

Community News: Feb 15, 2021

Welcome to the February 15 edition of Academy of Peer Services Community News, where we share information, upcoming events, activities, and job openings for the peer support workforce.

Academy of Peer Services – Term 1 | 6 Weeks Left

If you are enrolled in the Academy, this week marks the halfway point of our 12-week Term 1, 2021. Six weeks remain until the end of the term at 5:00 pm on Monday, March 29, 2021. If you are working toward certification (or re-certification) be sure to plan your time and course load accordingly.

Webinar this week – Talking About Tobacco

In this first webinar in a planned series, Amanda Saake, Susan Friedlander, LaVerne Miller, Gina Calhoun, and Regina Shoen discuss why a peer support-oriented discussion is so important and the need for those with tobacco use experience to step forward as champions for themselves and others. According to the CDC, “smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death... adults with mental health conditions consumed almost 40% of all cigarettes smoked overall.”¹[\[1\]](#). Join us on Thursday for this important discussion and share it with others who might benefit from a peer support approach. For more information, [click here](#).

New Course Available – Justice Peers in NYC

This week we launched the next of our APS Continuing Education (CE) courses:

Justice Peers in NYC Meeting

This course covers a 2020 community meeting to being a conversation about moving forward with the work of integrating peers into the justice system in New York City. The goal was to gather input from the community to help guide the justice peer initiative and to see who is interested in joining the working group. Five breakout sessions were held. You will hear facilitator experts discuss their involvement in the initiative and introduce the purpose of each session. **Seat time: 1 hour**

Register for the course under the Continuing Education category in the Academy. The course is free of charge, you can earn 1.0 hour of continuing education credit for successfully completing the course test, and it provides valuable information if you are interested in getting involved in the Justice Peer Movement. There are many exciting developments, including two meetings in March you won't want to miss. Save these dates and read more below.

- March 11, 10:30-12:00, Eastern, NYC Justice Peers Community Meeting
- March 12, 3:00 – 5:00 PM Eastern, CCIT-NYC Accomplishments and What's Ahead

¹ [\[1\]](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Burden of cigarette use. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html>

Get Involved | Justice Peers

Meeting #1: NYC Justice Peer Community Meeting - NYC Justice Peer Initiative

March 11, 2021, 10:30 - 12:00 pm Eastern

The NYC Justice Peer Initiative

A justice peer is an individual who uses their lived experience with the criminal legal system to support others who are ensnared within the system. Peer support workers are guided by the principles of shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment. Currently, peer support workers are firmly integrated into mental health and behavioral health systems in NYC (and the workforce has been growing at a steady pace since certification and Medicaid reimbursement began in 2012), but peer support workers are underutilized within the justice system.

The goal of the NYC Justice Peer Initiative is to help establish & grow a strong justice peer workforce in New York City by building off of the successes and lessons learned from the broader peer worker movement. The initiative is just beginning, but we believe it to be a critical component to successful criminal justice reform. In order for New York City to reimagine the justice system and refocus on rehabilitation and recovery, a new workforce is needed.

Share this information with others who might be interested in learning about the NYC Justice Peer Initiative and providing feedback on our 3 goals (below)

1. Establishing the NYC Justice Peer Center, a peer-run organization
2. Developing training standards and ultimately, a justice peer certification
3. Creating a professional network and support group for justice peers

TO RSVP your interest in attending, [click here](#).

Meeting #2: CCIT-NYC Accomplishments and What's Ahead

March 12, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 pm Eastern

[Correct Crisis Intervention Today \(CCIT-NYC\)](#) is a coalition of activists, advocates, and other community and non-profit members working to transform how New York City responds to the 200,000 mental health crises calls now responded to by NYPD. CCITNYC seeks a health team response to these crises calls. The March 12, the agenda includes:

- An update on the CCIT-NYC proposed pilot
- CCIT-NYC's work with state and city officials
- CCIT-NYC's enormously successful Mental Health Mayoral Candidate Town Hall
- Last, we will hear from our members. What is on your mind?

To learn more about joining this meeting of the CCIT-NYC, [click here](#):

Get Involved | Legislative Advocacy

NYAPRS 22nd Annual Legislative Action / Advocacy Preparation Meetings

The coming week has several meetings planned for the NYAPRS Legislative Agenda and Priorities. To learn more, [click here](#).

