

## Virtual Community Newsletter

### May 8, 2019

#### May is Mental Health Month!

Welcome to our monthly newsletter of events, articles, job openings, and resources for the peer support workforce in New York State.



#### Reminder

#### Academy of Peer Services -- Start and End Dates:

Term 2 Opened on 4/29/19 and Closes 7/19/19

Term 3 Opens 8/26/19 and Closes 11/29/19



## About the Virtual Community

The Virtual Community is a project of the Academy of Peer Services intended to bridge the gap between knowledge gained in the online courses and skills for putting that knowledge into practice in the real world. The Virtual Community is open to the peer support workforce (anywhere, any role) to help people to connect, communicate, and collaborate.

**Our mission: To help the peer workforce to connect, communicate and collaborate**

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## Letter from the Virtual Community Coordinator

Rita Cronise



This month we'll focus on the concept of **collaboration**. We've had a long-standing collaboration with the regional and central office advocacy specialists at the Office of Mental Health, Consumer Affairs in delivering our (roughly) monthly webinars.



Office of  
Mental Health

This month we will begin a new series called, The Many Faces and Places of Peer Support. The first webinar on May 31 features Kirsten Vincent of Housing Options Made Easy. We hope you can join us. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

## Letter from the Coordinator (continued)

We are offering this Faces and Places of Peer Support lunch-n-learn series webinars as an opportunity to recognize good practices and really highlight some of the great work that is being done in a multitude of settings. We are thankful for the assistance of the OMH advocacy specialists as we begin this new series and grateful for all of their past support not only in providing the technology platform but in helping with the planning, presentation, and follow up to the webinars, including making sure we receive the recordings of each session shortly after the event. Without their extra effort and support, we would be unable to provide these webinars to all of the state facilities that only allow the WebEx technology, and this is one of the ways we can offer new information on relevant topics beyond the Academy courses.

### Do you Know Who Your OMH Regional Advocacy Specialist is?

Office of Mental Health (OMH) Regional Advocacy Specialists offer a number of in-person training programs and workshops that can be customized for your organization or staff.

Topics include:

- Developing Empathy for the Lived Experience of Psychiatric Disability
- Recovery 101
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Social Security (entitlements and work incentives)
- Best Practices for Integrating Peer Staff
- Community Engagement as a Discharge Tool
- Social Capital: Community Integration
- OMH Policy Focus Groups
- Regional Communication Meetings on Topics of interest or need

For a description of these and other workshop topics offered by OMH RAS's, [click here.](#)

Contact your OMH Regional Advocacy Specialist (RAS) to see if there is a class near you.

- Central Office, Albany [Regina.Shoen@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Regina.Shoen@omh.ny.gov)
- Western Region (Open)
- Central Region [Garrett.Smith@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Garrett.Smith@omh.ny.gov)
- Mid-Hudson Region [Leila.Clark@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Leila.Clark@omh.ny.gov)
- New York City [Celia.Brown@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Celia.Brown@omh.ny.gov)
- New York City [Digna.Quinones@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Digna.Quinones@omh.ny.gov)

## Letter from the Coordinator (continued)

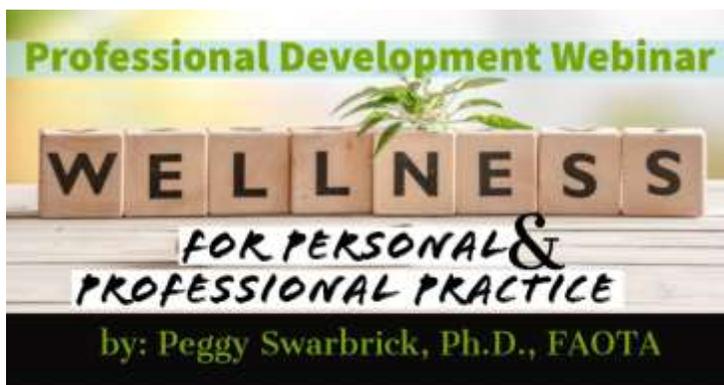
### APS was Featured in the April OMH Newsletter

We also want to thank Mark Genovese at OMH for his article in the OMH newsletter featuring the Academy of Peer Services. It was great to get recognition for our innovative approach to the training of peer specialists. To access is issues of the OMH newsletter online, [click here](#).

## New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium Professional and Leadership Development Series



Another productive collaboration we've had over the past few years is with the NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium.



We (APS) have been assisting on the first of these webinars, which will be this Friday, May 10.

