Welcome to the APS VC News Digest, a summary of job openings, events, research opportunities, and other announcements for the peer workforce in New York State. This news digest is developed as part of the APS Virtual Community project.

www.aps-community.org

What’s New

Help “Connect the Dots…”

The Academy of Peer Services research team is investigating the sense of community in various parts of the peer support workforce.

By responding to the survey you will help us understand the current state of the peer support workforce and how we can work together toward improving peer support services for all.

To learn more, see page 7.

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Take the survey now: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APS_SOC-01

www.academyofpeerservices.org
What’s New (Continued)

What’s New in the Academy of Peer Services?

**ELECTIVE TRACK**
New Course: January 2018

**Peer Support in Criminal Justice Settings**

In this course you will learn about the prevalence of people with mental (behavioral) health issues in the criminal justice system, laws that pertain specifically to people with mental illness, and ways in which a peer specialist in forensic (criminal justice) settings can provide peer support to people who are involved at various intercept points in the criminal justice system.

Seat time: 3 hours

**Recommended Prerequisites:** Action Planning for Prevention and Recovery, Human and Patient Rights in New York State, and Trauma-Informed Peer Support

**CORE TRACK**
Revised Course: January 2018

**Essential Communication Skills for Peer Providers (Active Listening and Reflective Responding)**

In this course, participants will learn engagement strategies, i.e., preparing, attending, observing, and listening, and will analyze reflective responding techniques, i.e., response to content, response to feeling, response to meaning, and personalized response. Finally, participants will apply communication skills by evaluating video vignettes for effective communication techniques.

Seat time: 6 hours

**Recommended Prerequisites:** None

**Revision:** Based on participant feedback, the full course and test were redesigned.
CORE TRACK
Revised Course: January 2018

The Historical Roots of the Peer Movement

The goal of this course is to present key developments in the history of peers helping peers. Social and political factors played a role, but the movement would never have happened without its leaders. The course introduces the learner to some of the rich traditions of the peer support movement.

Seat time: 4 hours

Recommended Prerequisites: None

Revision: New video and archive material added for several of the Pioneers of the Movement.

SUPERVISION TRACK
Revised Course 2: January 2018

Introduction to the Supervision of Peer Specialists Course 2
(SITUATIONS AND SOLUTIONS)

After reviewing five situations that offer unique challenges specific to the supervision of Peer Specialists, you will consider what to do as a supervisor, receive guidance from subject matter experts who have extensive experience supervising Peer Specialists, and revisit your initial response to see what, if any, changes you would make in your approach to supervision in that situation.

Seat time: 2 hours

Prerequisite: Introduction to the Supervision of Peer Specialists Course 1 (KEY CONCEPTS)

Revision: The Supervision Forum has been linked to the Virtual Community, making it easier to review the solutions of other supervisors and to add your own feedback.

ELECTIVE TRACK
Course Closed: January 2018

Suicide: A Peer to Peer Conversation

This course is closed for enrollment while it undergoes revisions and enhancements. We apologize for this inconvenience. Please check back next term to enroll in the course.
Deadlines

January 26, 2018
**Deadline to Apply**
--- **ThriveAtWork ---**
Deadline to apply for the next training session, which starts on February 5.
[Application](#)

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January 26, 2018
**Deadline to Submit**
--- **Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association ---**
41st Annual Wellness and Recovery Summit
[Call for Workshop Proposals](#)

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April 20, 2018
**Deadline to Submit**
--- **ALTERNATIVES 2018 ---**
[Call for Workshop Proposals](#)
Upcoming Events

----- New York City -----  
January 19, 2018  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

ThriveNYC “Task Shifting”  
Brooklyn Law School

More Information

----- Webinar -----  
January 23, 2018  
2:00 pm ET

Conflict Resolution Resources for Peers

More Information
Upcoming Events (Continued)

----- Webinar ----- 
January 24, 2018 
2:00 pm ET 

GAINS Center Webinar 
Bolstering the Role of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils and Their Members in the Development of Local Behavioral Health Service Continuums 

More Information 

----- Virtual Event (Webinar) ----- 
January 25, 2018 
2:00 pm ET 

SAMHSA BRSS TACS 
Recovery LIVE! 
Virtual Event: 
Communicating the Role of Peer Supports 

More Information 

----- Seminar/Webinar ----- 
January 25-26, 2018 
Free 2-Day Seminar (and available as a Webinar) 
Applying for Benefits / Entitlements 
Jan. 25, 2018 | 9:00 am – 4:30 pm 
Jan. 26, 2018 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm 

How to quickly get approval for SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and other entitlement programs, presented by John B. Allen Jr. Special Assistant to the Commissioner, NYS OMH. 

