 2 years
- Have experienced a serious mental illness

The survey will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete. It begins by gathering some basic demographic information and then asks questions about WRAP, recovery, symptoms, self-reflection, problem-solving, and social support. Participation in this research project is completely voluntary. Once you complete the survey, you may choose to enter your contact details so that a \$10 gift card to Target can be mailed to you.

To complete the survey, please click on the link below:

https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cORpTb8JRleT8BD

Thank you for your time and interest! You may also forward this email to anyone you think might be interested in taking this survey. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact one of the researchers involved in this project: Ryan Petros at petrosr@sp2.upenn.edu.

---- Yale University ----

Recovery Oriented Services Evaluation (ROSE)

We are part of an advisory council for a national study of recovery-oriented practices in community mental health agencies and wanted to tell you about it. Maria O'Connell, Ph.D. and colleagues from the Yale University Program for Recovery and Community Health are conducting the first nationally representative survey of agencies such as yours and I thought you may be interested in participating.

We are looking for agencies to participate in this very important study that examine the links between recovery-oriented practices, organizational climate, and consumer outcomes. This study focuses on community mental health agencies with the following characteristics:

- 1) provides outpatient behavioral health services to adults with serious mental illness,
- 2) offers access to 24-hour crisis services,
- 3) accepts adults with no insurance or offers a sliding fee, and
- 4) is state-funded or receives Medicaid reimbursement.

If your agency fulfills these criteria, please consider taking part in this study (next page for details).

Recovery Oriented Services Evaluation (ROSE) (continued)

Taking part in the study:

Participating agencies receive a web link to a brief, anonymous survey for directors/administrators, direct care staff, and supervisors to complete. Each person who completes the survey will receive a \$10.00 Amazon e-gift card for their participation. Agencies with multiple survey responses from directors and staff can also receive a personalized feedback report that summarizes their results, compares their scores to other participating agencies, and provides recommendations for how to promote recovery-oriented care.

The online survey consists of brief demographic questions about your role and work experience in the mental health system, followed by several questions about your perceptions of recovery-oriented care where you work. This confidential survey is completely online, voluntary, and will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. In reporting the data, information you provide will be aggregated at levels of the organization, community, and state and no information will be included that could identify individuals or responses provided by a specific person.

For more information about the study and to view a sample personalized feedback report, please visit <http://medicine.yale.edu/psychiatry/prch/research/rose.aspx>

If you would like your agency to participate, or have any questions about this study, please feel free to email Stephanie Lanteri at stephanie.sangsterlanteri@yale.edu and we will be happy to answer any questions and provide you with more information.

Thank you in advance for your time and support.

Online Resources

Philadelphia DBHIDS Peer Support Tool Kit

DBHIDS' new toolkit is designed to support behavioral health treatment agencies with the process of integrating peer providers into their service settings. The Peer Support Toolkit incorporates many of the promising practices and resources that have emerged during the last decade of Philadelphia's recovery-focused system transformation effort. Tools in this kit are designed to help agencies to recruit, retain, and effectively deploy people in recovery in a variety of peer support roles. The resources and information provided is relevant for executive leadership along with supervisors and peer staff.

[Click to view a YouTube video about the Tool Kit](#)

The interactive PDF format allows easy navigation among sections of the toolkit. In addition, many of the tools are forms that can be filled out in the PDF. All pages of the PDF are printable.

[Click to download the Peer Support Tool Kit](#)



[RECORDING: Best Practices for Effectively Integrating Peer Staff into the Workforce](#)
(Broadcast in Feb. 2017)
with John Allen, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, NYS OMH

Be Vocal: Speak Up for Mental Health

[Beyond Silence, The Documentary](#)

Job Listings (new)

Click the job title for a description of the job.

New York State

[Mental Health Therapy Aid](#) (entry level position)

New York State Office of Mental Health
(Posted March 22, 2017)

Westchester, New York

[Peer Bridger \(Part-Time\)](#)

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)
(Posted 3/17/17)

Visit the Virtual Community [Job Bank](#) for the latest job openings

Thank you!

This digest of announcements and reminders of upcoming events/job openings is also available on the Virtual Community, a project of the Academy of Peer Services. Feel free to share!

If you have events or opportunities to share on the Virtual Community website or News Digest, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.



Visit the Academy Virtual Community to learn more...

<https://virtualcommunityblog.wordpress.com/>