




New York City Justice Peer Center
Kick Off Meeting

WELCOME!

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ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

You will be asked to share your answers to these questions later on in the presentation. We want to give you some extra time to think about your responses. You will have the option of using either the chat box or verbally responding to some or all of the questions. Thanks!!!

- **Name**
- **Why did you decide to join us today?**
- **If you had a magic wand**

(Ok, we are fans of Harry Potter), and had the power to change one thing about the criminal justice system or societal problems often result in the involvement of specific groups of individuals becoming disproportionately involved with the criminal justice system, what would that be?

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Tech Tips

Please use the chat box if you have any questions that arise during the course of the webinar before the start of the Q and A session.

There are 2 polls and 1 survey that you will be asked to complete during the course of this webinar.

We will have a Q & A at the conclusion of the webinar.

If you experience any technical difficulties during the course of this webinar, please notify the tech team via chat.


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Poll #1


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Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction of the Leadership Team
- Message of Support
- Ice Breaker
- Overview of New York City Justice Peer Initiative
- Overview of NYC Justice Peer Center
- Overview of Action Group and Sub-Group Roles and Responsibilities
- Q and A
- Next Steps

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Welcome

| | |
|---|--|
| Ann-Marie Louison Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer CASES | Helen Skipper Manager of Peer Services Queens Release Program NYC Criminal Justice Agency |
|---|--|

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Introduction of Justice Peer Center Leadership Team

Linda Richard, Volunteer Consultant

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Leadership Team

- Helen Skipper, NYCJA
- Ann-Marie Louison, CASES
- Linda Richard, Volunteer Consultant
- Rita Cronise, Rutgers University
- LaVerne Daisy Miller, Volunteer Consultant

The Leadership Team is currently recruiting new members. Estimated time commitment is 8-10 hours per month. This includes Leadership Team and Action Group Meetings and may also include representing the Center during such activities such as outreach and meetings with partners.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Leadership Team, please E-Mail your contact information to nycjusticepeercenter@gmail.com

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National Significance

Brandee Izquierdo, MPA
 Executive Director
 Safe Project



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 Skipper, Ann-Marie Louison, Linda
 Richards, Brandee Izquierdo



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ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

You have the option of responding verbally or using the chat feature. You can raise your hand to respond verbally.

- **Name**
- **Why did you decide to join us today?**
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Overview of NYC Justice Peer Initiative

Curtis Dann-Messier, Director
 NY Peer and Community Health Worker Consortium

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BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW OF THE NYC JUSTICE PEER INITIATIVE

Justice Peer Executive Committee
Skip, Jeanette, Frank, LaVerne, Rita, and Curtis

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WORKING DEFINITION – PEER SUPPORT

- Peer: An individual who has been trained to use their lived experience overcoming significant, often traumatic circumstances to support others facing challenges similar to their own.
- In New York State, peer support workers can be trained & certified to use their lived experience with mental health challenges (peer specialist), substance misuse challenges (recovery peer advocate), HIV or Hep-C (certified peer worker), supporting a child navigating systems (family peer), or navigating systems as a young adult (youth peer). Peer support is Medicaid-reimbursable in New York State.
- The following core values have been ratified by peer supporters across the U.S. as the core ethical values for peer support practice:
 - 1. Participation in peer support is voluntary 2. Peer supporters are hopeful 3. Peer supporters are open minded 4. Peer supporters are empathetic 5. Peer supporters are respectful 6. Peer supporters facilitate change 7. Peer supporters are honest and direct 8. Peer support is mutual and reciprocal 9. Peer support is equally shared power 10. Peer support is strengths-focused 11. Peer support is transparent 12. Peer support is person-driven

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THE NYC PEER & CHW WORKFORCE

● Total number of online job ads in NYC in 2020 with these search terms:

| Job Title | # of Online Job Ads in 2020 |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Peer | 590 |
| Peer Specialist | 261 |
| Peer Advocate | 120 |
| Community Health Worker | 100 |
| Peer Counselor | 52 |
| Family Peer | 45 |
| Youth Peer | 35 |
| Peer Navigator | 25 |
| Credible Messenger OR Violence Interrupter | 14 |
| Justice Peer | 0 |

This data was collected and analyzed via Burning Glass. Burning Glass is the nation's largest database of online job postings. Burning Glass uses advanced artificial intelligence text mining to gather information from 45,000 sites and over 1 million postings daily. Burning Glass de-duplicates the postings (removing more than 80% of all postings) in order to get accurate data.

