



APS Virtual Learning Community

Community News | February 14, 2022



Happy Valentine's Day

The day the power of love
overrules the love of power,
then there will be peace.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Contents

Academy News	1
APS Blog	3
Peer Specialist Training (Class) Opportunities	4
Community Calendar	5
Relevant Newsletters	21
Resources	22
Get Involved	25
Research	27
Job Openings	28
Funding Opportunities	31
About the Academy	31
About the Virtual Learning Community	32
"Ask Maryam" APS End User Support	32

Welcome to APS Community News

This monthly newsletter contains a listing of events, activities, and job openings for the peer support workforce.

For comments or questions, send email to: academy.virtual.community@gmail.com



Academy News

The Academy of Peer Services (APS) is entering the 6th week of the 12-week Term 1, 2022 (January 7 through April 1). Even though we are midway through the term, it isn't too late to start or to pick up more course toward certification or continuing education for renewal. APS courses are free of charge, online and on-demand (available 24x7) during the open term. Our Core, Elective, and Supervision Track courses are open for three terms each year, with a break for scheduled updates and maintenance of the courses between terms. Our CE (continuing education) courses remain open year-round for credit toward renewal of the NYCPS-P and NYCPS certification.

APS Calendar Year 2022

Term 1 Open 1/7/22 Close 4/1/22
 Term 2 Open 5/2/22 Close 7/22/22
 Term 3 Open 8/29/22 Close 11/18/22

Telehealth Peer Support (ThPS) Series

There is a new webpage (located under the Resource heading) on the Virtual Learning Community site that provides access to the [Telehealth Peer Support \(ThPS\) series](#). These courses can be adapted and used within your program to teach staff the core competencies of Telehealth Peer Support.

These courses were developed following a research study on the most important, frequent, and critical competencies identified by peer specialists and supervisors in providing peer support during the COVID shut down and restricted access to in-person peer support. The study was published online in the February 2022 Issue of the [Community Mental Health Journal](#).

Training on the competencies was developed and delivered by experienced peer specialists, supervisors, and administrators. APS is especially grateful for the work of the following trainers and leaders who made this initiative successful: Celia Brown, Amanda Saake, Amy Smith, Tony Trahan, Regina Shoen, Amy Spagnolo, Rita Cronise, Ruth Colón-Wagner, Liz Brier, Luis Lopez, Maura Kelley, Abby Duke, Shannon Higbee, Forrest (Rusty) Foster, Carlton Whitmore, Lee Rivers, Margaret Varga, Peggy Swarbrick, Clinton Green, Barbara Tedesco, and John Bitondo with major contributions by APS User Support Specialist Maryam Husamudeen, Technical Specialist Varsha Kamat, and Instructional Designer Athena Anderson.

Computer Basics

In addition to the Telehealth Peer Support series, there is an option to brush up on or teach computer basic skills through five courses in the Goodwill Community Foundations (GCF) Global Learn program. These courses have been approved for continuing education credit toward the renewal of the NYCPS-P or NYCPS certification. For information on how to access these courses for credit visit the [Telehealth Peer Support Series Summary Sheet](#).

Talking About Tobacco Series

Another program we have developed over the past year has been an ongoing webinar series to encourage those providing peer support services to become “Talking About Tobacco Champions” and engage people in conversations about their tobacco use. These conversations can be especially effective if the peer supporter has also had experience with using tobacco and has engaged in a process of reducing or eliminating tobacco as a part of their own wellness strategies. It is not essential for a peer support provider to have stopped using tobacco completely. Just having conversations and planning around healthier approaches can be lifesaving for those who use tobacco. APS is especially grateful to those who presented in one or more of the series: Susan Friedlander, Amanda Saake, Tony Trahan, Regina Shoen, LaVerne Miller, Gina Calhoun, Chacku Mathai, Gita Enders, Oscar Jimenéz-Solomon, and Liz Brier with technical assistance from Maryam Husamudeen and Varsha Kamat.

These webinars are now available for CE (continuing education credit toward NYCPS-P/NYCPS renewal). To learn more, visit the [Talking About Tobacco Series Summary Sheet](#).

APS Blog



In addition to the weekly (every Tuesday) Networking Meeting, APS also hosts a Blog Site, which is another way you can get involved. Here are articles by guest writers and other contributors that have been posted in the past month to our Blog Site:

- (February 11, 2022) [Black History, Freedom, and Love](#)
- (February 10, 2022) [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources](#)
- (February 8, 2022) [The Story Behind Black History Month](#)
- (February 7, 2022) [Love, Sweet, Love by Howard Diamond](#)
- (February 3, 2022) [Equity-Grounded Leadership Fellowship Program](#)
- (February 1, 2022) [Wellness Institute February Calendar: Black History Month Health and Wellness Journal](#)
- (January 30, 2022) [Coercion is Not the Answer to NYC's Mental Health Crisis](#)
- (January 14, 2022) [OMH Honors Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day](#)
- (January 13, 2022) [Bracing For 2022 Amid Pandemic, Workforce Challenges](#)
- (January 12, 2022) [Secrets of Getting Things Done](#)
- (January 8, 2022) [The Healing Power of Music](#)
- (January 5, 2022) [Governor Hochul Announces Equity Agenda](#)
- (January 3, 2022) [Racism a Public Health Crisis](#)
- (January 2, 2022) [NYC Coalition Sues Mayor for failing to provide safe, non-police response](#)
- (January 1, 2022) [Wellness Institute January Calendar](#)

Share Your Creative Ideas and Writing!



