



Virtual Community Newsletter

June/July 2019

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 – Term 2 Ends 7/19/19



Join us this Friday for our Faces and Places of Peer Support Webinar Series!

June 28, 12:15-1:00 pm

[WCNY-IPA](#) (Independent Practice Association) of Genuine Peer-Run Organizations
with Executive Director, Joe Swinford

Hosted by the Academy of Peer Services, Virtual Community

[Flyer](#)

[Register](#)

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.

Contents

DEADLINES	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	9
ARTICLES.....	14
RESEARCH.....	16
RESOURCES	18
JOB BANK	19
APS VIRTUAL COMMUNITY.....	20

Letter from the Virtual Community Coordinator,

Rita Cronise



This term has flown by. It is hard to believe we're down to the last four weeks before the Academy closes on July 19 for the one month break between terms to do scheduled course updates. If you've been taking courses, we hope it has been a productive term.



The season of conferences is now upon us and it's been hard to keep up with all the announcements and activity for the various groups.

Check the online [Calendar](#) on our Virtual Community website for the latest information on upcoming conferences, including calls for proposals, scholarship information, vendor and exhibit information, and early bird registration deadlines.

In fact, the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board just announced this week the dates for their third annual conference, which will be on Nov 5 and 6 in Poughkeepsie. We posted the **Save the Date** flyer and will add information to the online Calendar as it becomes available.

[Letter from the Coordinator \(continued\)](#)

For those of you attending the [13th Annual NYC Conference for Working Peer Specialists](#), or the [37th Annual NYAPRS Conference](#), we will see you there!

(The deadline for proposals and the scholarship application for NYAPRS is coming soon. View the [Calendar](#) for details.)

Faces and Places of Peer Support Webinar Series

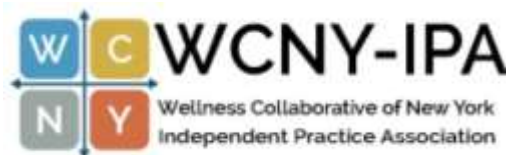


Our Virtual Community has been busy hosting or providing technical support for a number of recent webinars. Our current series is called, **Faces and Places of Peer Support**, a monthly webinar dedicated to programs demonstrating excellence in Peer Support. Last month, we featured Kirsten Vincent with Housing Options Made Easy.

For the presentation slides, [click here](#). For a Virtual Respite brochure, [click here](#).



For this month on **Friday, June 28 from 12:15 – 1:00 pm**, we welcome Joe Swinford (former Deputy Director of the Office of Mental Health, Office of Consumer Affairs) in his new role as the Executive Director of the Wellness Collaborative of New York, Independent Practice Association (WCNY-IPA) of Genuine Peer Run Organizations.



Joe will speak about the benefits of contracting with the IPA to ensure authentic peer support services that meet the quality standards and uphold the values of peer support. Help spread the word. For a flyer, [click here](#). To register for this webinar, [click here](#).

[Letter from the Coordinator \(continued\)](#)

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



We have also partnered with the NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium on a series of webinars that are offered on the 2nd Friday of each month.

The first two webinars were recorded and can be accessed as follows:

- Wellness for Professional and Personal Practice with Peggy Swarbrick, [click here](#).
- Supporting Financial Wellness with Oscar Jimenez-Solomon, [click here](#).

The schedule of dates and topics of upcoming webinars was recently revised. Save the dates for the following webinars:

- *Friday, July 12 (No webinar – NYC Peer Specialist Conference)*
- Friday, Aug. 9, 12:00 - 1:15 pm – Career Advancement & Networking Skills
- Friday, Sept. 13, 12:00 - 1:15 pm – Reasonable Accommodations
- Friday, Oct. 11, 12:00 - 1:15 pm – Medicaid Buy-In
- *Friday, Nov. 8 (No webinar – NY Peer Specialist Certification Board Conference)*
- Friday, Dec.13, 12:00 - 1:15 pm – Trauma-Informed Support



Our online [Calendar](#) will have the most up to date information as well as registration links for these and other upcoming webinars in these two series.