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Guiding Principle #3

We will not reinvent the wheel:

- We want to build off of existing infrastructure and initiatives.
- We are looking for gaps in services and solutions.
- But, we need willing partners to do this and feel the urgency to act.



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HISTORY OF THE NYC JUSTICE PEER INITIATIVE

- The success of the peer movement laid the groundwork for this initiative
- The NYC Peer & CHW Workforce Consortium identified the justice sector as an area of growth for the peer workforce
- Began working with Jeanette and Skip in June 2020, via a webinar series hosted by Rita and Academy of Peer Services
- June – September: Surveyed the landscape
- October 2020: Initial community meeting
- November – Present: Weekly strategy sessions with the executive committee
- December & January: Working group meetings
- March: Community meeting #2
- April: Three working groups launched
- 1) Training & Certification Action Group
- 2) NYC Justice Peer Center
- 3) Professional networks and support groups for justice peers

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LONG-TERM GOAL OF 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. Peer workers use the power of storytelling and lead by example, instilling hope and determination in those they serve. Their experience and compassion are critical for successfully navigating complex systems that often exclude individuals with conviction histories and/or mental health and substance misuse diagnoses. 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.

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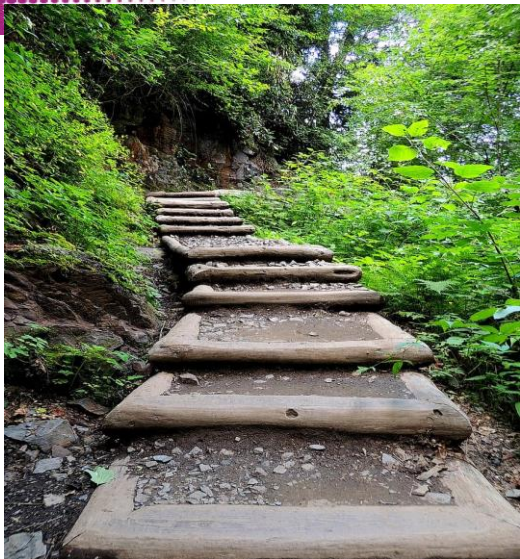
Overview of the NYC Justice Peer Center and Action Groups Roles and Subgroups

Helen Skipper, NYCJA

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Key Steps



- March 11 -Community Meeting**
- April - Three Action Groups Launched**
- March- Formation of Justice Peer Center Leadership Team**
- May- December-Action Group and Sub Action Groups engage key activities that are essential to preparing the groups, as teams and individuals,to lead the Center through the next phases of its development. These activities will include but are not limited to:**
 - Reviewing Existing Models of Justice Peer Centers**
 - Roles and Responsibilities of Board Membership**
 - Best Practices in Operating A Successful Not For Profit Community Centered Organization**
 - Strategic Planning**
 - Forming Strategic Relationships With Criminal Justice Partners**

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A Partnership

The Justice Peer Center Leadership Team has reached a tentative agreement with CASES to incubate the Center. CASES is a historic, trusted, and empowering partner of the justice peer community and therefore is an ideal partner in this exciting journey.


The details of the formal agreement are scheduled to be negotiated in the very near future.

This arrangement will provide the Center with the ability to fundraise and engage in other essential activities.

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A HOME OF OUR OWN



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Initial Feedback

On March 11, two groups brainstormed and proposed a number of ideas about some of the services and other activities that the Center should consider offering:


- Racial disparities, racism, and discrimination
- Crisis Respite
- Education and Employment
- Justice Peer Training
- Housing
- Peer Support and Other Services in Jails, Prisons, Detention Centers, State Hospital Forensic Units
- Advocacy and Systems Advocacy
- Housing
- Family Reunification
- Resolving Collateral Consequences of Involvement in the Criminal Justice System
- Training, Technical Assistance, and Consultation to Criminal Justice Agencies and Agencies Providing Services to Justice Involved Peers
- Community Integration and Civic Involvement
- And More....

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Action Group

The Action Group consists of peers, family members and allies with interests, skills, talents, and areas of expertise that is responsible for performing tasks and executing key decisions that are key to laying a strong foundation for the Center. The Board, Executive Director, Executive Team, Staff, Partners, and the Community to build upon.