We're always looking for guest bloggers or contributions of interest to the peer support workforce. Have you seen an article of interest of news to share? Let us know. We may be able to repost it. Send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Peer Specialist Training (Class) Opportunities

Several organizations are providing instructor-led peer specialist training based (at least in part) on the APS training. Many of these training programs provide the opportunity to learn in a group environment and to help you to be better prepared to take the tests in the Academy of Peer Services.

Registration on a First Come First Served Basis

Re-entry at the Crossroads: Peer Support Training within the Criminal Justice System

February 15-18, and 22-25
(Tues.-Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm)
MHEP | [Learn More](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative

Hands Across Long Island
(Mondays: Jan 3-March 28, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)
[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

Mental Health Peer Specialist Training Program

LaGuardia Community College
Cohort 2 begins in June
[Apply Now!](#)

Howie the Harp Bootcamp

12 Week Sessions

August 15-Dec. 9 – Applications will open on February 24, 2022
Community Access | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Readiness Basics and Peer Specialist Training

Careers in Recovery and Wellness Training Center
8-week training offered live online through Zoom
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to apply: February 23, 2022

MHA Rochester Peer Academy

One-month sessions (every other month), Monday-Friday, 10:00 - 2:00 pm
Goals: Professional Development, Work Readiness and Individual Wellness
Orientation and start of next session, March 7

[Apply Now!](#)

Courses Start March 2, 2022

MHA Westchester Peer Specialist Training

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
[Program Brochure](#)

Preparation to take the NYS Peer Exams

[Learn More](#)

**New York City Health+Hospitals
NYC H+H Peer Academy**

Free training toward NYCPS and CRPA

Part-time online training and support: February – April 2022

Full-time in-person training and internship: May – June 2022

[Learn More](#)

Canada Peer Specialist and Peer Staff Supervision Training (Virtual)

(Fees for all training below apply)

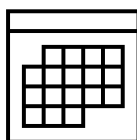
80 Hour Peer Specialist Training: March 22-May 26 (Monday-Friday)

Introduction Peer Staff Supervision Training: March 1 and 3 (6 Hours)

Understanding Homelessness (1 day): April 13 (2 Hours)

[Learn More](#)

Community Calendar



Please Note:

Events in our **Community Calendar** and **Newsletter** are provided as a public service to our peer support and supervision community.

To find out whether an event is eligible for continuing education for a specific professional association, certification, or program, ask the event organizer directly.

Announcements in this newsletter are current as of February 14, 2022.

New announcements are added to our Community Calendar frequently.

Visit our Community Calendar for the latest additions.

Upcoming Events

[Words of Wellness: Wellness Institute February Calendar](#)
[Black History Month Journal](#)

Family Empowerment Month
Starting on February 1, 2022
Families Together in NYS | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to Apply: February 14
Employment Supports Learning Collaborative
MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

**Introduction to “From Crisis to Calm:
Verbal De-escalation Skills to Support Resiliency”**
February 14, 10 am - 1:00 pm
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Free Recovery Coach Academy and Ethics
February 14-24 (M-F: 10-4 pm ET)
Youth Recovery Institute | [Learn More](#)

Two Week Peer Support Worker: Becoming an Exploration Facilitator
February 14-25 (M-F: 10-4 pm ET)
Robyn Priest Live Your Truth | [Learn More](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative
Hands Across Long Island
(February 14, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)
[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

Re-entry at the Crossroads: Peer Support Training within the Criminal Justice System
February 15-18, and 22-25
(Tues.-Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm)
Registration on a First Come First Served Basis
MHEP | [Learn More](#)

LGBTQ 101 + TGNC Interactive Virtual Training
Session 1: LGBTQ 101: Welcoming LGBTQ People Into Recovery
February 15, 10 am - 11:15 am ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

NYAPRS Advocacy Preparation (Webinar)
February 15, 10:30 - 11:30 am ET
NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

Session 2: TGNC Interactive Virtual Training
Session 2: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender People
February 15, 11:30 - 1:00 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Diagnosing with DSM-5

February 15, 10 am - 1:00 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Social Justice and Mental Health Advocacy

February 15, 11:30 - 12:30 pm
NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

February 15, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Introduction to Managing SSI

February 16, 10:00 - 11:30 am ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Becoming Trauma-Informed: Realizing, Recognizing, Responding

February 16, 10 am - 1:00 pm
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

The Good News about Social Media and Gaming for Youth

February 16, 12 am - 1:00 pm
CTAC | [Learn More](#)

Access to Recovery (A2R) Medicaid 101 and Introduction to Medicaid HARP

February 16, 2:00 - 3:30 pm ET
NAMI Metro | [Learn More](#)

Peer-Led Innovations in Reentry Support Programming: Towards Holistic Recovery

February 16, 3 - 4:30 pm ET
SAMHSA GAINS Center | [Learn More](#)

Gaps in Behavioral Health Services for Black & African American LGBTQ+ People

February 16, 3:30 - 5:00 pm ET
University of Maryland School of Social Work | [Learn More](#)

Global Disability Summit (GDS22)

February 16-17, 2022
International Disability Alliance (IDA) | [Learn More](#)

MAT

February 17, 9 am - 1:00 pm
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Healing Youth Trauma

February 17, 10 am - 1:00 pm
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Framing the Narrative in Person-Centered Recovery Planning