Click here for flyer
Upcoming Events (Continued)

----- NYS OMH -----  
January 29-30, 2018  
Regional Advocacy Committee Meeting  

Contact your local Regional Advocacy Specialist (RAC) for details.  

Click here for directory

----- Webinar -----  
January 30, 2018  
2:00 pm ET  

Doors to Wellbeing (SAMHSA TAC)  
Self-Care for the Peer Specialist, Denise Camp ALWF, CPRS, RPS  
On Our Own of Maryland Training Specialist  

More Information

----- Statewide Advocacy / Albany -----  
February 27, 2018  
21st Annual Legislative Day (NYAPRS)  
The Egg, Albany  

For updates and future details, visit the NYAPRS website.  

More Information
Upcoming Events (Continued)

----- New York City -----  
12th Annual Working Peer Specialist Conference  
Save the Date: July 12, 2018  
New York University – Kimmel Center

----- Washington, DC -----  
Alternatives 2018  
Save the Dates!  
July 29-August 3, 2018  
Washington, DC  
Hosted by the National Coalition on Mental Health Recovery (NCMHR)  
Learn More
One of the projects of the Academy of Peer Services (APS) is to create a Virtual Community to provide opportunities for Certified Peer Specialists and others in the peer support workforce to connect, communicate, collaborate, educate, and look for new ways to improve the experience of giving and receiving peer support services.

This month, we (researchers within the Academy of Peer Services) launch a study to investigate the sense of community in different roles and areas of the peer support workforce.

We need your help as we gather information to connect the dots in the peer support workforce, particularly the sense of belonging (locally, regionally, and statewide) of those in different areas of the state and roles within the workforce. Whether you are a Certified Peer Specialist, or a supervisor of peer workers, or someone just getting started in your role, your responses can help.

Please take the 10-15 minutes to take our survey and share your personal experience. If you are interested, you can also sign up after the survey is complete to get more involved in the development of our Virtual Community.

Thank you, ~ Rita / Community Coordinator

academy.virtual.community@gmail.com
Peer Research (Continued)

Results of the New York City Peer Support and Community Health Worker Survey

The results are now available from the recent New York City Peer Support and Community Health Worker Survey. If you contributed to this survey, thank you!

Learn More

Calling all NYC Directors, Managers, and Program Coordinators

To better understand the current condition of the New York City workforce, we request that directors, managers or program coordinators in NYC complete this survey for their programs.

Learn More
Peer Research – More Opportunities to Participate

Do you currently work as a peer support provider?
If so, your perspective on work-related stress is needed!

Peer Support Provider Survey

Learn More

Are you a supervisor of peer specialists?

Magellan Health

Your answers to a 16-question survey will help in the creation of a guidance document for the supervision of peer support workers.

Learn More
Blogs and Articles

A Poem for the New Year

LOOK, LOOK AHEAD. A poem from Howard Diamond

Look, look to the year ahead,
Will it be filled with happiness or dread?
Some are hungry and need to be fed
Or just need a warm comfortable bed.

Look, look ahead towards greatness and joy,
And seek out all that one can enjoy.
Maybe playing with that holiday toy,
Whether you are a girl or a boy.

Look, look ahead and not behind,
Behold life’s wonders that one can find.
This is not a dream in the mind,
There are nice people that are kind.

Look, look ahead when my life is not happy,
Sometimes, I really think it is totally crappy.
See for yourself, I am not always sweet and sappy,
But I try to feel like a bird with its wings flappy.

Look, look ahead and try not to despair,
Life is not perfect, but some people do care.
Take a chance or a risk, if you dare,
Even if you think that life is not fair.

Look, look ahead it is now 2018,
Before we realize it will be 2019.
For every child, every adult and every teen,
Make it the best year we have ever seen.

Howard, a New York State Certified Peer Specialist from Long Island
New Resources

Click the links below to view new resources that are available for the peer support workforce!

New from SAMHSA BRSS TACS

Informational Briefs Showcase the Value of Peers

BRSS TACS recently released four informational briefs that highlight the value of peer supports.

The briefs explain what peer support workers do, describe the unique contributions peer support workers bring to an organization and articulate how peer support makes a difference in the lives of peers, families, and caregivers.

Click the links below to access and download each of these informational briefs.

