



# Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community News Digest

**April 7, 2017**

A news digest of the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community

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

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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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**Announcing!**  
**New York Peer Certification  
Conference**  
October 26-27, 2017  
**Leadership, Values, Integrity....**  
Crowne Plaza  
White Plains  
([Click here for a flyer to share](#))

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## Deadlines

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**April 8 - Deadline to Apply**

**[ThriveAtWork Training \(New York City\)](#)**

[ThriveAtWork](#) is a free Peer Specialist training program that will prepare hundreds of New York City peers for the NYS Peer Specialist Certification competency tests, also while supporting peers who are new to the field. There are various training tracks to match the trainees relevant education and experience.

**The next class starts on April 16, 2017.**

ThriveAtWork is provided by Community Access, which has been at the forefront of peer workforce development for more than 30 years – and [Howie the Harp Advocacy Center](#) in Harlem is recognized nationally as the gold standard in job training for people with mental health concerns. Building on these strong foundations, and in collaboration with [Services for the UnderServed](#) (SUS), 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 here for a flyer about the training.](#)

[Click here to register or learn more.](#)

**Clinton Green**, Program Manager, ThriveAtWork

[thrive@communityaccess.org](mailto:thrive@communityaccess.org)

212-780-1400, ext. 7700

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**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!

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## Upcoming Events (listed chronologically)

### ----- National Webinar -----

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. ET**

#### **National Accreditation for Peer Specialists: How Canada Makes it Work**

There has been a lot of discussion among peer specialists trying to determine if national certification is a good thing for the profession or would it get in the way of personal or professional achievement. A lot of ideas, organizations and plans are being discussed.

This workshop will examine the Canadian Peer Support Certification process from start to completion, along with the internal organizational structure and supports needed for the process. We will also share how Canada developed our National Standards of Practice for the Practice and Training of Peer Support.

- Participants will learn about the framework behind the Canadian National Standards;
- Participants will learn about the infrastructure and processes required for Peer Support Certification; and
- Participants will learn about the National Peer Support Certification process for candidates.

## [Register](#)

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### ----- 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, PEOPLE, Inc.
- Bevin Croft, M.A., M.P.P., Human Services Research Institute
- Daniel B. Fisher, MD, Ph.D. – CEO, 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 – Coordinator of the Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers (PSWRC)

## [Register](#)

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



**Thursday/Friday, April 27-28, 2017**

**NYAPRS 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Executive Seminar: All Hands on Deck**

## [Register](#)

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----- Buffalo -----

April 28, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**2017 Healthy Alternatives through Healing Arts (HAHA)**



(Buffalo Psychiatric Center)

## [Register](#)

----- Statewide Webinar -----

**Friday, June 30, 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

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Audio conference information  
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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.

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## Save the Date / Mark Your Calendar

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

July 13, 2017

New York City's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Peer Specialist Conference  
Life & the Art of Wellness  
(Kimmel Center, NYU)

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----- White Plains, New York -----

October 26 & 27, 2017

Inaugural New York (State) Peer Specialist Conference  
Leadership, Values, Integrity...  
Hosted by the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board  
(Crown Plaza Hotel, White Plains)

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----- 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](#)

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----- 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

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## Participate in Research!

### ---- 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](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](mailto:petrosr@sp2.upenn.edu).

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### ---- 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](mailto: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.

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## Job Listings

Click the job title for a description of the job.

**NEW**  
**New York City**  
**Youth Coordinator Grade 14**  
OnTrackNY  
Organization: RFMH-NYSPI  
(Posted April 4, 2017)

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**NEW**

**Syracuse**  
**Youth Coordinator Grade 14**

OnTrackNY  
Organization: RFMH-NYSPI  
(Posted April 4, 2017)

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**NEW**  
**Rockland County**  
**Recovery Specialist (Spanish Speaking Preferred)**

MHA Rockland County  
(Posted March 31, 2017)

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**Western New York**  
**Regional Advocacy Specialist**  
Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc  
(Contract position with the Office of Mental Health)  
(Posted March 30, 2017)

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**Syracuse**  
**Peer Specialist (Part-time)**  
Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc  
OnTrackNY  
(Posted March 30, 2017)

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**Long Island (Multiple Locations)**  
**Peer Positions (multiple listings, full and part time)**  
Federation of Organizations  
(Posted March 30, 2017)

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**New York City**  
**Peer & Consumer Education Specialist**  
Beacon Health Options {Manhattan location}  
(Posted March 27, 2017)

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## **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)

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## **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

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# **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](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

**Visit the Academy Virtual Community to learn more...**



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