February 17, 10 am - 11:30 am ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Substance Misuse and Suicide Risk (Part 1 of 2)

February 17, 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Center for Practice Innovations (CPI), Focus on Integrated Treatment | [Learn More](#)

Manhattan Adult ADD Lecture Series

Dopamine Gene Therapy: An Update
February 17, 8-10 pm ET
[Learn More](#)
To register: webmaster@maaddsg.org
To join the announcement list [subscribe here](#)

Deadline to apply: February 18

SAMHSA's GAINS Center Seeks Experienced Trainers to Participate in Trauma-Informed Responses Train-the-Trainer Event for Individuals. | [Learn More](#)

Deadline for Nominations: February 18

Nominations for six categories for "What's Great in our State"
Families Together in NYS | [Learn More](#)

Mental Health in the Black Community

February 19 and 26 (10-11:30 am ET Each Day)
Diversity of Perspectives and Needs: Children, Black Males, Older Adults, Justice Involved and LGBTQ
To Register: www.tinyurl.com/bipocparent
Watch Live: [BIPOC Parent & Caregiver Mental Health Movement](#) | [Facebook](#)

LEAD Listening Session (Asia/Pacific Islander)

February 19, 3:30 - 5:30 Eastern
(12:30 - 2:30 Pacific)
Lived Experience Advocacy Diversity (LEAD)
A program of CamhPro (California)
[Learn More](#)

Deadline to Apply Extended: February 21

National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health
NNEDLearn 2022 | [Learn More](#)

Introduction to Managing SSDI

February 22, 10 am - 11:30 am ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Suicide Prevention Training for Non-Clinicians

February 22, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn more](#)

NYAPRS Advocacy Preparation (Webinar)

February 22, 10:30 - 11:30 am ET

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

Providing Culturally Responsive Mental Health Services to Latinx LGBTQ+ Folx

February 22, 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET

University of Maryland School of Social Work | [Learn More](#)

Community Inclusion and Recovery: How Community Inclusion Helped Me

February 22, 2-3:00 pm Et

Doors to Wellbeing | [Learn more](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative

Hands Across Long Island

(February 22, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)

[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

Healing Connections Support Group

February 22, 3:30 - 4:30 pm Eastern

Healing Connections Agreement ([read before attending](#))

Pre-registration is required | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

February 22, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET

Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group

Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to Apply: February 23

MHA Rochester Peer Academy

One month sessions (every other month), Monday-Friday, 10:00 - 2:00 pm

Goals: Professional Development, Work Readiness and Individual Wellness

Orientation and start of next session, March 7. | [Apply Now!](#)

Motivational Interviewing (2 Days)

February 23-24, 9am - 3pm

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Discussing Institutionalization in Supervision

February 23, 10 am - 11:30 am ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

The Impact of Systemic Racism on Black Americans Wellness

February 23, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

PsychU | [Learn More](#)

Grief Sensitivity - Virtual Learning Institute

(Where we are now and where we can go with our practice)

February 23, 12:00 - 5:45 pm ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

Understanding Behavioral Health Needs in Refugee, Immigrant, and Asylee Communities

Wednesday, February 23, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EST

NNED Virtual Roundtable | [Learn More](#)

Long Island Peer Supervision Learning Collaborative

February 23, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

A Peer Lens on Supervision

[Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Ongoing Education

February 23, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET

4th Wednesday of each month

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle

February 23, 6-8 pm ET

(Last Wednesday of every month)

NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

Grief Counseling

February 24, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn more](#)

A Year Ahead in Behavioral Health Policy

February 24, 1:00 - 2:30 pm Eastern

The College of BH Leadership | [Learn more](#)

Supportive Housing Models That Work (Part 1 of 3)

February 24, 2:30 - 4:00 pm ET

SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

Substance Misuse and Suicide (Part 2 of 2)

February 24, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Center for Practice Innovation, Focus on Integrated Treatment | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to Submit: February 25

Call for Presentations

Families Together in New York State Annual Conference
Building Strong Roots for Success: Today's Vision, Tomorrow's Reality
(May 1 and 2, 2022) | FTNYS | [Learn more](#)

Restorative Justice

February 25, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn more](#)

Mental Health in the Black Community

February 26 (10-11:30 am ET)
Social Determinants, Education, Engagement and System Change: Where do we go from here?
To Register: www.tinyurl.com/bipocparent
Watch Live: [BIPOC Parent & Caregiver Mental Health Movement](#) | [Facebook](#)

Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Trauma Informed Practices

February 28, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn more](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative

Hands Across Long Island
(February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)
[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

CRPA / CCAR Recovery Coach Academy Training

March 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET Each Day)
Approved by ASAP-NYCB for **CRPA and CARC Initial Certifications**.
Also approved by OASAS for CASAC, CPP and CPS Renewal Hours.
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Legal & Ethical Issues Related to the Reporting of Suspected Child Maltreatment

March 1, 10:00 - 1:00 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Lesson Planning for Group Curriculum

March 1, 10 am - 11:30 am ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Introduction to Peer Staff Supervision

March 1 and 3, 1-4 pm ET
Robyn Priest Live Your Truth | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

March 1, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

CBT for Depression with Court-Involved Youth

March 2, 10:00 - 1:00 pm ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Advanced Motivational Interviewing: Eliciting "Change Talk"

March 3, 10:00 - 11:30 am ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Financial Sustainability for Youth-Run Programs and Organizations