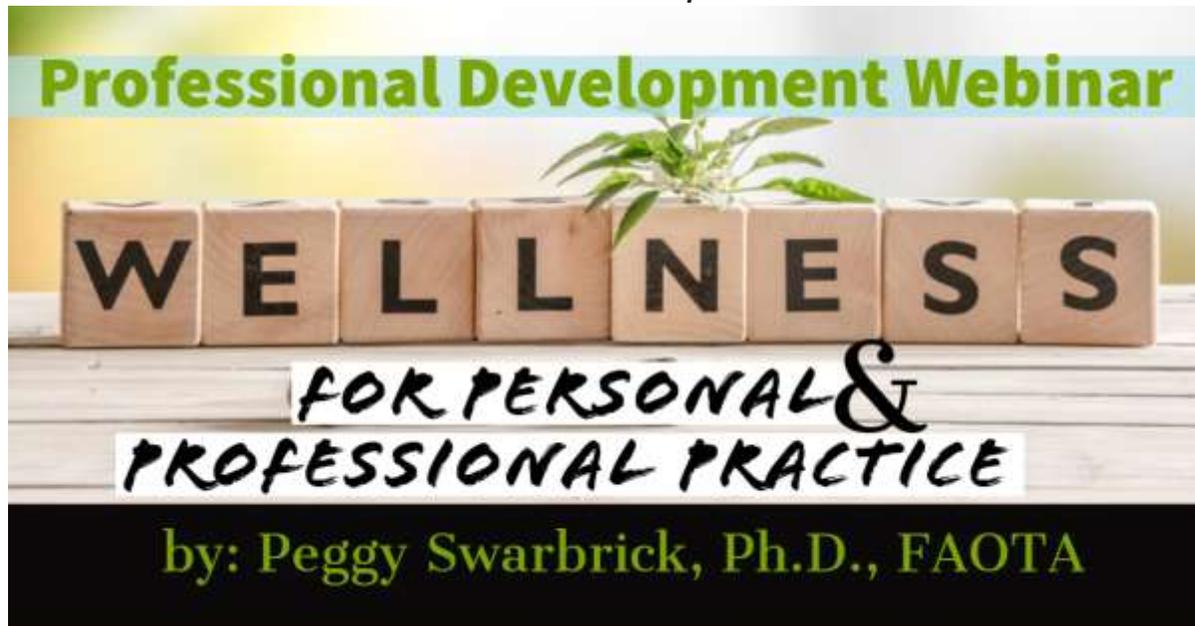
The topic is Wellness for Personal and Professional Practice with Peggy Swarbrick.

A flyer for the webinar is on the next page. Please feel free to share it with others in your personal and professional network. To register, [click here](#).

# Register Now!

*May 10, 2019*

*1:00 – 2:15 pm*



Working in the helping field can be rewarding though our commitment to others can impact our daily occupations including overall wellness in 8 dimensions including the physical domain. This webinar will review the basics of wellness self-care, and the strategies that promote balance and satisfaction in the physical domains. Participants will consider factors that interfere with overall wellness. Peer Recovery Supporters and Community Health Workers will be able to identify strategies to use personally or professionally that support well-being.

Strategies that can be incorporated into daily routines will be reviewed.

Resources and tools for personal practice and those that can be shared with persons served will be provided. Participants will be able to

- Define wellness self-care
- Consider how wellness self-care skills can promote satisfaction with work and personal life.
- Examine tools for self-reflection and self-care
- Identify factors that interfere with wellness self-care
- Access tools and strategies for personal and professional practice

This webinar will also explore the concept of burnout and self-care as a preventative measure and recovery tool for avoiding work burnout. Overall, participants will be empowered to both prevent and manage their wellness and convey said approach to their respective clients.

**The webinar is free, but space is limited. To register, [click here](#).**

## Letter from the Coordinator (continued)

### Professional and Leadership Development Series Webinars (continued)



**Peggy Swarbrick, Ph.D., FAOTA** is an adjunct Associate Professor and Director of Practice Innovation and Wellness, Rutgers and Wellness Institute Coordinator at Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey. Dr. Swarbrick worked many years as an occupational therapist in a variety of settings providing wellness and recovery focused services. She has been involved in related research and dissemination activities. She has numerous publications and has lectured on issues such as health promotion, wellness, employment, peer delivered models, and recovery. She earned a doctorate from New York University.

### NYC Webinar 2: Supporting Financial Wellness | June 14 (Save the Date)



The second webinar in the Professional and Leadership Development series will be on Financial Wellness with Oscar Jimenez-Solomon.

