



Academy of Peer Services
Virtual Community News Digest

March 31, 2017

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

Welcome to the Virtual Community News Digest, a weekly summary of upcoming events, items of interest, research, resources, and jobs for the peer support workforce in New York State.

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Featured Event

Online (Webinar) Discussion: Maintaining Peerness While Working
Friday, March 31, 2017 | 2:00 PM



More information on page 3. **Registration is required.**

[Register Here](#)

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.

The next term starts on May 2, 2017 with new courses and updates (based on your feedback) to many of the current courses.

March 31 - Deadline to RSVP

Consumer Leadership Meeting (New York City)

Date of the Meeting: April 4, 2017

Call NYC, Dept. of Mental Health and Hygiene, Office of Consumer Affairs, to RSVP: Phone 347-396-7194

April 7 - Revised Deadline to Apply (statewide)

[Mental Health Therapy Aide \(OMH\)](#)

Entry Level Civil Service Position

April 8 - Deadline to Apply
[ThriveAtWork Training \(New York City\)](#)
Class Starts April 16, 2017

May 5 - Deadline to Apply
[Howie the Harp Classroom Training \(New York City\)](#)
Class Starts July 2017
Call 212-865-0775 to attend an information session!

Upcoming Events (listed chronologically)

----- 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.

Registration is required

[Register:](#)

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.

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.

Registration is required:

Register:

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.

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

April 8, 2017 (Deadline to Apply)

April 16, 2017 (Class Begins)

ThriveAtWork

ThriveAtWork is a free training program that will support hundreds of peers (individuals who have used mental health services or supports) to get jobs within Human Services.

This training is a key component of [ThriveNYC](#), a comprehensive mental health plan for New York City launched by the Mayor's Office and supported by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. **Click the [Deadline to Apply](#) link to learn more.**

DEADLINE TO APPLY: April 8, 2017

To learn more, contact: **Clinton Green**, Program Manager, ThriveAtWork

thrive@communityaccess.org

212-780-1400, ext. 7700

----- 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)

[Register](#)

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

All Hands On Deck!

Ensuring a Recovery Focus
in the Changing Healthcare Environment

April 27-28, 2017

Hilton Albany, 40 Lodge St, Albany, NY

Thursday/Friday, April 27-28, 2017

NYAPRS 13th Annual Executive Seminar: All Hands on Deck

[Register](#)

----- Buffalo -----

April 28, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



2017 Healthy Alternatives through Healing Arts (HAHA)

(Buffalo Psychiatric Center)

[Register](#)

Save the Date / Mark Your Calendar

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

July 13, 2017

New York City Peer Specialist Conference
(registration and program coming soon)

----- Philadelphia -----

July 24 & 25, 2017



**2017 Summer Institute on
Community Inclusion**

THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE: WHAT DO WE KNOW? WHERE DO WE GO?

[Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion Summer Institute](#)

----- 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.

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.

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.

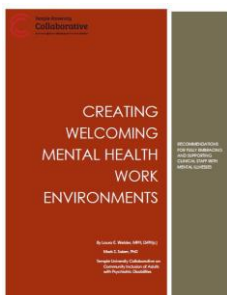
New Online Resources



(Four Employment Resources from Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion)

--- New Employment Resources ---

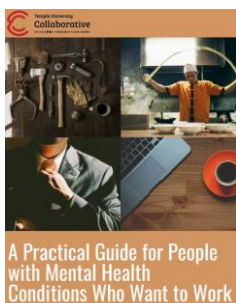
Work is an important domain of community participation. We would like to draw your attention to several of our publications that focus on the importance of competitive employment for individuals with mental health conditions. These documents outline opportunities not only for policy makers and program managers but also for direct service personnel and peer specialists to support individuals to establish and maintain fulfilling lives within their communities.



Welcoming Work Environments

Responding to research studies documenting that individuals working in mental health settings often face discrimination and prejudice, this document provides a series of recommendations for provider agencies to help them create a more supportive and welcoming environment for employees. This includes, covering needed policy changes, training activities, and approaches to reasonable accommodations.

[Learn More](#)



A Practical Guide for People with Mental Health Conditions Who Want To Work

With staggering unemployment rates among those with serious mental health conditions, this document is designed to help individuals navigate toward successful competitive employment. The 15 chapters review motivational issues, training resources, career planning, and on-the-job challenges, and is accompanied by a Trainers' Manual to help staff utilize the document in group settings. [Learn More](#)



Employment Programming: Addressing Prevailing Barriers to Competitive Work

This monograph reviews long-standing, but still unresolved, barriers that have kept unemployment levels among those with serious mental health conditions unacceptably high. There is emphasis on the vocational needs of those who are returning to community life following incarceration in the criminal justice system with recommendations for policy changes

[Learn More](#)



The Past and Future Career Patterns of People with Serious Mental Illness

This research monograph provides surprising information on lifetime career patterns of those with a history of serious mental health issues: most people want to work; most have worked successfully in the competitive labor market in the past; and most report their reasons for job loss as parallel to the job losses experienced by individuals without mental health issues, among other findings.

[Learn More](#)

Job Listings (new)

Click the job title for a description of the job.

Western New York

Regional Advocacy Specialist

Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc
(Contract position with the Office of Mental Health)
(Posted March 30, 2017)

Syracuse

Peer Specialist (Part-time)

Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc
OnTrackNY
(Posted March 30, 2017)

Long Island (Multiple Locations)

Peer Positions (multiple listings, full and part time)

Federation of Organizations
(Posted March 30, 2017)

New York City

Peer & Consumer Education Specialist

Beacon Health Options {Manhattan location}
(Posted March 27, 2017)

New York State

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

New York State Office of Mental Health

Deadline to Apply Extended to April 7, 2017

(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

THANKS!

This digest of announcements and reminders of upcoming events/job openings is also available as a PDF 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/>