Action Group decisions will always be made with meaningful community and input.

The Action Group has a recurring monthly meeting. Communication and feedback between meetings and other activities is maintained by E-Mail.

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Action Sub-Groups

Action Sub-Groups are responsible for completing and or engaging in ongoing tasks that are directly related to creating the strong board leadership, environmental, organizational, programmatic foundation for the Center.

Some examples of current Action Sub-Groups are:

- Strategic Planning
- Board Development
- Outreach
- Social Media
- Grant writing and Fundraising
- Action Sub-Groups are lead by a Action Group Leader and a Member(s).

From time to time, subject matter experts who are not members of Action or Sub Groups engaged to provide information and expert advice.

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Next Steps

All attendees will receive more detailed information about the NYC Peer Justice Center, a link to the recording of this webinar, and slide show.

If you are interested learning more about the NYC Justice Peer Center and or are interested in joining the Action Group or in supporting us in other ways, please contact us and a member of the Leadership Team will contact you.

There are two upcoming events for NYC Action Group Members:

- May 10th- 10:30 AM-12:00 PM ET- “An Overview of the NYC and NYS Criminal Justice Systems”
- May 26th-10:00 AM-11:30 PM ET- Monthly Action Team Meeting

Contact Information: nycjusticepeercenter@gmail.com

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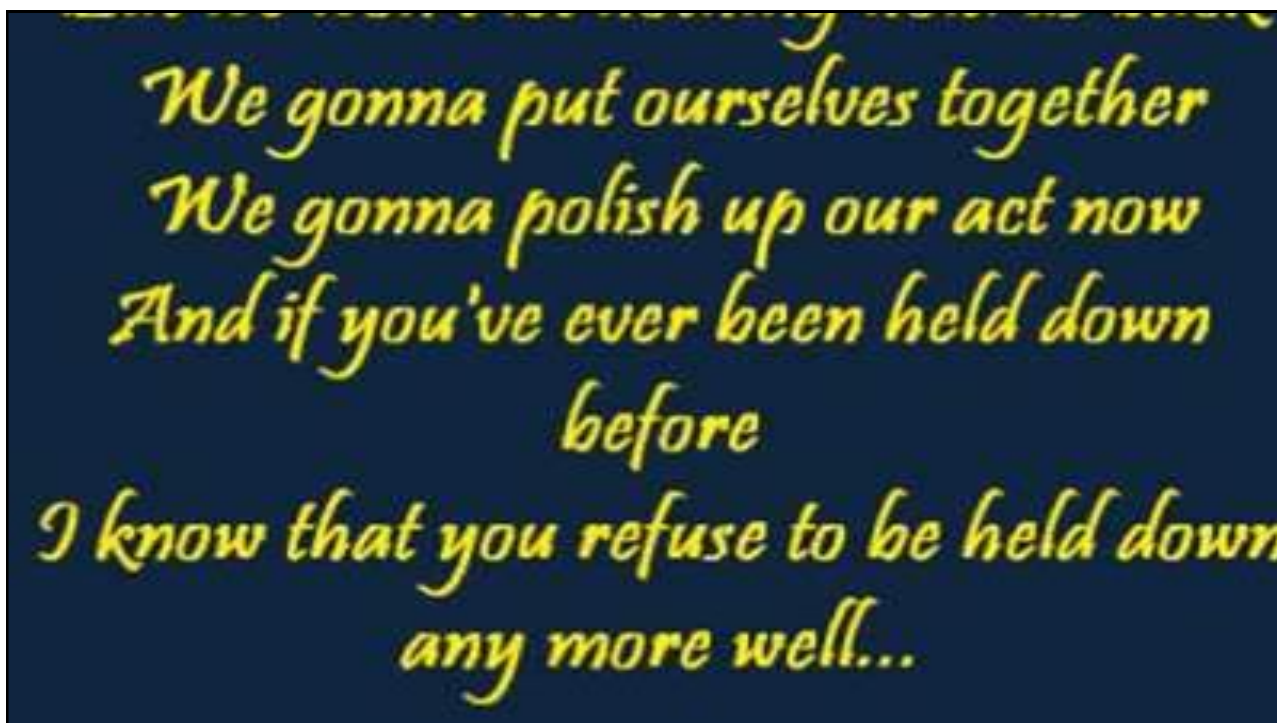
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Survey #1

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