

# Join us for January's Ongoing Employment Support & Education Meeting!!!

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

## January Ongoing Employment Support & Education Meeting!!



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*Greetings!*  
*Join us for the Careers in Recovery  
and Wellness Training Center's*  
**Ongoing Employment  
Support & Education  
Meeting**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8th,**  
**2020 4:30-6:00 PM**  
Hosted by Emily Vaianella, Outreach &  
Training Peer Specialist

### **"Swimming through Alphabet Soup"**

*Those of us providing peer support may be encountering more and more acronyms these days to describe services and system changes. VBP, CFTSS, HARP, DSRIP... What are all these changes, why are they taking place, and should we care?*

*Melissa Wettengel thinks we should. Sweeping shifts in the system are continuing to take place whether peers are part of the conversation or not. But "nothing about us without us" is tough when we don't speak the same lingo as other stakeholders.*

*Melissa will share what she's learned in her role with the Regional Planning Consortium, and the group will discuss concerns in the context of our own lives and those of those we support.*



**Melissa Wettengel, NYSCPS-P,  
MPH**

*"Melissa currently serves as Coordinator of the Long Island Regional Planning Consortium (LI RPC), bringing together diverse stakeholders to collaborate on issues related to Medicaid redesign implementation in the behavioral health system. Melissa has navigated life's twists and turns with varying degrees of grace and confusion, and discovered peer support much later than she hopes for others. Melissa's work in peer services includes building Sherpa, a team of peer and family recovery coaches supporting overdose survivors in hospital emergency departments and directing a suite of wellness programs including Turquoise House, a peer-run residential psychiatric hospital alternative. Melissa does not believe "everything happens for a reason". But she has found value in searching for meaning in what's already happened, and finds the transformative practice of peer support to be a beautiful way to create meaning from difficult experience."*

**This meeting will be open to Careers in Recovery and Wellness Graduates and Trainees. IN ADDITION, we will be opening this meeting to all working or aspiring Peer Specialists in New York State!**

**This meeting is held In-Person and Online  
on the 2nd Wednesday of each month**

939 Johnson Ave. Ronkonkoma

in classroom 3

**\*\* Please RSVP as seats are limited \*\***

**Emily Vaianella, Outreach & Training Peer Specialist**

[evaianella@mhaw.org](mailto:evaianella@mhaw.org)

631-471-7242 x 1341

***If you are joining us Online on our ZOOM Platform, click the link below at the time of the meeting, and use the password "workingrw"***

CLICK to join November's Ongoing Employment Support & Education Meeting!

ASSOCIATION FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



*To Advocate. To Educate. To Empower. Together.*

**Careers in Recovery & Wellness Training Center's  
Ongoing Employment Support and Education Meeting**

**Offered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month**

**In-person AND online, 4:30-6:00 pm**

**This online platform will offer greater  
access to:**

- Employment readiness, retention, and satisfaction!
- Educational topics relevant to New York Peer Specialist Certification.
- Mutual support with students and graduates, including facilitation by Emily Vaianella, NYCPS



**Eligibility for participation: Currently enrolled  
students or graduates of our Careers in  
Recovery and Wellness training**

- Interest in obtaining a paid/unpaid peer specialist position, or
- Past or current employment/volunteer in a peer specialist position, and
- Not working in the capacity of a supervisor, team leader, or oversight of any other employees



**Contact: Emily Vaianella, Outreach and Training Peer Specialist**

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631-471-7242 ext. 1341

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