- Peer Support
- Peers Supporting Recovery From Mental Health Conditions
- Peers Supporting Recovery From Substance Use Disorders
- Family, Parent, and Caregiver Peer Support in Behavioral Health

Join BRSS TACS for a free Recovery LIVE! virtual event about “Communicating the Role of Peer Supports” on Thursday, January 25 from 2:00-3:00 pm ET. – Click here to Register

For more information on peer support services, including core competencies for hiring peer support specialists, visit the BRSS TACS website.
New Resources (continued)

New from Live & Learn

Results are available from the Self Employment Starts with You (SESY) study!

Three research briefs addressing different topics in self-employment will be released in December 2017. These briefs are designed for the public, individuals with disabilities, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.

#1: Characteristics of Businesses and Business Owners

#2: Being and Becoming Self-Employed

#3: Planning for the Future: Growth-Oriented Entrepreneurship

"Workers with Psychiatric Disabilities and Self-Employment through Microenterprise" is supported by funding from NIDLRR Grant No. 90SF0020-01-00

Learn More
New Resources (continued)

**Reclaiming Employment** aims to promote self-sufficiency and empowerment through entrepreneurship for individuals who have used mental health services. We invite you to dream with us, and let us know what you’d like to see! What do you need to be successful in business?

[Learn More](#)

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NYAPRS is pleased to announce the publication of “A Guide for Employment Specialists.”

This guide is now available and offers resources and tools to those who provide supported employment services in New York state.

[Learn More](#)
Job Listings

Click the job title for a description of the job.

**New York**

*Peer Counselor (full and part-time)*

ACMH, Inc.

(Posted 1/18/2018)

**Queens and Suffolk Counties**

*Peer Bridgers (half-time)*

NYAPRS

(Posted 1/16/2018)

**New York City**

*Managed Care Bridger*

NYAPRS

(Posted 1/16/2018)

**Central Region, North Country, and Hudson Valley**

*Community Outreach Specialists*

NYAPRS

(Posted 1/16/2018)

**Rockland County**

*Youth Peer Advocate*

*Family Peer Advocate*

MHA of Rockland County

(Posted 1/16/2018)
Oswego County
Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite
Crisis Respite Counselor – Short Term Crisis Respite

Liberty Resources
(Posted 1/16/2018)

Onondaga County
Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite – Per Diem
Liberty Resources
(Click here for Other Openings)
(Posted 1/16/2018)

Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler Counties
(multiple positions)

Peer Specialist
Adult Behavioral Health Services in Bath, NY

Respite Worker-Skill Builder
OMH Waiver (Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler counties)

Parent Advocate Relief
OMH Waiver (Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler counties)

Peer Specialist Relief
Adult Behavioral Services in Bath, NY

Waiver Service Provider-Relief
Bridges to Health (Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler counties)

Pathways, Inc.
(Posted December 29, 2017)

Onondaga County
Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite
Liberty Resources
(Posted December 27, 2017)
**Oswego County**
*Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite*
Liberty Resource
(Posted December 27, 2017)

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**Cayuga County**
*Peer Specialist – MRT Supportive Housing*
Liberty Resources
(Posted December 27, 2017)

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**New York Region**
(multiple positions)
*Peer Specialist / Wellness Coach*
SUS: Services for the Underserved
(Posted December 20, 2017)

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**Staten Island**
*Peer Specialist*
Project Hospitality
(Posted December 20, 2017)

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**New York City**
(multiple positions)
*Peer Counselor*
NYC Health+Hospitals
(Posted December 20, 2017)

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**New York Region**
*Peer Support Specialist*
Federation of Organizations
Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan
(Posted December 20, 2017)

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**Rochester**
*Peer Support Specialist*
East House
(Posted December 20, 2017)
New York City
(5 new positions)
Thrive Peer Trainer
Peer Support Specialist
Care Coordinator
Harm Reduction Coordinator
Coordinator of Education and (Peer Specialist) Training
Community Access
(Posted December 20, 2017)

Volunteer Opportunities

New Choices in Recovery
NYAPRS Statewide Peer-to-Peer Education Forum Presentations
(Ongoing Opportunities)
More Information

Program Directors:
Do you have volunteer opportunities?

Those with a provisional peer specialist certification are looking for a chance to gain experience and volunteering with a peer program is a great way to get started!
Self-Employment Opportunities

Interested in Working for Yourself?

Self-Employment Starts with You
Research Brief #3
- Planning for the Future: Growth-Oriented Entrepreneurship

Learn More

Spread the News!

If you have job openings, resources, or announcements of events to share, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Visit the Academy Virtual Community to learn more.
https://aps-community.org