Letter from the Coordinator: Updates at the Office of Consumer Affairs



The position of Special Assistant to the Commissioner, overseeing the Office of Consumer Affairs has been filled by **Amanda Saake**. She will be starting on July 1.

Before this appointment, Amanda served as the Director of Training & The Center for Rehabilitation & Recovery at The Coalition for Behavioral Health in New York City. In that role, Amanda oversaw training and technical assistance efforts intended to build the capacity of community-based providers to deliver high quality, recovery-oriented services so more people can achieve the promise of recovery.

Amanda has more than 13 years' experience providing direct service and supervision in the human services workforce. Amanda has worked in a broad range of settings including supportive housing, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), harm reduction, LGBT youth outreach, Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) and outpatient mental health as both a practitioner and supervisor.

For the majority of her career as a social worker, Amanda did not share her personal lived experience with mental health issues, in part due to stigma that still pervades our system of care. Today, however, Amanda intentionally shares her recovery story with the hope that more traditionally- trained practitioners will be comfortable sharing their stories too which will help combat stigma within our system.

Amanda has been a member of the Certification Commission for Psychiatric Rehabilitation's (CPRP) Board of Subject Matter Experts since 2013. In 2016, Amanda received the New York Nonprofit Media's "40 under 40 Rising Star" award. Amanda also received the Distinguished Alumni award from her alma mater. Amanda is a graduate of Marywood University (Scranton, PA) and Columbia University School of Social Work (New York, NY). Please join us in welcoming Amanda to OMH.

In the Western Region, Kirsten Muckstadt has returned to her position with the Office of Consumer Affairs as regional advocacy specialist serving Western New York. Welcome back!

If you're not familiar with your local RAS, their email address is listed below.

- Central Office, Albany Regina.Shoen@omh.ny.gov
- Western Region Kirsten.Muckstadt@omh.ny.gov
- Central Region Garrett.Smith@omh.ny.gov
- Mid-Hudson Region Leila.Clark@omh.ny.gov
- New York City Celia.Brown@omh.ny.gov
- New York City Digna.Quinones@omh.ny.gov

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

Join our APS Virtual Community to 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**.

Our Networking Meeting Schedule

We meet on the **2nd and last Tuesday**, alternating between afternoons and evenings.

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming networking meetings.

- Tuesday, June 25 at **3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**
- Tuesday, July 9 at 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, July 30 at **3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

For connection information, subscribe to our Virtual Community mailing list. The video conference connection link is sent to the mailing list before each meeting.

To subscribe, [click here](#).



Explore the [Virtual Community website](#) for updates and opportunities to get connected – we add information each day to the Virtual Community website.



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

- Bell Hooks

Deadlines



Deadline: June 30, 2019

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) is developing a best practices guidance document to improve the quality of mental health services and to promote the human rights of people with mental health, psychosocial, intellectual, and cognitive disabilities globally.

Complete the questionnaire below to submit up to five mental health services you believe should be considered as a good practice. / [Learn More](#)

Deadline: July 1, 2019

Call for Workshop Proposal

NYAPRS 37th Annual Conference

Integrate, Innovate, Advocate, Celebrate: Keeping our Eyes on the Prize!

Conference Dates: Sept 24-26, 2019

Submit Proposal

To become a conference sponsor, [click here](#)

Deadline: July 1, 2019 at 10 am

Apply for the Youth Power New York Institute for Self-Advocacy (NYISA)

This year's institute takes place August 3-6, 2019 in Troy at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Qualifying young adults are encouraged to apply!

Must be 21 or over to attend

Youth Power

Application: <http://youthpowerny.org/NyisaApp/>

To learn more about the six steps to become a youth peer advocate, [click here](#).

