

Reminder: March 2019 Peer Networking Meeting!

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To: Rita Cronise <rmc277@shp.rutgers.edu>

MARCH 2019 Peer Networking Meeting

Greetings!

We hope you will join us for our monthly Long Island Peer Networking Meeting, hosted by our very own Emily Vaianella, Outreach and Training Peer Specialist, and Ralph Matalone, Peer Support Line Peer Specialist.

“Getting Involved”

Sweeping changes are taking place in the behavioral health system, with implications for service recipients and peer specialists alike. Melissa Wettengel will explain how to stay informed and how peers can be a part of the conversation.

The Regional Planning Consortium (RPC) is a forum discussing issues on Long Island related to Medicaid Managed Care transition, and it is critical that the peer perspective is represented. HCBS (Home and Community Based Services), HHs (Health Homes), and VBP (Value Based Payment) are more than confusing acronyms!

Understanding these concepts affects access to care, how recovery is defined, and how peer services fit into the workforce going forward.

Find out about how to get involved with the RPC, including a new and desperately needed Peer Workforce

Melissa is the Coordinator of the Long Island Regional Planning Consortium, a multi-stakeholder group guiding Long Island through the behavior health system's shift to Medicaid Managed Care. Melissa's previous experience in peer and recovery services includes two innovative and successful peer programs on Long Island. These include building and launching *Sherpa*, a team of peer and family recovery coaches supporting opiate overdose survivors in Suffolk hospital emergency departments. Prior to that, Melissa managed a suite of mental health wellness programs in Nassau including *Turquoise House*, the peer-run psychiatric crisis respite and hospital alternative. Melissa's own ongoing recovery process has included slowly and steadily advancing her education, and she will complete her Master's in Public Health from Stony Brook University this May, with a focus on community mental health. Melissa believes that with the right supports - and the power of hope - self-directed and self-defined recovery is possible for everyone.

**Development group. Looking forward
to seeing everyone!**

The meeting will be held **Thursday 3/21/19 from 3:30-5:00 pm. We will meet at the Association for Mental Health and Wellness, Pollack Center, 939 Johnson Avenue in Ronkonkoma in classroom 3. Please use the Johnson Avenue entrance.**

Please R.S.V.P by replying to Emily Vaianella & share with those who may be interested.

See flyer below & email me with any suggestions for topics or if you are interested in presenting at future meetings.
We hope to see you there!

Association for Mental Health and Wellness | 939 Johnson Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

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