March 3, 3-4 pm ET

Live Q&A Session following two pre-recorded webinars

NTTAC-TTA | [Learn More](#)

Access to Recovery (A2R) Coalition Meeting

March 3, 3:30 - 5:00 pm ET

(First Thursday of each Month)

Access to Recovery (A2R) | [Learn More](#)

Anti-Racism/Oppressive Practice

March 4, 10:00 - 1:00 pm ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Impact vs. Intent: How Individuals (Can) Cause Harm to Each Other

March 7, 10:00 - 12:00 pm ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative

Hands Across Long Island

(March 7, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)

[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

Self-Care Implementation for Supervisors and Administrators

March 8, 10:00 - 1:00 pm ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Youth Vaping and Mental Health: New Messaging Strategies

March 8, 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET

RescueAgency | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

March 8, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET

Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group

Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Recognizing Your Team's Gifts: The Power of Strengths Spotting

March 9, 10:00 - 11:00 am ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Call to Action: The Need for Stigma Awareness in Healthcare Professional Education

March 9, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

PsychU | [Learn More](#)

Support for Peer Workers

March 9, 5:00 - 6:00 pm ET (New Time)

Connect, Support, Network, and Vibe - Keeping Peer Support in Peer Services
2nd Wednesday of each month ([flyer](#))

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

NYAPRS Legislative Day

March 10, 2022

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

Conference on Advancing Early Psychosis Care

March 10 and 11, 2022

Stanford Medicine | [Learn More](#)

Beyond Burnout: Self-Care for those working with Trauma Survivors

March 10, 10:00 - 1:00 pm ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Coach Approach

March 11, 9:00 - 4:00 pm ET

(For CCAR initial certification and CRPA renewal)

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Collective Impact Youth Summit

March 12, 10 am - 2 pm ET (In-Person)

Rochester Museum and Science Center | [Learn More](#)

Embarking on an Anti-Racist Journey as an Organization

March 14, 10:00 - 11:30 am ET

The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative

Hands Across Long Island

(March 14, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)

[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

Deadline (Early Bird Rate): March 15

NYAPRS Executive Seminar

(Dates April 26 & 27)

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

Session 5: Flourishing Strategies - Outside the Box

March 15 | 2:00-3:00 pm ET
SAMHSA MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

March 15, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Healing Harm: Restorative Justice Practices for Working with Justice Involved Youth

March 17, 10:00 - 1:00 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Youth Vaping and Mental Health: New Messaging Strategies

March 16, 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET
RescueAgency | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

March 21, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm
Statewide Meeting
OMH Office of Consumer Affairs
[Learn More](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative

Hands Across Long Island
(March 21, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)
[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

Ethics Workshop

March 22, 9:00 - 1:00 pm ET
(For renewal of CRPA/CCAR or supervision)
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Healing Connections Support Group

March 22, 3:30 - 4:30 pm Eastern
Healing Connections Agreement ([read before attending](#))
Pre-registration is required
[Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

March 22, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Peer Support Worker: Becoming an Exploration Facilitator

March 22-May 26 (Tue/Thur, 7-9 pm ET)
Robyn Priest Live Your Truth | [Learn More](#)

**Strategies to Provide Effective Peer Support while managing
your own physical health challenges**

March 23 and 24, 1:00 - 4:00 pm ET Each Day
Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

Supportive Housing Models That Work (Part 2 of 3)

March 23, 2:30 - 4:00 pm ET
SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Ongoing Education

March 23, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET
4th Wednesday of each month
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

HALI / APS Learning Collaborative

Hands Across Long Island
(March 28, 3:00 - 4:00 pm)
[Learn More](#) | [Schedule](#)

APS Networking Group

March 29, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Motivational Interviewing (2 Days)

March 30-31, 9am - 3pm
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Long Island Peer Supervision Learning Collaborative

March 30, 2:00-3:00 PM ET
Supervision As Consultation: A Continuing Dialogue for Peer-Informed Practice
[Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle

March 30, 6-8 pm ET
(Last Wednesday of every month)
NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

Deadline to submit: March 31

**National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA) 2022 Annual Rights Conference
Call for Proposals**

(Conference Dates: October 26-29, 2022)
NARPA | [Learn More](#)

CRPA / CCAR Recovery Coach Academy Training

April 4, 5, 8, 11, 12 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET Each Day)

Approved by ASAP-NYCB for **CRPA and CARC Initial Certifications.**

Also approved by OASAS for CASAC, CPP and CPS Renewal Hours.

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

April 5, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET

Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group

Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Access to Recovery (A2R) Coalition Meeting

April 7, 3:30 - 5:00 pm ET

(First Thursday of each Month)

Access to Recovery (A2R) | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

April 12, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET

Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group

Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Understanding Homelessness

April 13, 2-4 pm ET

Robyn Priest Live Your Truth | [Learn More](#)

Support for Peer Workers

April 13, 5:00 - 6:00 pm ET (New Time)

Connect, Support, Network, and Vibe - Keeping Peer Support in Peer Services

2nd Wednesday of each month ([flyer](#))

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Session 6: Build Your Resilience Plan One Day at a Time

April 19 | 2:00-3:00 pm ET

SAMHSA MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

April 19, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET

Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group

Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

NYAPRS Executive Seminar

April 26-27, 2022

Mindful Leadership: Reconnect, Replenish & Redesign

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

NNEDLearn 2022

April 26-28, 2022

(3-Day Intensive Training, Application Deadline was January 25)