Oscar has been gathering inspiring stories about people who have regained financial wellness to be woven into the webinar. Other dates to reserve for upcoming webinars in the series include:

### NYC PCHWC Toolkit Launch



The Consortium recently launched a toolkit, [Supporting Peers and Community Health Workers in Their Roles](#), which is an organizational self-assessment that provides organizations with a customized summary of resources for any stage in establishing, growing, or sustaining a peer support programs.

For a video with toolkit developer, Aviva Cohen, [click here](#).

## Letter from the Coordinator (continued)

The Consortium also holds Breakfast Networking Meetings on the first Friday of each month and Professional and Leadership Development Webinars on the second Friday.

### Save the Dates! 2019 Professional and Leadership Development Series Webinars:

- Friday, May 10 – Wellness and Peer Support with Peggy Swarbrick
- Friday, June 14 – Peer Support for Financial Wellness with Oscar Jimenez-Solomon
- Friday, July 12 – Reasonable Accommodations and Medicaid Buy-In
- Friday, August 9 – Leadership Skills and Career Advancement
- Friday, September 13 – Networking Online
- Friday, October 11 – Trauma-Informed Support

With the exception of the first webinar on May 10, which will start later at 1:00 pm, the rest will start at 12:00 noon and go to 1:15 pm. Registration and connection information for each webinar will be sent in advance of the broadcast dates.

### ***Peer Workforce Coalition – Peer Summit is May 29 – RSVP Today!***



The NYC Peer Workforce Coalition is a separate, peer-run group committed to advancing the work of peer specialists employed in diverse behavioral health settings by working to improve work environments and challenging stigma. To learn more about the NYC PWC, visit their website:

<https://www.peerworkforcecoalition.org/>

The NYC PWC is guided by the principles of mutual support, recovery and empowerment. Each year they hold a **Peer Summit** where important issues related to the peer workforce are raised. This year's event will be on Wednesday, May 29th (5/29/19) at the LGBTQ Center in New York City (near W 14th Street) from 6-8 PM. Dinner is FREE and all welcome, but RSVP is required! Send email to [info@peerworkforcecoalition.org](mailto:info@peerworkforcecoalition.org).

We will be attending and hope to see you there!

## Letter from the Coordinator (continued)

### Last chance to join iNAPS at the Discounted Rate of \$25



The poster features the text "333 iNAPS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE" at the top. Below it, it says "Don't miss out on your chance to SAVE during our 3-3-3 Campaign!". The main text reads: "To TRIPLE our membership this year, iNAPS is offering a 30% discount on our current \$35 membership rate for the next 3 months!". It includes a graphic of a sun with "iNAPS" written inside, and a group of diverse people. At the bottom, it says "Join—to renew your individual membership\* during March, April, or May and pay only \$25". A small note at the bottom left says "\* Good for 12 months" and "Go to [www.inaps.org](http://www.inaps.org) and click on 'JOIN NOW'". The footer of the poster reads "International Association of Peer Supporters".

One good way to get involved with others in the peer support field is to join the [International Association of Peer Supporters](#). Their three-month membership drive ends this month (May).

For a discounted membership fee of \$25 per year, you can get certificates from nationally broadcast webinars, regular newsletters with a national perspective, access to monthly networking meetings with peers from across the country, a member directory, and a discount to attend the national conference, with opportunities to work on projects with nationally recognized leaders in the peer support workforce.

For more about iNAPS, the benefits and the membership drive, [click here](#).

### Collaboration through Discussion



Another collaboration we enjoy is with Virtual Learning Community member Katherine Ponte, who is the owner of [ForLikeMinds](#), a social media platform for connecting with others who share your interests. It's easy to use and a great place to hold ongoing discussions on related topics. Peer support is featured as a topic and also practiced as an action on the platform. To learn more, go to <https://www.forlikeminds.com>

## Letter from the Coordinator (continued)

### Virtual Community Webinar Series: The Faces and Places of Peer Services



As I mentioned at the beginning of this column, we are starting a new series on:

- **Friday, May 31, 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm | [Register Now](#)**

This first webinar in the series will be with **Dr. Kirsten Vincent with Housing Options Made Easy**. She will share a wide range of peer services and peer-run programs that are available there.

These short Lunch-n-Learn webinars are scheduled for the last Friday of each month as an opportunity to give recognition to peer run programs and peer specialists who are doing excellent peer support work.