Dates to get involved:

Start by joining one of this week's Legislative Advocacy Prep Sessions:

- February 16, 11:00-12:00 am Eastern
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EI7TI6GORJmoqCvYoiS_og
- February 18, 2:00-3:00 pm Eastern
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nVTLYygqRii7ONoqt38StA

Join with everyone on February 23 for the Annual NYAPRS Legislative Day

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5uUerGfRS4OWKRv7bQhXnw. Additional Virtual Legislative Day events will be going on from February 23-March 5. Stay tuned to NYAPRS for details.

LATEST JOB OPENINGS

The Virtual Community [Job Bank](#) posts openings in the order they are submitted by employers, and it is updated regularly. We also do a monthly scan of peer support worker openings available through the job search companies like Indeed, and sort this report in alphabetical order by location, job title, and employer. See the [Open Jobs Report](#) at the end of this section for more about these sorted lists.

New York City

[Peer Specialist, NYC Supported Transition and Recovery Team \(NYCSTART\)](#)

Bureau of Mental Health, Dept. of Mental Health and Hygiene

Job ID: 435943

Greene, NY

[Director of Residential Services](#)

Hillside Family of Agencies

[View more opportunities](#)

Albany, Long Island, Rockland

[Peer Bridger \(PT\)](#) (multiple positions)

NYAPRS

NYC and Long Island

[Family Peer Advocate](#)

Federation of Organizations

NYC and Long Island

[Youth Peer Advocate](#)

Federation of Organizations

Canandaigua (Rochester area)

[Peer Specialist – Veterans Crisis Line](#)

US Dept. of Veterans Affairs

White Plains

[Peer Support Specialist – Westchester Crisis Stabilization](#)

People-USA

Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Direct Care positions

Family Residences and Essential Enterprises

Virtual Hiring Event – February 17, 4:00 – 6:30 pm

[Learn More](#)

Bronx

[Multiple positions](#)

Baltic Street AEH

[Virtual Job Fair – February 26, 11:00 – 2:00 pm](#)

Zoom Meeting ID: 6011873477

Sent all resumes to jobs@balticstreet.org

Remote Statewide position

[Youth Peer Services Training and Credential Manager](#)

Families Together in New York State

Long Island (Ronkonkoma and Remote)

[Careers in Recovery and Wellness Training Center Outreach and Training Specialist](#)

Association for Mental Health and Wellness (AMHW)

Johnstown

[Peer Engagement Specialist](#)

HFM Prevention Council

Johnstown

[Certified Recovery Peer Advocate](#)

HFM Prevention Council

Manhattan

[Peer Engagement Specialist](#)

Lantern Community Services

NEW YORK CITY

[Peer Counselors for NYC Crisis Line](#)

(volunteer position)

The Samaritans

NEW YORK CITY

[Peer Specialist \(multiple positions\)](#)

Visiting Nurse Service

Visit our [Open Jobs report page](#) for a detailed listing of openings in the state as reported to multiple employment agencies. The reports are sorted by location, job title, and employer to allow you to quickly find openings that are most relevant to your search.

The Open Jobs report is provided monthly by Curtis Dann-Messier, Director of the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium. If you find these new reports helpful, let us know. Send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Peer Support Worker Job Club | Fridays at noon (Eastern)

Are you a certified peer worker, in New York City or New York State, looking for work?
Or are you already working but looking to change jobs?

We will meet weekly to share strategies you can use to search for the right job, make your application *pop*, ace the interview, and negotiate for a fair salary.

Drop in on Fridays at noon for an employment support group co-hosted by the NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium (NYC PCHWWC) and the Academy of Peer Services (APS). **Register in advance to attend any (or all) sessions:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtduiurTgrHNbo_BkW7d3pTV02d6NK9i-U

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

Black History Month

As we celebrate Black History Month, a few excellent resources caught our attention to share.

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Black History is OUR History

[Learn More](#)

PBS is featuring several shows in celebration of Black History Month

[Learn More](#)

Community Calendar

There are many events happening for the rest of this month and next. We've tried to capture and share as many as possible, but new announcements are received every day. We will do our best to continue to add announcements as they come to our Community Calendar: <https://aps-community.org/calendar/>

Deadline: Feb. 15

GRANT: Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Education Agency Grants
SAMHSA

[Learn more](#)

Deadline: Feb. 15

GRANT: Building Communities of Recovery Grants
SAMHSA

[Learn more](#)

Deadline: Feb. 15

GRANT: Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma Grants
SAMHSA

[Learn more](#)

Support Group

Feb. 15, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET
Mutual Support Call for Mental Health Providers
MHTTC

[Learn More](#)

Peer Workers United

Feb. 15, 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET
Support Group for Peer Workers
(Every 1st and 3rd Monday)