Deadlines Continued

Deadline: July 1, 2019

Vote for National Guidelines for Supervisors

International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)

An Opportunity to Affect Future Practice

Vote for Your Agreement or Disagreement with Proposed National Practice Guidelines
for Supervisors or Peer Specialists

(Open to Peer Specialists and Supervisors)

[Take the Survey to Register Your Vote](#)

Deadline: July 1, 2019

Call for Workshop Proposals

International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)

13 Annual Conference

October 21-23, San Diego, CA

[Submit Proposal](#)

Deadline: July 2, 2019

Scholarship Application

NYAPRS 37th Annual Conference

Integrate, Innovate, Advocate, Celebrate: Keeping our Eyes on the Prize!

Conference Dates: Sept 24-26, 2019

[Submit Scholarship Application](#)



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

Calendar of Events



CSP-NJ Words of Wellness Calendar – Co-Editors: Peggy Swarbrick and Pat Nemec.
For June and July **Words of Wellness** Calendar, click [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

June 25, 11:00 am, Webinar

Peer Workforce and Mental Health, Central East Mental Health Technology Transfer Center | [Flyer](#)

June 25, 2:00 pm, Webinar

Using Social Media to Build Rapport with Peers, Doors to Wellbeing | [Flyer](#)

June 25, 2:00 pm, Webinar

Peer Support for Older Adults, Mental Health America | [Flyer](#)

June 25, 3:30 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

June 27, 12:00 noon, Webinar

Tools of Innovation: Design Thinking in Peer Services | [Flyer](#)

June 27, 2:00 pm, Webinar (Recovery Live!)

Employment Support Strategies, SAMHSA BRSS TACS | [Flyer](#)

June 27, 3:30 pm, Webinar

Providing Mental Health Care to People Without Shelter, SAMHSA Homeless Network | [Flyer](#)

June 28, 12:15-1:00, Webinar

[WCNY-IPA](#) Genuine Peer-Run Organizations, Academy of Peer Services, Faces and Places of Peer Support Series | [Flyer](#) | [Register](#)

[Calendar \(continued\)](#)

CUCS Academy for Justice Informed Practice, [July Calendar](#) | [Learn More](#)

July 5, 2019, 8:30 am - 10:00 am, New York City

Networking Breakfast, hosted by the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium. Learn more or RSVP to mpatel9@health.nyc.gov

July 7-11, 2019, Washington, DC

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

July 9, 7:00 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

July 13-16, 2019, Demonstration/Celebration, Albany

39th Annual Bastille Day Vigil / Celebration / Demonstration (Location: Steps of the New York State Office of Mental Health), by the Mental Patients' Liberation Alliance. For More, contact George Ebert (315) 947-5888 or Lauren Tenney (516) 319-4295

July 14, 2019, Fundraising Event, Suffolk County

7th Annual Kick Stands Up Motorcycle Poker Run and Car Show on behalf of the Suffolk County United Veterans Project | [Flyer](#)

July 15 at 2:00 pm, Twitter Chat on Prejudice, Discrimination, Sanism, and Ableism

[Learn More](#) | Meet Presenter [Nev Jones](#)

July 16, 11:00 am, Webinar

Peer Workforce and Mental Health, Central East Mental Health Technology Transfer Center | [Flyer](#)

July 16, 12:00 noon, Networking Call

International Association of Peer Supporters | [Flyer](#)

July 18, 2019, Conference, New York City

13th Annual Conference for Working Peer Specialists | [Registration Information](#) | [Program](#)

July 18, 2019, 3:30 – 5:00 pm, Long Island Peer Networking Group | [Flyer](#)

July 24, 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Webinar

Fundraising and Sustainability: Building your Organization by Telling the Right Story to the Right Audience, Café TA Center | [Flyer \(scroll to the bottom for the Cafe TA webinar\)](#)

July 25, noon-3:00 pm, Orientation, Buffalo

NYAPRS Regional Orientation for New Staff, Host: Best Self Behavioral Health | [Flyer](#)

Calendar (continued)

July 26, 12:15-1:00, Webinar

APS Virtual Community, Faces and Places of Peer Support | NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium Toolkit – Save the Date