- **Friday, May 31, 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm | [Register Now](#)**
- Friday, June 28, 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm
- Friday, July 26, 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm
- Friday, Aug. 30, 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm
- Friday, Sept. 27 – 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

**Pre-registration is required to attend the live WebEx meeting.**  
Connection information is provided when you register.

**Join our APS Virtual Community! Connect, communicate, collaborate!**



Our twice monthly networking meetings are a way to **connect**. This newsletter and the website are ways to **communicate**. Those who share job postings, announcements, invitations to participate in research, and lots more are which we can **collaborate**.

## Letter from the Coordinator (continued)

### Virtual Community - Networking Meetings

We meet on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday**, alternating between afternoons and evenings. Mark your calendar now for these upcoming networking meetings.

- Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 28 at **3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**
- Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, June 25 at **3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

For connection information to the Networking Meetings, subscribe to our Virtual Community mailing list. The video conference connection link changes for each meeting.

To subscribe, [click here](#).



Explore the Virtual Community website for new information and opportunities to get connected – we add more information each day through the Virtual Learning Community.

<https://aps-community.org/>



**One of the most vital ways  
we sustain ourselves  
is by building communities,  
places where we know we  
are not alone.**

- Bell Hooks

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## Deadlines



**Deadline: May 10**

Howie the Harp (Fall 2019) Application for Enrollment  
Training Starts in July  
New York City

[Application](#)

**Deadline: May 15**

Early Bird Registration Rate ends for the Alternatives Conference  
(Note: Celia Brown will be one of the Keynote Presenters!)  
Washington, DC in July 7-11, 2019.

[Learn More](#)

**Deadline: May 17**

GRANT APPLICATIONS  
SAMHSA: Transforming Lives through Supported Employment Grant

[Learn More](#)

National Evaluation of the Technology Transfer Center Program

[Learn More](#)

**Deadline: May 22**

Bronx Community College, Workforce Development and Continuing Education  
Free Training (evenings and weekends)  
Community Health Worker (CHW) and Certified Peer Recovery Advocate (CPRA)  
Several Information Sessions are available in April and May.

[Application](#)

**Deadline: May 31**

In My Mind Conference: Overcoming Barriers Creating Opportunities  
LGBTQ+ and People of Color  
Seeking proposals and Essay Submission

[Learn More](#)

## Deadlines (continued)

### Deadline: June 15

Call for Workshop Proposals  
International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)  
13 Annual Conference  
October 21-23, San Diego, CA  
[Submit Proposal](#)

### Deadline: June 30

#### [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

Best practices guidance document. Complete a questionnaire to submit up to five mental health services you believe should be considered as a good practice.

[Learn More](#)

### Deadline: July 1

Youth Power - New York Institute for Self-Advocacy  
[Learn more about Youth Power](#)  
[Submit Application](#)

**For more details about these deadlines, visit our [Virtual Community Calendar](#).**

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## Calendar of Events



*CSP-NJ Words of Wellness Calendar – Co-Editors: Peggy Swarbrick and Pat Nemecc.*

For May's **Words of Wellness** Calendar, click [here](#).

For **Five Steps to Good Mental and Physical Health**, click [here](#).

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## Mark Your Calendar

**May 7**, 9 am – 4:30 pm

Trauma First Aid for Peer Specialists | [Learn More](#)

**May 8**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Ask Me Anything About Employment with Dori Hutchinson | [Learn More](#)

**May 9**, 10:30 – 11:30 am

Webinar: An Overview of the Community Health Access to Addiction and Mental Healthcare Project (CHAMP) – Hosted by the Regional Planning Consortium | [Learn More](#)

**May 10**, 1:00 – 2:15 pm

[Wellness for Personal and Professional Practice](#) with Peggy Swarbrick.

Hosted by the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium | [Register](#)

**May 10**, 2019, 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Prevention Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, East Syracuse | [Learn More](#)

**May 11** | NAMIWalks, NYC | [Learn More](#)

**May 13-18**, 9 am- 5:30 pm

Recovery Coach Academy & Ethical Considerations Training | [Learn More](#)

**May 14**, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Networking Meeting – International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS) | [Learn More](#)

**May 15**, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Developing a Board of Directors for Mental Health Organizations

Collaborative Series: Doors to Wellbeing and STAR Center – Webinar | [Register](#)

**May 16**, 3:30-5:00 pm

Long Island Networking Meeting, Association for Mental Health and Wellness | [Learn More](#)

**May 16**, 6:00 - 8:30 pm (start of a 12 week class)

Family-to-Family Education Program, Unadilla, NY, NAMI Delaware & Otsego Counties | [Register](#)