[Learn More](#)

Creative Connections

Feb. 15, 6:00 – 7:00 pm ET
Making Cards: Creative Connections
Hands Across Long Island (HALI)

[Learn More](#)

Webinar

Feb 16, 10:00-12:00 pm
Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Individuals
Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery

The Coalition for Behavioral Health

[Learn more](#)

Legislative Planning

Feb 16, 11:00-12:30 pm ET

NYAPRS

[Learn more](#)

[View the Legislative Agenda and Priorities](#)

Training

Feb. 16 and 18, 12-3 pm ET

Introduction to Peer Supported Community Inclusion

The Copeland Center

[Learn more](#)

APS Networking Meeting

Feb 16, 5:15 – 6:30 pm

Support for Supporters

Educational Segment: Poetry as Therapy | Expressing Emotions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88902199174?pwd=TnJXOHFtelNkZldueXJoTDhTMUZmZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174

Passcode: 702960

Webinar

Feb 17, 10:00-12:00 pm Eastern

Tuning in to Trauma within Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery

The Coalition for Behavioral Health

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 17, 2:00 pm Eastern

I Laugh Therefore I Am: The Healing Power of Laughter

California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 17, 2:00 pm Eastern

Families Make Your Voices Heard: Introduction to Advocacy

Partnership to End Addiction and Recovery Advocacy Project

[Learn more](#)

Meeting

Feb 17, 3:00 pm Eastern

CNY Regional Communication Meeting
Office of Mental Health

[Learn more](#)

Meeting

Feb 17, 4:00 pm Eastern

Black Minds Matter: Addressing Disproportionate Suspensions of Black Children and Youth
Center for Organizational Responsibility and Advancement (CORA)

[Learn more](#)

Training

Feb 18, 2021 (1-Day)

The Impact of Compassion Fatigue in Peer Support Work
Peer Recovery Center of Excellence

[Learn more](#)

Training

Feb 18-19, 2021 (2-Days)

Motivational Interviewing
Recovery Coach University

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 18, 10:00 – 11:30 am ET

Intersections of Grief & Resilience with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery
The Coalition for Behavioral Health

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 18, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Cultural Competence in Healthcare: Laying the Foundation
PsychU

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 18, 1:00 pm ET

AFFIRM Youth: Providing Affirmative Care for LGBTQ+ Youth
The Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity

[Learn more](#)

Legislative Planning

Feb 18, 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET

NYAPRS

[Learn more](#)

[View the Legislative Agenda and Priorities](#)

Webinar

Feb 18, 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET

Talking About Tobacco: A New Conversation About Tobacco Use and Peer Support

Academy of Peer Services

[Learn more](#)

Networking

Feb 18, 3:30 – 5:00 pm ET

“Fur Baby Love”

Long Island Peer Networking Group

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 18, 6:30 – 7:30 pm ET

Black Mental Health: A Time During COVID-19 and Civil Uprising

MHTTC and University of Chicago

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 19, 10:00-12:00 pm

Leading Virtual or Physically Distanced Skills Training Groups

Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery

The Coalition for Behavioral Health

[Learn more](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

Feb. 19, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium

and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Creative Connections

Feb. 19, 6:00 – 7:00 pm ET

Making Cards: Creative Connections

Hands Across Long Island (HALI)

[Learn More](#)

Reframing Crisis (Support Group)

Feb. 20, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

(Every Saturday)

Self-Care, Community Care, Peer Support

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: Feb. 22

Submit a Workshop Proposal

Families Together Annual Conference: Building Strong Roots

(Conference Date: May 5, 2021)

Families Together in New York State

[Learn more](#)

Deadline: Feb. 22

YP Artivism

Submit Creative Expressions for the Youth Power Virtual Gallery

(all forms of creative expression welcome)

Families Together in NYS / Youth Power

[Learn more](#)

Deadline: Feb. 22

Submit a Workshop Proposal

Peer Action 4 Change: Western Recovery Conference

(Conference dates: March 12 and 13)

Zooming into Recovery

[Learn more](#)

Breakfast Series (Conference)

Feb 22, 8:30 – 10:00 am ET

Advancing the NYS Prevention Agenda & BH through Community Partnership

The Coalition for Behavioral Health

[Learn more](#)

Introduction to Peer Staff Supervision

February 22 and 23, 10 -1:00 pm Eastern

Peer Specialist Supervision Training (Robyn Priest)

[Learn More](#)

Talking Circle

Feb 22, 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET

Race and Restorative Justice

Partners in Restorative Initiatives

[Learn more](#)