July 30, 11:00 am, Webinar

Peer Workforce and Mental Health, Central East Mental Health Technology Transfer Center | [Flyer](#)

July 30, 3:30 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

August, 2019, Online Course NAMI Homefront (6 session free course, starts in August)

For family and friends of military services members and veterans | [Apply](#)

August 2, 2019, 8:30 am - 10:00 am, New York City

Networking Breakfast, New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium.
Learn more or RSVP to mpatel9@health.nyc.gov

August 3-6 2019, Conference, Troy, New York

Youth Power, New York Institute for Self-Advocacy | [Flyer](#)

August 9, 12:00 - 1:15 pm, Webinar

Career Advancement and Networking Skills. Part of the Professional and Leadership Development Series by the New York City Peer and Community Worker Workforce Consortium | Save the Date

August 13, 7:00 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

August 27, 3:30 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

August 30, 12:15-1:00, Webinar

APS Virtual Community, Faces and Places of Peer Support | Save the Date

September 6, 2019, 8:30 am - 10:00 am, New York City

Networking Breakfast, New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium.
Learn more or RSVP to mpatel9@health.nyc.gov

September 10, 7:00 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

September 13, 12:00 - 1:15 pm, Webinar

Reasonable Accommodations. Part of the Professional and Leadership Development Series by the New York City Peer and Community Worker Workforce Consortium | Save the Date

September 18-21, 2019, Conference, East Hartford, CT

National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA) | [Learn More](#)

[Calendar \(continued\)](#)

September 24-26, 2019, Conference

NYAPRS Annual Conference, (new location) Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, NY |

September 24, 3:30 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

September 27, 12:15-1:00, Webinar

APS Virtual Community, Faces and Places of Peer Support | Save the Date - Details Coming Soon

October 4, 2019, 8:30 am - 10:00 am, New York City

Networking Breakfast, New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium.

Learn more or RSVP to mpatel9@health.nyc.gov

October 8, 7:00 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

October 11, 12:00 - 1:15 pm, Webinar

Medicaid Buy-In. Part of the Professional and Leadership Development Series New York City Peer and Community Worker Workforce Consortium | Save the Date

October 21-23, 2019, Conference, San Diego, CA

International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS), 13th Annual Conference | [Learn More](#)

October 25, 12:15-1:00, Webinar

APS Virtual Community, Faces and Places of Peer Support | Details coming soon

October 29, 3:30 pm, Networking Call

Peer Specialists and Supervisors Online Call, APS Virtual Community | [Subscribe for Notification](#)

November 5-6, 2019, Conference, Poughkeepsie

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board Conference | [Save the Date](#)

December 13, 12:00 - 1:15 pm, Webinar

Trauma-Informed Peer Support. Part of the Professional and Leadership Development Series New York City Peer and Community Worker Workforce Consortium | Save the Date



The online [Calendar](#) is updated regularly so check back online between newsletters for the latest events.

To share an event, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

The deadline for the next newsletter is July 8, 2019.

What's Happening (Ongoing Programs)



What's Happening

In addition to the online [Calendar](#), we've created a [What's Happening](#) web page for ongoing programs, projects, or training opportunities that don't have a specific date or time but are related to peer support. The purpose is to inspire you with innovative works and encourage you to reach out to each other to learn more. To share something for this page, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Featured Program (ForLikeMinds)



Psych Ward Greeting Cards makes it easy for empathic and compassionate people to let patients in the psych ward know that people, even strangers, care about them and support them. ForLikeMinds created and manages this program to deliver greeting cards from strangers to psychiatric patients at participating hospitals. As insignificant as it may seem, sharing a card can have a wonderful impact when a patient is at their lows – offering help, encouragement, and hope.

**We make it easy to show patients in the psych ward you care.
Make a card. Send it to us. And we'll deliver it to the psych ward.**

To learn more, [click here](#).

Do you know of a program to feature on our website or in the newsletter?

The deadline for the next newsletter is July 8, 2019.