**May 17**, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Introducing Peer Support into Your Organization: Expanding Peer Support in Behavioral Health with Patrick Hendry, SMI Advisor | [Learn More](#)

**May 18**, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mural Arts - Snug Harbor Paint Fest | [Learn More](#)

## Calendar (continued)

**May 20**, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Marijuana 2019: Commercialization, Community and the New Norm with Ben Cort  
(Sponsored by FORDO) | [Learn More](#)

**May 20**, 1:00 - 3:30 Eastern

SAMHSA Webcast: National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day | [Learn More](#)

**May 21**, 10:30 – 12:00 noon

Webinar: What is the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)?  
Hosted by the Regional Planning Consortium | [Learn More](#)

**May 28**, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Supported Employment Symposium, Community Access | [Learn More](#)

**May 29**, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

NYAPRS Central New York Regional Forum, Hutchings Psychiatric Center Auditorium | [Learn More](#)

**May 29**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

New York City Peer Workforce Summit – NYC Peer Workforce Coalition | [RSVP Required](#)  
Learn more on the [website](#)

**May 31**, 12:15-1:00 pm

The Faces and Places of Peer Support – APS Virtual Community webinar | [Register](#)

**June 6**, 1-4 pm

Regional Orientation for Staff, NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

**June 7**, 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Networking Breakfast, Hosted by the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium – RSVP to [mpatel9@health.nyc.gov](mailto:mpatel9@health.nyc.gov)

**June 14**, 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Financial Wellness, with Oscar Jimenez-Solomon. New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium – Professional and Leadership Development Series (more details soon).

**June 24-25**, New York State Office of Mental Health

Albany – Symposium: Strategies for Behavioral Health Equity: Leave No One Behind | [Learn More](#)

**June 28**, 12:15-1:00 pm

The Faces and Places of Peer Support, APS Virtual Community Webinar (details coming soon)

**July 7-11**, 2019

ALTERNATIVES 2019: Standing Together, Celebrating Our Gifts, Raising Our Voices  
National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery (NCMHR), Washington, DC | [Learn More](#)

## Calendar (continued)

**July 12**, 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Reasonable Accommodations. Professional and Leadership Development Series – Hosted by the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium – *(details coming soon)*

**July 18, 2019**

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Working Peer Specialists, *New York City | More Coming Soon*

**July 26**, 12:15-1:00 pm

The Faces and Places of Peer Support, APS Virtual Community Webinar (details coming soon)

**August 9**, 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Leadership Skills and Career Advancement. Professional and Leadership Development Series – New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium – *(details coming soon)*

**Aug 30**, 12:15-1:00 pm

The Faces and Places of Peer Support, APS Virtual Community Webinar (details coming soon)

**September 13**, 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Networking Online. Professional and Leadership Development Series – Hosted by the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium – *(details coming soon)*

**September 18-21**, 2019

Annual Rights Conference: National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA), East Hartford, CT | [Learn More](#)

**September 27**, 12:15-1:00 pm

The Faces and Places of Peer Support, APS Virtual Community Webinar (details coming soon)

**October 11** 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Trauma Informed Support. Professional and Leadership Development Series – Hosted by the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium – *(details coming soon)*

**October 21-23**, 2019

13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS), San Diego | [Learn More](#)



Is there anything else that should be listed in the  
**APS Virtual Community Calendar?**

The APS Virtual Community Calendar is updated regularly so check back often for the latest events. <https://aps-community.org/calendar/>  
To share an event, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

**The deadline for the next newsletter is June 1, 2019.**



## What's Happening (Ongoing)

We've created a web page for ongoing projects that don't necessarily have a specific date or time in which they are offered but are related to peer support. The purpose is to inspire you with creative works and encourage you to reach out to each other. *(Listed alphabetically)*

**[Center for Urban Community Services \(CUCS\) Academy](#)** – Located in New York City offers a wide range of classes for working with those who are justice involved.

**[David's Refuge](#)** - Our mission is to provide respite, resources and support to parents and guardians of children with special needs or life threatening medical conditions where they will be refreshed, restored and renewed in their role as caregivers.

**[ForLikeMinds](#)** – ForLikeMinds is a free social media platform dedicated to the recovery and wellness of people living with or supporting someone with mental illness, substance use, or a stressful life event. We empower members to connect and engage in relatable micro-communities of people with similar backgrounds and experiences. This journey starts with hope and is nourished by the support of like minds sharing their lived experience.

**[Hands Across Long Island \(HALI\)](#)** – provides a FREE 12-week Food Farmacy program and FREE Peer groups at your facility. For more, click [here](#).