Discussion

Feb 22, 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

Overcoming Mental Health Stigma in the Black Community
David Satcher, MD: My Quest for Health Equity
Andrea Brown, Executive Director Black Mental Health Association
[Learn more](#)

Virtual Legislative Days

Feb 23 - March 5, 2021
22nd Annual Legislative Day
NYAPRS
[Learn more](#)
[View the Legislative Agenda/Priorities](#)

Training

Feb 23 and 25, 9 AM-4 PM ET
Peer Supervision Training
Recovery Coach University
[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb 23, 2:00 pm ET
Gender Inclusive Facilitation Skills for Peer Specialists
Doors to Wellbeing
[Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

Feb 23, 5:15 pm
Support for Supporters
Every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:30 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88902199174?pwd=TnJXOHFtelNlZldueXJoTDhTMUZmZz09>
Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174
Passcode: 702960

Webinar

Feb 24, 12:30 - 2:00 pm ET
Hiring and Inspiring! Creative Recruitment of Youth Peer Advocates
MCTAC/CTAC
[Learn More](#)

OMH Education Series

Feb 24, 10:00 – 11:30 am ET
Vaccine Education for Consumers and Staff of OMH Community Programs
OMH
[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Feb. 25, 2:30 – 4:00 pm ET

Black Mental Health Matters: Microtrauma and Microaggressions in Communities of Color (2)

MHTTC

[Learn More](#)

Webinar

Feb. 25, 2:30 – 4:00 pm ET

Supporting Peers Providing Services at Intercept 0

SAMHSA GAINS CENTER

[Learn More](#)

Virtual Job Fair

February 26, 11:00 – 2:00 pm ET

Bronx - [Multiple positions](#)

Baltic Street AEH

Zoom Meeting ID: 6011873477

[Learn More](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

Feb. 26, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Regional Peer Worker Support Circle

Feb. 26, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

(Every other Friday)

Northeast and Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center

[Learn More](#)

Reframing Crisis (Support Group)

Feb. 27, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

(Every Saturday)

Self-Care, Community Care, Peer Support

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: Mar 1

GRANT: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Grants

SAMHSA

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: Mar 1

Statewide Pilot: Cross Agency Collaboration

OMH

[Learn more](#)

Advocacy Week

March 1-5, 2021

Family Empowerment Week

Families Together in New York State

[Learn More](#)

Peer Workers United

March 1, 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET

Support Group for Peer Workers

(Every 1st and 3rd Monday)

[Learn More](#)

Central Region Quarterly Meeting

March 3, 11:00 – 12:30 pm ET

Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)

OMH/MCTAC/CTAC – with CFTSS Providers

[Learn more](#)

Understanding Homelessness

March 3, 11:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Treating People Like People (Robyn Priest)

[Learn more](#)

NYC & Long Island Region Quarterly Meeting

March 4, 11:30 – 1:00 pm ET

Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)

OMH/MCTAC/CTAC – with CFTSS Providers

[Learn more](#)

OMH Education Series

March 4, 2:30 – 4:00 pm ET

Vaccine Education for Consumers and Staff of OMH Community Programs

OMH

[Learn more](#)

Deadline: March 5

Apply to attend Supervisor's Business Concepts Course

(15 Sessions)

[Curriculum Outline](#)

The Coalition for Behavioral Health and MCTAC

[Application](#)

Training

March 5, 9 AM – 4 PM

Taking a Coach Approach

\$175

Recovery Coach University

[Learn More](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

March 5, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Reframing Crisis (Support Group)

March 6, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

(Every Saturday)

Self-Care, Community Care, Peer Support

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: March 8

Submit a Workshop Proposal

Peer Pathways 6th Annual Conference

(Conference dates: August 18 and 19)

[Learn more](#)

[Submit Application](#)

Hudson River Region Quarterly Meeting

March 8, 1:30 – 3:00 pm ET

Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)

OMH/MCTAC/CTAC – with CFTSS Providers

[Learn more](#)

OMH Education Series

March 8, 2-3:30 pm ET

Vaccine Education for Consumers and Staff of OMH Community Programs

OMH

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

March 8, 3:30 – 4:30 pm ET

Gender Dysphoria Considerations for Children and Youth
The Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity

[Learn more](#)

Webinar

Mar 9, 10:00 – 11:30 am ET

Resilience Across the Lifespan
Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery
The Coalition for Behavioral Health

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: March 10

Apply to Attend (space limited to 40)

Howie the Harp (HTH) Peer Training Bootcamp
(Virtual and Live)