Articles

Beyond Twelve Steps, Peer-Supported Mental Health Care

By Michele Cohen Marill Health Affairs June 2019

Like a ghost town of psychiatry's past, the abandoned buildings on the old campus of Central State Hospital, in Milledgeville, Georgia, tell a story of pain and progress. Patients once arrived by train at the small Victorian-style depot (now being repurposed into a museum) and checked in at the Powell Building, which mimics a capitol with its white brick, stately columns, and black dome and cupola. When Cathy Wrighton worked there in admissions a couple of decades ago, she pushed open a heavy window seeking fresh air and heard patients screaming from the floors above.

The Powell Building faces a grassy quad with a pecan grove, lined on either side by red-brick buildings with white pillars and porches. The paint is peeling, windows are boarded up or agape with broken-out glass, but the grass stays neatly mowed. At its peak in the late 1950s, Central State Hospital—once called the Georgia Lunatic Asylum—housed more than 12,000 patients, making it the largest such facility in the world. | *For more, [click here](#).*

The previous article was reprinted from Health Affairs in NYAPRS E-News

To view the most recent NYAPRS E-News Bulletins, [click here](#).

Sixth Annual Joseph P. Dwyer Day of Wellness, Veterans Peer Support Project, Suffolk County



Veterans from across Long Island received acupuncture and massages, participated in yoga and learned about alternative treatments for stress and post-traumatic stress disorder at Saturday's sixth annual Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project in Center Moriches.

About 200 veterans and their families wandered the grounds of Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, learning about veterans services available on

Long Island and additional approaches to treating PTSD, depression and other issues many face when transitioning back to civilian life.

[Articles \(continued\)](#)

“We found that there are holistic disciplines of wellness treatments that can complement traditional medical and mental health care,” said Dwyer Project program director Marcelle Leis. “We have a plethora of services here to help veterans with whatever they need.”

For more, [click here](#).

Four Players in an Ongoing Saga of Services



This article by Lori Ashcraft is part of a series on service delivery in which peer specialists often find themselves in the midst. As you read Dwana’s story, consider whether you have encountered people living in similar circumstances and how peer support can help people to advocate for themselves.

To view the series, [click here](#).

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 \(Swarbrick & Nemece\)](#)

For recent 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

The deadline for the next publication is July 8, 2019.

Research



Research Studies Seeking Participants

Study 1: The Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University is conducting a study which aims to understand the experiences of individuals with a psychiatric condition with regard to engagement in activities to improve their physical health. To learn more, [click here](#).

Study 2: Leslie University and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs are seeking participants for a study on the role of work-hope, readiness, and job -search behavior among individuals living with mental health conditions. To learn more, [click here](#).

Recent Research Articles & Reports

LGBTQ and Peer Support Study Findings

A 2018 study, “A Mixed-Method Assessment of a Pilot Peer Advocate Intervention for Rural Gender and Sexual Minorities,” found that adults identifying as LGBTQ who also had a diagnosed mental health disorder benefited from peer intervention. Many participants felt less isolated and strengthened their social networks after having the opportunity to discuss their sexuality and gender with someone who was understanding. To view, [click here](#).

Older Adults Living with Serious Mental Illness: The State of the Behavioral Health Workforce

SAMHSA’s new brief describes the state of the behavioral workforce for older adults living with serious mental illness. The brief provides a broad-based overview of workforce issues, including the changing demographics of the aging population, challenges faced by a provider workforce, and ideas for strengthening the geriatric workforce to address serious mental illness. To view, [click here](#).

Peer support for mood disorder: Characteristics and benefits from attending Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance mutual-help organization. Mood disorders (MDs) are pervasive and debilitating psychiatric conditions. Peer-led mutual-help organizations (MHOs) have emerged and grown in the U.S. to extend and potentiate professional efforts or otherwise address needs unmet by professional care. The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) is the largest of these, but beyond observational evidence, little is known about participation or benefits. Greater knowledge could inform the field regarding clinical and public health utility of peer-driven efforts. *Journal of Affective Disorders*. Volume 265 (2019), 127-135. Authors: John Kelly, Lauren Hoffman, Corrie Visaint, Roger Weiss, Andres Nierenburg, & Bettina Hoepfner. To view, [click here](#).