**[Institute for the Development of Human Arts \(IDHA\)](#)** – Grassroots activists meet clinical innovators. New York City based group that offers monthly classes and networking groups, and now are also offering online learning. The first online course is the History of the MAD Movement and Alternatives to Biomedical Approaches. For more, click [here](#).

**[Live & Learn](#)** – Reclaiming Employment. Phase I was a Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) grant to support the development of a working prototype of [Reclaiming Employment](#) that is now freely available to the public. In Phase II, Live & Learn will continue to develop the *Reclaiming Employment* platform and develop a commercialization plan to improve overall access to tools for individuals with psychiatric histories start and run a business enterprise. For the latest newsletter and a video celebrating the success of phase 1, click [here](#).

**[Madness Network News](#)** was the quarterly newsletter of the mental patients' liberation movement in the United States, advocating for human dignity, self-expression, and civil rights of people diagnosed with and labeled as mentally ill. The complete set of volumes 1-8 are available for \$100 (at cost) plus \$15 shipping. To learn more about this initiative, click [here](#). To place an order, email David Gonzales at [madnessnetworknews@gmail.com](mailto:madnessnetworknews@gmail.com).

**[NAMI Homefront](#)** is a free, online 6-session program for family, friends and significant others of military Service Members and Veterans. The class connects people around the country and helps families understand what the Service Member/ Veteran is experiencing related to trauma, combat stress, civilian life transition, PTSD and other mental health conditions.

## What's Happening (continued)

**New York City Peer Workforce Coalition** – Since its founding in 2014, The NYC Peer Workforce Coalition has been committed to being THE place peers working in mental health and substance use disorder fields can connect with to discuss issues that peers can relate to and together, coming up with practical solutions for the benefit of all people. The organization is made up OF peers and is FOR peers.

**NYAPRS Funding Appeal** – Systems advocacy is important and worthwhile -- and it is also expensive to bring advocates together. This appeal letter describes the benefits of making a contribution to ensure the voice of the advocates is heard on an annual basis in Albany.

**Recovery College** – Located in Calgary, Alberta – this is a great example of people with lived experience coming together to learn with and from each other.

**Speaking to the Heart** – Podcast. Each show in our line-up aims to restore purpose and passion to those who need it most No matter the illness, no matter the pain, the Speaking to the Heart Podcast Network is dedicated to inspire You to live life fully again.

***From Our Heart to Yours, Let's make a difference together!***

**Stand Up for Mental Health** -- **What's So Funny About Mental Health?** As far as counsellor and standup comic DAVID GRANIRER is concerned, everything! David who himself has depression founded the award-winning program STAND UP FOR MENTAL HEALTH where he teaches standup comedy to people with mental health issues as a way of building confidence and fighting stigma. David can help your organization RAISE AWARENESS and help you see MENTAL HEALTH from a TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE by doing his presentation at your conference or event.

**Wisdom Within** – Podcast Encouraging mental health awareness, self-advocacy, recovery and HOPE for all those living with mental health conditions, and everyone who cares about them.



Is there anything else that should be listed in the **What's Happening page?**

View the **What's Happening** web page:  
<https://aps-community.org/whats-happening/>

To share something for this page, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

**The deadline for the next newsletter is June 1, 2019.**

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# Articles

## Related Newsletters



[Academy of Peer Services, Virtual Learning Community Newsletter](#)

[Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation](#)

[Café TA](#)

[Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery \(WRAP\)](#)

[Doors to Wellbeing](#)

[Disability Rights New York](#)

[ForLikeMinds](#)

[Icarus Project](#)

[Institute for the Development of Human Arts \(IDHA\)](#)

[Intentional Peer Support \(IPS\)](#)

[International Association of Peer Supporters \(INAPS\)](#)

[Live & Learn Services \(employment and more\)](#)

[Mad in America](#)

[MH Mediate \(conflict resolution\)](#)

[Mindfreedom](#)

[National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse](#)

[NYAPRS eNews Bulletins](#)

[PEERLINK](#)

[Resilience, Inc.](#)

[STAR Center](#)

[This is my reality newsletter](#)

[Wellness Recovery Action Plan](#)

[Words of Wellness \(Swarbrick & Nemeec\)](#)

**For Articles on Criminal Justice**, the Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse publishes a monthly digest. To view the latest issue, visit [\*The Key Update\*](#).