National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health (NNED) | [Learn More](#)

Healing Connections Support Group

April 26, 3:30 - 4:30 pm Eastern

Healing Connections Agreement ([read before attending](#))

Pre-registration is required

[Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

April 26, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET

Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group

Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Supportive Housing Models That Work (Part 3 of 3)

April 27, 2:30 - 4:00 pm ET

SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Ongoing Education

April 27, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET

4th Wednesday of each month

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle

April 27, 6-8 pm ET

NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

Grow with Mental Health Gala

April 28, 6-10 pm ET

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

A disorder for everyone (AD4E)

April 28, 9 am - 12:00 pm ET (2-5 GMT)

Crucial Conversations: authors challenging the culture of diagnosis and disorder

AD4E | [Learn More](#)

Families Together in NYS Annual Conference

May 1-2, 2022

Save the Dates

APS Networking Group

May 3, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET

Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group

Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Access to Recovery (A2R) Coalition Meeting

May 5, 3:30 - 5:00 pm ET
(First Thursday of each Month)
Access to Recovery (A2R) | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group
May 10, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Support for Peer Workers
May 11, 5:00 - 6:00 pm ET (New Time)
Connect, Support, Network, and Vibe - Keeping Peer Support in Peer Services
2nd Wednesday of each month ([flyer](#))
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

CRPA / CCAR Recovery Coach Academy Training
May 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET Each Day)
Approved by ASAP-NYCB for **CRPA and CARC Initial Certifications**.
Also approved by OASAS for CASAC, CPP and CPS Renewal Hours.
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group
May 17, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting
May 23, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm
Statewide Meeting
OMH Office of Consumer Affairs
[Learn More](#)

Healing Connections Support Group
May 24, 3:30 - 4:30 pm Eastern
Healing Connections Agreement ([read before attending](#))
Pre-registration is required | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group
May 24, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Ongoing Education
May 25, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET
4th Wednesday of each month
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle

May 25, 6-8 pm ET
(Last Wednesday of every month)
NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

APS Networking Group

May 31, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Access to Recovery (A2R) Coalition Meeting

June 2, 3:30 - 5:00 pm ET
(First Thursday of each Month)
Access to Recovery (A2R) | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

June 7, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Support for Peer Workers

June 8, 5:00 - 6:00 pm ET (New Time)
Connect, Support, Network, and Vibe - Keeping Peer Support in Peer Services
2nd Wednesday of each month ([flyer](#))
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

June 14, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

June 21, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Ongoing Education

June 22, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET
4th Wednesday of each month
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Healing Connections Support Group

June 28, 3:30 - 4:30 pm Eastern
Healing Connections Agreement ([read before attending](#))
Pre-registration is required
[Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

June 28, 5:15 – 6:30 pm ET
Every Tuesday Networking/Support Group
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle

June 29, 6-8 pm ET
(Last Wednesday of every month)
NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

July 18, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm
Statewide Meeting
OMH Office of Consumer Affairs | [Learn More](#)

NYC Conference for Working Peer Specialists

July 21 and 28, 2022
Details coming soon

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

September 19, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm
Statewide Meeting
OMH Office of Consumer Affairs
[Learn More](#)

National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA)

2022 Annual Rights Conference

October 26-29, 2022
Newark, New Jersey
NARPA | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

November 21, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm
Statewide Meeting
OMH Office of Consumer Affairs
[Learn More](#)

Events in the Community Calendar listing were up to date as of **February 14, 2022**.

The Virtual Learning Community online Community Calendar is updated regularly.

Check back for new announcements.

Are we Missing Anything?

If you have announcements or corrections for the online Calendar, send them at any time to
academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

Relevant Newsletters



[Credible Messenger Justice Center Newsletter](#)

Black History Month
New Program Coordinator
Expanding to National Network
Upcoming Training
Career Opportunities

[Doors to Wellbeing Newsletter](#)

Learn about changes in the field as more young peer specialists become certified, our National Supported Education Database survey, and more!

[Families Together in NYS - 1](#)

Celebrating Black History Month - Dr.'s Kenneth and Mamie Clark

[Families Together in NYS - 2](#)

Celebrating Black History Month - Bebe More Campbell

[NAMI NYS e-Newsletter](#)

Governor Hochul's Announcement of 12 New Crisis Stabilization Centers
Prioritize People Not Insurance Plans by Supporting the Mental Health Access Bill
Register Today for NAMI-NYS Advocacy Weeks
Mental Health Awareness Month 2022 Survey
What's Great in Our State Nominations
NAMI NYS Job Opportunity Announcement
Mental Health Presentation for Veterans
Medicaid 101 and HARP

[NW MHTTC Newsletter](#)

Black History Month
Wisdom to Know the Difference (Staff and Supervisor Perspectives)
Grief Sensitivity Virtual Learning Institute
Advancing Early Psychosis Care

[Peer Spirit Newsletter](#)

The Lifework of Christina Baldwin and Ann Linnea

[PsychU Newsletter](#)

Take a stand on Racial Injustice

[SAMHSA GAINS Center Newsletter](#)

Q&A with Telehealth Coordinator
Utilizing Trauma-Informed Court Practices
Awards for Trauma Informed Response Trainer Training
Resource Spotlight
Flashback on Peers

[The Key Update](#) (February)