[Learn more](#)

Justice Peers | Community Meeting

Mar 11, 10:30 – 12:00 pm ET

New York City Justice Peer Initiative
Seating is Limited - RSVP To Attend

[Learn More](#)

Webinar

Mar 11, 12-1:00 pm ET

What are Polyvagal Practices and Why are They Important?
MCTAC/CTAC

[Learn More](#)

Webinar

Mar 11, 1-2:30 ET

Trauma of Racism: Healing our National Legacy
Mad in America

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: March 12

Apply to bring AFFIRM to your organization

CBT intervention for improving health of LGBTQ+ populations
Center of Excellence LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity

[Learn more](#)

Western Region Quarterly Meeting

March 12, 11:30 – 1:00 pm ET

Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)

OMH/MCTAC/CTAC – with CFTSS Providers

[Learn more](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

March 12, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium

and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

TOWN MEETING

Mar 12, 3-5:00 pm ET

CCIT-NYC Accomplishments and What's Ahead

Correct Crisis Intervention Today-NYC (CCIT-NYC)

[Learn More](#)

Regional Peer Worker Support Circle

March 12, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

(Every other Friday)

Northeast and Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center

[Learn More](#)

Peer Conference

Mar 12 and 13, 2021

Peer Action 4 Change: Western Recovery Conference

Zooming into Recovery

[Learn more](#)

Reframing Crisis (Support Group)

March 13, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

(Every Saturday)

Self-Care, Community Care, Peer Support

[Learn More](#)

Leadership Training

Mar 15 and April 1 (2 Days)

Foundations for Leadership

Families Together in NYS/Youth Power

[Learn More](#)

Support Group

Mar. 15, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Mutual Support Call for Mental Health Providers

MHTTC

[Learn More](#)

Peer Workers United

March 15, 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET

Support Group for Peer Workers

(Every 1st and 3rd Monday)

[Learn More](#)

Webinar

Mar 17, 12-1:00 pm ET

Healing the Hidden Wounds of Internalized Racism

MCTAC/CTAC

[Learn More](#)

Webinar

March 18, 3:30 – 4:30 pm ET

Gender Dysphoria in Adults: Moving Beyond Diagnosis and Toward Affirmative Practice

The Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity

[Learn more](#)

OMH Education Series

March 19, 9:00 – 10:30 am ET

Vaccine Education for Consumers and Staff of OMH Community Programs

OMH and OASAS

[Learn more](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

March 19, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium

and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Reframing Crisis (Support Group)

March 20, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

(Every Saturday)

Self-Care, Community Care, Peer Support

[Learn More](#)

Statewide Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

March 22, 8:30 – 12:30 pm ET
Quarterly Advisory Meeting
OMH Office of Consumer Affairs
[Learn more](#)

Leadership Forum

Mar 22, 24, 29, and 31
Virtual Youth Leadership Forum
Families Together/Youth Power
More information coming soon

Webinar

Mar 23, 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET
Understanding and Mitigating Vicarious Trauma
Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery
The Coalition for Behavioral Health
[Learn More](#)

OMH Education Series

March 24, 5:30 – 7:00 pm ET
Vaccine Education for Consumers and Staff of OMH Community Programs
OMH
[Learn more](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

March 26, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)
NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)
[Learn More](#)

Regional Peer Worker Support Circle

March 26, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
(Every other Friday)
Northeast and Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center
[Learn More](#)

Reframing Crisis (Support Group)

March 27, 5:00 – 6:00 pm
(Every Saturday)
Self-Care, Community Care, Peer Support
[Learn More](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

April 2, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Conference

April 5-7, 2021

Global Mental Health Research Conference (Virtual)

Details coming soon on the [NIMH site](#).

Peer Support Worker Job Club

April 9, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: April 12

Grant Application: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program for
Paraprofessionals

HRSA Health Workforce

[Learn more](#)

Support Group

April. 12, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Mutual Support Call for Mental Health Providers

MHTTC

[Learn More](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

April 16, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Canadian Peer Specialist Training

April 19-30 (2-weeks)

Mon-Fri, 10:0 am-12:00 pm, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm Eastern

(Robyn Priest)

[Learn More](#)

17th Annual Executive Seminar

April 20, 22, 28, 2021

Leadership 2021 | Moving Forward: Taking Charge of Our Future

Keynotes: Linda Rosenberg, Lenore Reid-Rose, Lonnetta Albright

NYAPRS

[Save the dates](#)

Peer Specialist Training (10 Week/20 Sessions)