Recovery, peer support and confrontation in services for people with mental illness and/or substance use disorder - Recovery has been described as an outcome (symptom free) or process (symptom management) where peer supporters are essential. Whereas, substance use disorder recovery endorses outcome alone: achieving recovery once abstinent. Peer supporters with an abstinence agenda use confrontation for those in denial. Herein, we unpack this distinction. Authors, Patrick Corrigan, Jonathon Larson, David Smelson & Michelle Andra. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, March 2019 214(3), 130-132. doi:10.1192/bjp.2018.242.

When do peers matter? The Moderating role of peer support in the relationship between environmental adversity, complex trauma, and adolescent psychopathology in socially disadvantaged adolescents. Authors: Karen Yearwood, Nicole Vlieghe, Cecilia Chau, Jozef Corveleyn, Patrick Luyten. *Journal of Adolescence*, April 2019, Vol. 72, 14-22.

The Peer Support Center at Mental Health America is compiling research and reports related to peer support. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

The deadline for the next newsletter is July 8, 2019.

Resources

Recently Recorded Webinars:



Wellness for Personal and Professional Practice, with Peggy Swarbrick. Hosted by the New York Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium. To view the slides, click [here](#).

To view the recorded webinar, [click here](#).



Supporting Financial Wellness, with Oscar Jimenez-Solomon. Hosted by the New York Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium. To view the slides, click [here](#).

To view the recorded webinar, [click here](#).

Recent Publications:

Human Services Research Institute (2019) Making Self-Direction a Reality: Using Individual Budgets to Promote Choice, Control, and Equity. To view, click [here](#).

Does Your Organization Hold Certification Preparation Workshops or Classes?



Are you teaching in-person preparation classes based on the Academy of Peer Services? We can help to advertise your class!

We'll post the 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

Do you have other resources to share?

Send items for this list to: academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

The deadline for the next newsletter is July 8, 2019

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/

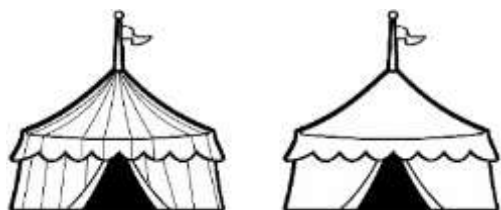
Are You Hiring?



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

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.

Internships and Volunteer Opportunities



Does your organization have opportunities for peers who are seeking supervised work hours toward full certification? We can post volunteer positions and internships in our Job Bank to help fill these positions.

Submit these openings to:
academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

APS Virtual Community

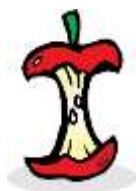
What is the Virtual Community?



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!)

APS Virtual Community Webinar Series

Faces and Places of Peer Support



Friday, June 28

12:15-1:00 pm

*The Wellness Collaborative of New York
Independent Practice Association
(WCNY-IPA) with Joe Swinford*

[Register](#)

NYC 13th Annual Conference for Working Peer Specialists



July 18, 2019

*13th Annual Conference for Working
Peer Specialists*

[Registration Information](#)
[Conference Program](#)

NYAPRS Annual Conference



September 24-26, 2019

*NYAPRS Annual Conference
(new location)*

Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, NY

[Call for Proposals](#)

[Scholarship Application](#)

[Sponsor Packet](#)

For more visit the [NYAPRS website](#)

APS Virtual Community Webinar Series

Faces and Places of Peer Support



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

*NYC Peer and Community Health
Worker Workforce Coalition
Toolkit for Supporting Peers and
Community Health Workers in their
Roles
(Save the Date)*

NY Peer Specialist Certification Board 3rd Annual Conference

**Save the Dates:
November 5 and 6, 2019**

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