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse Newsletter

[WRAP Up Newsletter](#) (January)

Forums, Website, Featured Products and Training

[WRAP Up Special Edition](#) (February)

WRAP Shines a Light on Black Health and Wellness

Resources



Five things Digest:

Equity in Systems of Care and Mental Wellness Organizations
NTTAC | [Learn More](#)

Five things Digest:

Culturally Competent Care with LGBTQ+ Clients
NTTAC | [Learn More](#)

50 Must Read Memoirs of People with Mental Illness

[Learn More](#)

Addressing Health Misinformation

(Courtesy The Key Update)

The U.S. Surgeon General's [Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation](#), developed in collaboration with the HHS Office of Evaluation Sciences (OES), provides specific guidance and resources for health care providers, educators, librarians, faith leaders, and trusted community members to understand, identify, and stop the spread of health misinformation in their communities.

[Learn More](#)

[Affordable Connectivity Program](#)

Programs for Access to Low or No Cost Computers and Internet

PCPs for People: <https://www.pcsforpeople.org/eligibility/>

Affordable Connectivity Program: <https://acpbenefit.org/>

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) transition to Affordable Connectivity: Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) recipients fully enrolled as of December 31, 2021 will automatically continue to receive their current monthly benefit of \$50 until March 1, 2022. | [Learn More](#)

ALICE

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE represents a growing number of households in our communities that earn enough to be considered above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but do not earn enough to afford basic necessities.

[Learn More](#)

Apply Trauma-Informed Practices to Your Quality Improvement Program

There is a lot of trauma around data. And that trauma prevents problem solvers from making impactful data-informed decisions that will improve practice and drive better outcomes.

Open Minds | [Learn More](#)

Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign

[Learn More](#)

Community Crisis Response

Building a sustainable behavioral health crisis continuum

(Courtesy The Key Update)

USC Brookings Institute | [Learn More](#)

Taking the Lead: Investing in Community Crisis Response/Continuum

(Courtesy The Key Update)

Mental Health Mosaics | [Learn More](#)

COVID-19: What Not to Say

Just when many hoped the pandemic was finally winding down, another peak in COVID-19 cases due to the highly contagious Omicron variant happened. This new variant caused feelings of uncertainty for many. What can we do to cope when so much may feel out of our control?

The Mental Health Coalition | [Learn More](#)

Elder Rights | [NCLER](#)

Information for Advocates Assisting Clients with SSI Claim Denials

The Social Security Administration (SSA) published a new Emergency Message, EM-20168, Instructions for Reopening and Reevaluating SSI Claims Denied due to COVID-19 Disaster Assistance

[Learn More](#)

Equity: Statewide Workforce Equity Analysis Tool (SWEAT Scan)

[Learn More](#)

Factionalism in Mental Health Policy Making

(Courtesy The Key Update)

[Rapprochement and Reform: Overcoming Factionalism in Policy Making for Serious Mental Illness](#), by William R. Smith, MD, PhD, and Dominic A. Sisti, PhD

[Overcoming Factionalism in Serious Mental Illness Policy Making: A Counter-Perspective](#)," by Kendall Atterbury, PhD, and Nev Jones, PhD

Getting Started with Motivational Interviewing

This course aims to provide learners with a foundational understanding of Motivational Interviewing (MI) and best practices for working with youth and families.

CTAC | [Learn More](#)

Helping People Who Are Homeless Toolkit

Helping Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Obtain Identification Documents

[Learn More](#)

How Self-Care Enriches Care for Others

Mayim Bialik's Breakdown

[Learn More](#)

Human Trafficking's Impact on New York State's New American Community

Office of New Americans (ONA)

[Webinar Recording](#) | [Slides](#) | [Q&A](#) | [Transcript](#) | [Resources](#)

LGBTQ Center of Excellence Behavioral Health Equity

[Recorded Webinars](#) | [Upcoming Webinars](#)

Partners in Employment Learning Collaborative

April through September, 2022

NeC-ATTC/NYAPRS

[Learn More](#)

Racism: The Effects on Mental Health

[Learn More](#)

Resources for Afghan Refugees

Provided by the OMH Office of Diversity and Inclusion

[Description](#) | [Background](#) | [Resettlement Agencies](#)

The Art of Collaborative Documentation

Provided by the Community Technical Assistance Center of New York (CTAC)

[Recorded Webinar](#)

The Future Works: The Workforce RX Podcast

creating inclusive social and economic mobility and has recently released WorkforceRx: Agile and Inclusive Strategies for Employers, Educators and Workers in Unsettled Times

[Podcast](#)

The 2022 Guide to Getting Out of the House
Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion
[Podcast](#) | [Learn More](#)

Toward Wellness and Recovery
Northeast and Caribbean MHTTC
[Podcast](#)

Catalogs

Association for Mental Health and Wellness (AMHW)
Continuing Education for Mental Health Professionals
[Winter/Spring Catalog 2022](#)

Recoveries R Us
Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC) or Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA)
[Feb/March Catalog 2022](#)

Get Involved



The National Justice-Involved Peer Support Council

Council Mission: to provide national support and networking to advance the benefits, values, and diverse access of peer-supported, peer-operated, and peer-led initiatives for justice-involved individuals/returning citizens.