April 20, 22, 27, 29; May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27; June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, July 1, 22, 24

2-4 pm Eastern

Peer Specialist Training (Robyn Priest)

[Learn More](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

April 23, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Peer Support Worker Job Club

April 30, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

(Weekly group meeting on Fridays at noon)

NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium
and the Academy of Peer Services (hosts)

[Learn More](#)

Peer Support Group Facilitator Training

May 3-14, 5-7 pm Eastern

Facilitator Training (Robyn Priest)

[Learn More](#)

Conference

May 5, 2021

2021 Annual Conference: Building Strong Roots

Families Together in New York State

[Learn more](#)

Older Adult Symposium

May 6, 2021

4th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day

SAMHSA

[Learn more](#)

Support Group

May 10, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Mutual Support Call for Mental Health Providers

MHTTC

[Learn More](#)

Training

May 17, 2021

Family Supported Recovery

Recovery Coach University

[Learn More](#)

Training

June 11, 9 AM – 4 PM

A Coach Approach

\$175

Recovery Coach University

[Learn More](#)

Support Group

June 14, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Mutual Support Call for Mental Health Providers

MHTTC

[Learn More](#)

Conference

July 15, 2021

15th Annual NYC Conference for Working Peer Specialists

NYU Kimmel Center

Details coming soon

Conference

July 27-28, 2021

NAMIcon (Virtual Convention)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

[Learn More](#)

Conference

August 18-19, 2021

6th Annual Peer Pathways Conference - “Peering into the Future”

Tacoma, WA

[Learn More](#)

Other Informative and Inspiring Resources

NYC Peer Workforce Support Line

Wednesdays and Thursdays | 6:00 – 8:30 pm Eastern

Confidential and staffed by peer volunteers

929-254-4422

Mindfulness Guide: A Young Adult’s Guide to Meditation by NYAPRS’ Ruth Colón-Wagner

[Access the Guide](#)

Pat Deegan’s: Using Meds to Help Me Get the Life I Want

From a recent webinar through the Center for Practice Innovations

<https://practiceinnovations.org/CPI-Resources/Using-Meds-to-Help-Me-Get-The-Life-I-Want>

The Key Update – National Mental Health Consumers’ Self-Help Clearinghouse

[Learn More](#)

The Wildflower Alliance Newsletter (formerly the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community)

See a tribute to Mary Ann and George Ebert

[Learn More](#)

Five Things Digest

NTTAC System of Care Transformation Team

[Learn More](#)

Stand Up for Mental Health

COMEDY SHOW

[Learn More](#)

NYC COVID-19 Updates

[Learn More](#)

MCTAC/CTAC COVID-19 Updates

[Learn More](#)

MCTAC/CTAC Webinars on the Power of Policies and Procedures

[Learn More](#)

California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA)

Newsletter

[Learn More](#)

Coalition of Civil Rights Groups and Legal Scholars

Report on Intersectional Medical Discrimination During COVID-19

[Learn More](#)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

WRAP and Crisis Support Survey

The Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery invites you to fill out a survey on **WRAP and Crisis Support**. We are seeking community members who have supported someone - including yourself - through a crisis in the past year to share experiences. [Take the Survey](#)

Café TA Peer Learning Community on Leadership

Café TA is a SAMHSA-funded Technical Assistance Center
Space is limited to 25 - [Learn more about this opportunity](#)

For Youth Peers and Supervisors

Families Together in NYS holds regular regional meetings for youth peers and peer supervisors.
[Get Involved!](#)

- [Learn about youth peer meetings \(YPM\)](#)
- [Learn about peer supervisor meetings \(PSM\)](#)

RESEARCH

Participate in Research

Trade or Technical Careers

Study seeking Individuals with mental health conditions who have graduated from trade or technical programs and are pursuing careers in technical fields. Also seeking input from family members and others who involved in career services, supported employment, supported education and vocational rehabilitation.

[Flyer](#)

[Learn More](#)

People who Smoke and Have a Mental Health Condition

Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Psychiatry in New Brunswick is conducting an [online survey](#) to evaluate tobacco quitting barriers in smokers with mental health conditions.

Eligibility Requirements: Volunteers must be smokers who are 18 years or older. Compensation: You will be compensated for your time (\$20 gift card).