Send personal articles or blogs about your life as a Peer Specialist or Supervisor of Peer Specialists to: [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

**The deadline for the next publication is June 1, 2019.**

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## Research



[Live & Learn](#) received a [NIDILRR](#) Phase I Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) grant to support the development of a prototype of [Reclaiming Employment](#). They now have a working prototype of *Reclaiming Employment* freely available to the public with thanks to their [advisors and consultants](#)!



The [Reclaiming Employment Business Directory](#) is a "living" directory of socially enterprising small businesses in the U.S. that are operated by people with psychiatric histories. We feature a different business every two weeks, highlighting the business in the directory as well as advertising across our social media platforms.

<https://www.reclaimingemployment.net/directory>



As part of the Phase I project, PJ Moynihan of [Digital Eyes Film](#) and Leah Harris of [Shifa Consulting](#) created a promotional video to showcase Reclaiming Employment and our constituents. To view this inspiring 5 min. video, click [here](#).

## Research (continued)



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## Recent Articles

### [Training: Partnership helps meet the need for certifying peer specialists](#)

(Academy of Peer Services in the April OMH Newsletter)

### [Peer delivered services in mental health care in 2018: infancy or adolescence?](#)

By Marianne Farkas and Wilma Boevink.

Published in World Psychiatry.

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## Reports

### Peer Support: Research

Mental Health America is compiling research and reports related to peer support.

[Visit this page to learn more](#)

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Do you have research opportunities or recent articles to share with the peer support workforce? Send them to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

**The deadline for the next newsletter is June 1, 2019.**

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## Resources

### **On April 18, the New York City Peer and Community Health Workforce Consortium Launched their Organizational Toolkit**

The New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium launched their organizational toolkit to support peers and community health workers.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/reporting-and-services-main.page>

The toolkit provides organization-specific guidance in the following nine practice areas:

1. Recruitment
2. Attitudes and Beliefs
3. Diversity and Inclusion
4. Finances and Sustainability
5. Role Clarity and Workflows
6. Career Advancement Opportunities
7. Supervision
8. Orientation and On-Boarding
9. Program Monitoring and Evaluation

These recommended practices can help your organization recruit and retain peers and community health workers, maintain organizational growth and sustainability, and engage service recipients.

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### **[Speaking To The Heart Podcast Network](#)**

The story of the Phoenix is legendary and inspiring to many. A brilliant bird who once lived its life full until for whatever reason it could no longer. Hello, I'm Shane Schulz the Founder of the Speaking to the Heart Podcast Network. A life that once was full of vibrant color and potential has now become faded and torn. Does this sound familiar to You?

After all, what was it that had the Phoenix rise from its own ashes to live once more? We believe it was an inner voice that had the heart of the Phoenix beat again That's why each show in our line-up aims to restore purpose and passion to those who need it most No matter the illness, no matter the pain, the Speaking to the Heart Podcast Network is dedicated to inspire You to live life fully again.

***From Our Heart to Yours, Let's make a difference together!***

<https://speakingtotheheart.org/>

## Resources (continued)



[Wisdom Within](#) – Podcast Encouraging mental health awareness, self-advocacy, recovery and HOPE for all those living with mental health conditions, and everyone who cares about them.

By Virtual Learning Community Guest Blogger  
– Kathleen Surline.



### ForLikeMinds

New from Katherine who brought us  
ForLikeMinds <https://www.forlikeminds.com/>.

**Please help us spread hope.** *Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.*  
<https://medium.com/forlikeminds/newsletter-53f027e612b5>

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At a recent Virtual Community Networking Meeting, we met Greg from Calgary, Alberta where we learned about a project supported by the CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) called Recovery College, which – according to their site is where real people with real experiences share what works.

Using an educational-based approach, Recovery College offers courses to help people recognize and develop their own resourcefulness and awareness in order to support themselves or their loved one's recovery journey.

All of the courses are co-developed and co-delivered in partnership with peer supporters and students who are experts by experience: they have their own personal experience of a mental health or addiction concern or are supporting a loved one.

## Research (continued)

It is well worth the time to investigate the topics of the live courses that have been developed for the Calgary Alberta college for those with lived experience.

### Recovery College Categories of Courses

A great model for structuring in-person classes at Recovery Centers and PROS programs!



<http://www.recoverycollegecalgary.ca/>

### Does Your Organization Hold Certification Preparation Workshops or Classes?



Are you teaching in-person certification preparation classes based on the Academy of Peer Services or holding study groups? Let us know, so we can help to advertise your class!