Doors to Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

NYC Justice Peer Initiative

The NYC Justice Peer Initiative is developing a peer-run justice center to provide support for those who have been involved in the criminal-legal system. For more about the initiative, four online courses based on the community organizing efforts of this group have been created for continuing education (CE) through the Academy of Peer Services. For recent events | [Learn More](#)

Center for Community Alternatives

CCA has been a leader in community-based alternatives to incarceration for over 40 years. We promote reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services, and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights. There are many active campaigns. | [Learn More](#)

Access to Recovery (A2R) Urban Justice is Seeking HARP Members

Access to Recovery (A2R) is seeking people with lived experience to help shape HARP services. HARP is a Medicaid Plan that provides extra services (like peer support) to individuals. A2R is a coalition of people who are directly impacted by these services to advise OMH on policies and practices around HARP. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). | If you are an Ally of people seeking services, [click here](#).

The Friendship Squad (TFS) Seeking Board Members

The Friendship Squad, Inc will be a nonprofit 501c3 in 2022. We are seeking three new board members for a total of six. If you are a lawyer, or have nonprofit administration experience, or talented at marketing, communications, social media, video, or event planning, please connect with us. Mission: To connect people living with behavioral health (mental health & substance misuse) challenges with support, friends and a sense of community, especially for people who are transitioning back from institutional settings (prisons, jails, hospitals, adult homes, nursing homes, etc.). Vision: We want to see a world where all people living with behavioral health challenges live fully and joyfully. [Learn More](#)

New York City, DOHMH Consumer Advisory Board

The mission of the CAB is to review and make recommendations for existing and future DOHMH policies, programs, services and issues that impact individuals with mental health needs. The CAB will strive to educate, protect human rights and dignity, and further cultural competency for individuals with mental health needs. For the application, [click here](#).

Share Your Relapse Story: It Might Help Shape Policy

We're accepting Anonymous Relapse Stories in order to help others understand how we want to be treated by our loved ones, caregivers, and employers. Please reply to CityVoices1995@gmail.com with your story. To learn more, [click here](#).

Share Your Tobacco Story: It Might Help Others

We're accepting stories from people who have stopped or reduced tobacco use in ways that can inspire others. We'll work with you to video record your story and create a gallery of Talking About Tobacco Champions. To learn more, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Youth Peer Services Advisory Council

The Youth Peer Services Advisory Council is made up of youth, young adults, Youth Peer Advocates, and adult allies across the state who have personal experience as a young person with a disability, emotional and/or behavioral health challenge, or experience in New York State systems such as mental health, special education, juvenile justice, foster care, addiction recovery, health care, etc. Our Mission: To utilize our personal lived experience and training to promote voice and choice for young people to be actively engaged in their own services and the service delivery system. We do this by ensuring the integrity of training and credentialing for Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) services. | [Learn More](#)

Research



Deadline Extended: February 16, 2022

OMH's 2021 COVID-19 Impact Survey for Recipients of Mental Health Services
(Open to all recipients and family members in New York State - if you are a provider or peer support specialist, please share this opportunity with the people in your programs)

[Flyer](#) | [Survey in English](#) | [Survey in Spanish](#)

[Learn More](#)

Supported Education Survey

(Courtesy The Key Update)

Do you operate a program that provides dedicated supported education services for individuals with psychiatric disabilities/mental health conditions? If so, you are invited to complete a survey to help create a National Supported Education Database (NSEdD). [Learn More](#)

Discrimination in Higher Ed

(Courtesy The Key Update)

Have you experienced psychiatric disability-based discrimination or the denial of an accommodation in a postsecondary institution in the United States? Interested in informing national advocacy focus on psych disability rights in higher ed? [Learn More](#)

World Psychiatric Association

Working Group on Providing Mental Health Care for Refugees and Migrants
invites you to complete a survey on attitudes towards cultural psychiatry and psychotherapy.

[Learn More](#)

Recently Published Research

Spagnolo, A., Pratt, C. Jia, Y., DeMasi, M., Cronise, R., & Gill, K. (February 11, 2022). The Competencies of Telehealth Peer Support: Perceptions of Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Community Mental Health Journal*, Vol 58(2). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-022-00950-w>

Researchers: Need Participants for a Study?



If you are a researcher, or work for a research institute, and are seeking participants for a study of peer support workers and/or supervisors of peer support workers send email with a description of your study to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com so we can add your research study to the list.

Job Openings



Please note:

Job Openings and Open Jobs Reports are provided as a public service for our learners, our alumni, and the larger community of peer support workers, supervisors, and colleagues of those who provide peer support services.

For more information about a specific job, please contact the employer directly.

Recent Openings

For the latest jobs that have been submitted to the Academy of Peer Services, visit the [Job Seekers page](#) on our website. This page lists positions submitted directly to us by employers looking for qualified peer support and supervision candidates.

(For Youth and Family Peer Advocate postings, check the listings on [Families Together in NYS](#).)

Openings are listed in order of submission. Most recent jobs are listed at the top.

These are updated regularly.