Visit www.tinyurl.com/RUTBS to complete the survey

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS AND CLASSES

Our weekly APS Networking Meeting

Every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:30 pm

February 15 Educational Topic: Poetry as Therapy | Expressing our Emotions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88902199174?pwd=TnJXOHFtelNlZldueXJoTDhTMUZmZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174

Passcode: 702960

We are looking for people to join us who can give brief presentations on topics of interest to working peer specialists. Our most recent meeting identified the following topics:

- Peer Support in Crisis Response, Law Enforcement Reform
- Leadership and Community Organizing
- Getting Started in Peer Support, I'm Certified, Now What
- A Day in the Life of a Peer Specialist
- Staying Well While Working
- Developing a Peer Career Ladder
- Making Ends Meet on a Limited Income: Economics 101
- Empowerment, Mutuality, and Equity
- Working through Stigma, Discrimination, and Microaggressions on the Job

Are there other topics you'd like to see and/or give a presentation on? Let us know! Send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

MORE SUPPORT

The [Support](#) pages on the Virtual Community website provide information about peer-run organizations that offer a schedule of classes and groups. Here are a few examples:

Long Island

Hands Across Long Island (HALI)

[Virtual Connections Introduction](#)

[February Calendar](#)

Learn more by calling the HALI Warmline: 631-234-1925 x 1

Long Island

Healing Connections

Association for Mental Health and Wellness

12:00 – 1:30 pm Monday-Friday

[Learn More](#)

For more groups and classes by region, visit the Support pages on our site. If your organization is not listed (or if the information is out of date), let us know. If you would like your groups and classes to be featured in Community News Update, send email with your announcement or schedule to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Submitted Articles

Howard Diamond is a regular contributor to the Virtual Learning Community Blog Site.

The Blog site has been offline while we've been updating the VLC website, but Howard has continued to submit monthly articles for the site, which should include the monthly blogs again shortly. In the meantime, we thought we would include in this February edition of the newsletter the articles he has submitted recently. Enjoy!

DO WE WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

by Howard Diamond

12/19/20

What type of job do we want? What skills and hobbies do we possess?
Do we have enough experience? Where do we start our search?
Do we want to be a volunteer?

Volunteer is the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain. What I am focusing on how this is a tool of recovery. To be a volunteer one becomes an integral part of an organization or agency. Also, he/she is valued around the world regardless of age, race, creed, or gender who wants to give back to our communities.

In my past, I volunteered on many occasions, including my university's public relations department, sports information office and my universities' student advocate office. These were positive opportunities and assisted me in my educational and social goals. Not only does volunteering help the place where we are doing the work, but it benefits the specific person doing the work itself. On occasion volunteering can lead to paid employment.

Yes, this applied to me, also. During late 1992 or 1993, I began volunteering in the Grant Department of North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset (now called Northwell Health). Performing a variety of tasks, I learned many functions of the job and I was always on time. After around seven months one of the employees in the department went on sick leave. Then, I was asked if I wanted a temporary paid position. Once, I juggled my schedule I was able to work four days weekly from 8am to 5pm and where I stayed for five months (13 months in total) till he returned. This was great for my working experience and they were glad to have me.

Others commented that being a volunteer is rewarding. Also, we find it as an instrumental part in stopping our cycles of relapsing and possibly returning to the hospital. Many of us have found by doing a volunteering is a stepping stone with a chance to accomplish something positive and feeling productive. By volunteering, one can learn new things, make new friends and of course develop skills with the possibly for some type of paid employment. An expression often used here, "get one's feet wet". Wow, that sounds totally awesome.

Time does not really matter for someone who volunteers. Whether one volunteers, one hour a day, few hours a week, a week or two or several months, it is a wonderful technique to figure out oneself. Furthermore, we continue to perform an important function and helping others and us in the process. Also, a person may get an opportunity to, "spread one's wings" in a "real life" work environment.

Evaluate for oneself. The best person to know what a person wants is the person themselves. Then, do we want to be a volunteer? A lot of information was given in this article to make a decision, think about this carefully. No rush, no pressure. It is up to each individual to make their own choice. Positive thinking all. See everyone in the NewsBlogs.

Part two will be about Volunteering for Mental Health -

Howard Diamond is a New York State Certified Peer Specialist from Long Island

JANUARY WHILE REFLECTING ON DECEMBER

by Howard Diamond

1/24/21

January is here and we are only a few days into 2021. Most of us have been affected one way or another by COVID19. Too many suffered, too many died. As of this writing, there are two vaccines and reasons for optimism that 2021 will be better. Yes, there will be changes, but will be good enough to excite our interests or make our lives better to put us in a positive frame of mind and put us on the long and winding road. No, neither of the Beatles roads, Abbey Road or the Long and Winding Road. Not the yellow brick road, from the Wizard Of Oz. It is our ROAD TO SUCCESS, Yes, our road to success!

