

SAVE THE DATE (But register now!)
Monday, October 25, 1:30 – 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Talking about Tobacco **CHOICES and Peer Support**



[Register](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and a reminder on the day of the webinar.

Webinar Description

The CHOICES program was created in 2005 to address the serious healthcare problem of smoking among individuals with mental illness. Tobacco use among individuals with a mental illness or addiction is a significant health problem, with numerous studies showing higher rates of smoking and lower rates of smoking cessation in this population.

The CHOICES program uses a unique consumer-driven perspective for addressing tobacco among people with mental illness. CHOICES stands for “Consumers Helping Others Improve their Condition by Ending Smoking” and is an important name, symbolizing empowerment and personal choice in recovery. CHOICES employs mental health peer counselors to deliver the vital message to smokers with mental illness in the community that addressing tobacco is important and to motivate them to seek treatment. CHOICES mental health peer counselors called Consumer Tobacco Advocates (CTAs) serve as tobacco-focused consultants to consumers to assist them with linkages to treatment, referrals, advocacy, support and the provision of educational materials. CTAs are paid positions, for non- or former-smokers and most work for the program part-time.

The goal of the CTAs is not to provide direct tobacco treatment but to visit mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals, group homes, self-help centers, health fairs and conferences to communicate with and educate consumers about their smoking. They also provide resources about places in New Jersey where smokers with mental illness can receive tobacco dependence treatment. CHOICES is based in the department of psychiatry at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and partnered with the Mental Health Association of New Jersey, a consumer-driven mental health advocacy organization, and the New Jersey State Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, a primary source of funding for the program. **Presenters:** Trish Dooley Budsock, Azeem S., Deidre S., and Lisa E. **Moderators:** Susan Friedlander and Rita Cronise.

Click the link or copy and paste this address into your browser to register:

<https://talking-about-tobacco-choices-and-peer-support.eventbrite.com>



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