Or, if you are teaching other classes on peer support or recovery in your organization that are open to the public, let us know that as well! We'll post dates of your classes in our community calendar or What's Happening page and in the newsletter so people can find you. You will also have the chance to locate others around the state teaching similar topics so you can network with and compare notes with each other. To have us post your classes, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

#### Do you have other resources to share?

Send items for this list to: [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next newsletter is June 1, 2019

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## Job Bank



### Recent Job Postings

Visit our **Job Bank** for a list of recent openings | <https://aps-community.org/job-bank/>

In a given month, we post over 100 peer specialist openings in New York State. If you or someone you know is looking for work, [check here!](#)

If you live in or near New York City, there is a Peer Job Board specifically for New York on the Coalition for Behavioral Health site: [http://www.coalitionny.org/the\\_center/jobs/](http://www.coalitionny.org/the_center/jobs/)

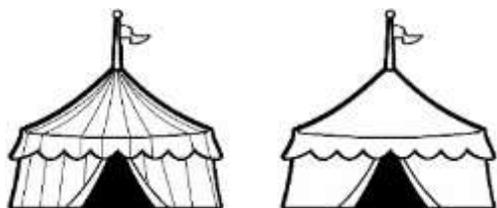
### Are You Hiring?



We've been asked to have employers submit peer service job openings to the New York State Dept. of Labor as part of the [Employment First](#) Initiative.

Once you have registered with the New York State Dept. of Labor, submit your job openings to: [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

### Job Fairs



There is a new [Job Fair](#) link on the Job Bank page.

As we receive information, Job and Career Fairs will be posted on this new page. Past Job Fairs will continue to be available so you can see what employers in their area are hiring.

## Volunteer Openings and Internships



Do you have opportunities for peers that are seeking supervised work hours toward full certification? We can post volunteer positions and internships in our Job Bank.

Submit these openings to:

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

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## APS Virtual Community

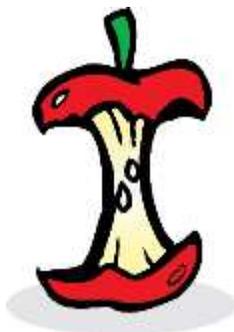
### What is the Virtual Community?



The Virtual Community is a project of the Academy of Peer Services intended to help bridge the gap between online learning and the kind of rich interactions between peers that help peers to develop skills they can use in the real world of practice.

This newsletter is one element of the Virtual Learning Community. We also hold regular webinars, networking meetings, and now offer (on demand) online study groups for those who are taking the APS core courses as well as support groups designed to support the peer supporters and their supervisors.

### Join our Core Group!



If you are an experienced peer specialist and/or facilitate peer-led meetings or groups (in person or online) and have an interest in joining our core team, click the Join button below to subscribe to our APS Virtual Learning Community listserv. You will receive announcements about upcoming meetings and various projects of the Virtual Learning Community.

### Subscribe to our E-Mail List!

To receive our networking meeting announcements, [click here](#)

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities: At a glance

### Mark Your Calendar for these featured events!

(View our online [Calendar](#) for more!)

### *NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium*

**1st Fridays**

#### **Networking Breakfast**

(6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4)

8:30 am – 10:00 am

**2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays**

#### **Professional and Leadership Development Webinars**

(5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 10/13, 10/11)

(Normally, at 12:00 – 1:15 pm)

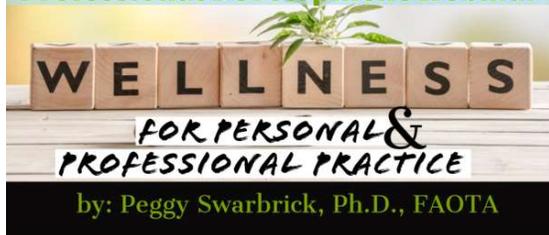
*First Webinar in this Series:*

**May 10, 2019**

1:00 – 2:15 pm (special time)

[Register Now](#)

#### **Professional Development Webinar**



### *Long Island Peer Networking Group*

May 16, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

[Learn More](#)



### *NYC Peer Workforce Coalition Summit*

May 29, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

[Learn More](#)

[website](#) | [facebook](#)

### *APS Virtual Community Webinars*



#### **Faces and Places of Peer Support**

**Last Friday of Each Month**

**Lunch -n- Learn Webinars**

(5/31, 6/28, 7/26, 8/30, 9/27)

12:15 – 1:00 pm

*First Webinar in this Series:*

**May 31, 2019**

12:15 – 1:00 pm

[Register Now](#)

View the Virtual Learning Community [Calendar](#) and [Job Bank](#) for more information on these and many other upcoming events!