[Eight days and eight nights of Chanukah have now come and gone. Did Jewish People, get their gifts? Probably not, too much struggle in many places around the world. In many of the windows were pretty menorahs shining in the night. Many evenings, I smelled the latkes \(potato pancakes\) being fried on the stove. In the ovens were turkeys not quite ready to be carved. While the kids were playing dreidels and singing CHANUKAH SONGS in three different languages, English, Hebrew and Yiddish.](#)

Was this a good year or a bad one? Success and failure are different for each of us, but we do strive for the former. President Trump lost the November election. His successor, Joseph Biden was inaugurated on January 20, 2021 as the 46th President of the United States and right before, Senator Kamala Harris, from California was sworn in and became Vice-President. History was made as Sen. Harris was the first Black Asian Female Vice-President of

the United States. Is this a good change or not? Only time will tell.

My preference is to stay in the positive and reflect.

Although, I do not want the snow, I do my best to accept it as it falls from the sky, deciding to gaze outside the open window and feel the snow as it glistens on my unprotected hand, sometimes reaching out to grab a few to make little snowmen for others to witness.

Meanwhile, from another home, I heard a stereo playing CHRISTMAS CAROLS for anyone to sing, dance, or just and enjoy.

Let's not worry there are plenty of trees, all decorated with shiny ornaments in red and green, yellow, and blue to make the night bright.

While others are watching a variety of classic holiday movies like, "A Christmas Carol" or "Home Alone" or "Christmas Story".

Also, in the air I can smell turkeys roasting, hams glazing, biscuits frying and an array of desserts baking all emitting odors from the assortment of kitchens.

HOLIDAYS ARE HERE AND GONE

As December arrived most of us did cheer
Several faiths call this time the festival of lights
Getting ready for a celebration of a new year
To get through all the days and the nights

For some they spent these times alone
Little or no family or friends to spend the days
Many are lonely and basically have no one
Far away from people and the sun rays

Sleep and rest when we can
Taking a shower to start my day
Today I am going to feel like a man
Seizing each moment in every way

During last month most of us prepared for the year ahead
Not knowing when someone will be getting a call on their phone
While others want a safe place to live with a comfortable bed
Wishing for a healthier life for me and for you in the year 2021.

Awakening from my daydream of holidays past, this concludes with the last previous paragraph. Now, I am thinking or dreaming about some of my holidays with my significant other, Maureen who died on Friday June 12, 2015. On December 11, we would have been married 15 years. When I think about her here or somewhere else, I can only imagine how my life would be different. Sweetie, I love you, I miss you, and I still wish you were beside me here. SEE YOU IN THE NEWS BLOGS.

Howard Diamond is a New York State Certified Peer Specialist from Long Island

LOOK, LOOK AHEAD 2021**by Howard Diamond**

1/24/21

Look, look to the year ahead
COVID19 is about all that was said
Unfortunately, thousands of humans are dead
Still not many alternatives to do instead.

Look, look ahead for there is greatness and joy
Harder to seek out for what we can enjoy
Did we even get a holiday toy?
Whether we are a girl or a boy.

Look, look ahead and not behind
Not able to see the wonders of mankind
2020 was real not a dream of the mind
There are still many people that are kind.

Look, look ahead, and do not despair
Life is never perfect hard to continue or even care
Difficult to take any risks or able to dare
Even if we believe that life is not fair.

Look, look ahead and not back
Try to achieve what last year did lack
Hopefully, we can eat inside, Whopper or Big Mac
Follow President Biden because he is leader of the pack.

Look, look ahead it is now 2021
In 2020 we saw lots of violence especially with people owning a gun
COVID19 took many lives, but remain resilient our work is not done
Let's try to make this a great year and have some fun.

Howard Diamond is a New York State Certified Peer Specialist from Long Island

WISHING FOR NO MORE COVID19**by Howard Diamond**

1/24/21

Wishing for no more COVID19
The worst virus mankind has ever seen
No one saw this coming, it was unforeseen
For too many people, it became extremely mean.

This year COVID19 will leave
At least that is what I want to believe

Many others are still needing to grieve
Waiting to see what COVID19 has up its sleeve.
Wishing for no more COVID19 to occur
It did not pass us by like a blur
Too much for all of us to endure
Now it is time that we find a cure.

Outside we continue to wear a mask
Going inside a restaurant is still a task
Some people are still drinking from their flask
No more COVID19 is all that I ask.

Howard Diamond is a New York State Certified Peer Specialist from Long Island