Current Job Openings

Albany

[Events Coordinator](#)

NAMI NYS

New York City

[Peer Specialists / System Navigators \(Multiple Openings\)](#)

Baltic Street AEH

New York City (Bronx, Queens, Manhattan)

[Peer Counselor Level 2](#)

NYC Health+Hospitals

Kingston

Peer Specialists (Part-time)

Access Supports for Living (OnTrackNY)

Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk)

Peer Support Specialist (remote)

Req #2045458

Peer Support Specialist Field Travel (remote)

Req #2045456

United Healthcare

Syracuse

Peer Specialist- Residential Based

Adult Peer Specialist- Community Based

Liberty Resources

Rochester

Peer Specialist- Community Based

Liberty Resources

Oswego

Peer Specialist- Residential Based

Liberty Resources

Auburn

Peer Specialist- Residential Based

Liberty Resources

Oneida

Peer Specialist- Residential Based

Liberty Resources

Kingsboro (updated posting)

Peer Specialist Grade 9

Kingsboro Psychiatric Center

Brooklyn

Peer Navigator | Bilingual Spanish

Family Health Centers at NYU Langone – Sunset Park

New York City

Peer Corps (flyer) | Description

New York City Peer Corps

Visit our Job Bank

The list of jobs in the Job Bank are positions submitted by employers as of February 14, 2022. For more recent job openings submitted to the Academy of Peer Services, visit the [Job Seekers page](#) on our website. These are updated regularly.

There are many more openings available than those listed. You can check through temporary staffing companies and employment agencies like Indeed, Job Zone, Career Builder, and the Dept. of Labor (DOL). To do a search specific to the type of job that you are looking for, review the information below.

Search Help

If you want to manually search various employment agencies and staffing companies, use the search terms below that are most relevant to the position you are seeking and enter them with the employment agencies listed below:

Terms used in the Search

- Family Advocate
- Family Peer
- Forensic Peer
- Housing Peer
- Justice Peer
- Outreach Specialist
- Peer Advocate
- Peer Coordinator
- Peer Coach
- Peer Companion
- Peer Counselor
- Peer Educator
- Peer Mentor
- Peer Navigator
- Peer Specialist
- Peer Support
- Peer Supervisor
- Recovery Peer
- Respite Care
- Respite Specialist
- Respite Worker
- Supportive Housing Specialist
- Youth Peer Advocate

Employment Agencies to Search (starter list)

<https://dol.ny.gov/find-job-0>
<https://www.careerarc.com>
<https://www.careerbuilder.com>
<https://www.dejobs.org>
<https://www.glassdoor.com>
<https://www.indeed.com>
<https://www.jobzone.ny.gov/views/jobzone/guest.jsf>
<https://www.monster.com/>
<https://www.simplyhired.com>
<https://www.usajobs.gov/>
<https://www.workforcenow.adp.com>
<https://www.ziprecruiter.com>
[nyc.gov/jobs](https://www.nyc.gov/jobs)

LinkedIn Basics (video):

<https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/linkedin/searching-for-jobs-on-linkedin/1>

Still looking? There is a list of tips to customize your job search on our [Open Jobs](#) page.

Jobs for Justice Involved:

<https://cmjcenter.org/careers/>

Regina Shoen (OMH SAS) provided a helpful list to access job openings in NYS: [State Jobs!](#)

Open Jobs Report

For an Analysis of the NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce:
[Report: 2019-2021](#)



Are we Missing Anything?

If you are an employer with a peer support (or related) opening to share, let us know. Visit the Welcome Employers page on our website for instructions on submitting job openings.

Funding Opportunities



Deadline: April 4, 2022

Targeted Capacity Expansion: Special Projects

The purpose of the program is to implement targeted strategies for the provision of substance use disorder (SUD) or co-occurring disorder (COD) harm reduction, treatment, and/or recovery support services to support an under-resourced population or unmet need identified by the community.

SAMHSA

[Learn More](#)

Deadline: April 11, 2022

OMH announced funding for the development of 8 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams
New York State Office of Mental Health

[Learn More](#)

About the Academy

The Academy of Peer Services (APS) is free of charge and open to anyone who has an interest in learning about peer support services. To access APS: <https://www.academyofpeerservices.org>

Through the generous support of the New York State Office of Mental Health, APS offers over 70 online self-paced courses, 13 of which are approved for the initial application to attain a New York Certified Peer Specialist NYCPS or NYCPS-P (Provisional) certification.

All of our courses are approved by the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board (NYPSCB) for continuing education on current topics related to peer support services and supervision. To learn more about APS, including the Terms of Use, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and User Guide, [click here](#).

About the Virtual Learning Community



The Virtual Learning Community is a companion to the Academy of Peer Services that is intended to help create a bridge from online learning to real world practice. Our Virtual Learning Community website is: <https://aps-community.org>. The website News, Calendar, Job Bank, Webinar, Support, Research, Resources, and other pages are updated regularly.

If you have questions or anything else to add to our website or newsletter, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

To receive updates, join our free Virtual Learning Community mailing list.

If you are not already a member of the Virtual Learning Community, sign up for our free mailing list. To sign up, [click here](#).

APS Networking Meetings



The APS Virtual Networking Meeting is held on zoom every Tuesday evening from 5:15 – 6:30 pm Eastern.

Facilitators: Rita Cronise and Maryam Husamudeen, with guest speakers and facilitators welcome! | [Register in advance](#)

APS End User Support

If you have questions related to the Academy of Peer Services online courses, contact Maryam by email: academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com or by phone during business hours (M-F, 9 AM-5 PM)



New Column: Ask Maryam

When you send an email for support, Maryam Husamudeen answers your questions. As a regular feature of the newsletter, Maryam will answer some of the most frequent questions she receives from our learners.

Question: It appears that my account was deactivated. What do I need to do to reactivate it?

As long as you have used your account within the last 5 years or not created multiple accounts, your account should be Active. When you create an account, you are sent an email with your Username and a Temporary Password that you **MUST** change to something you create for yourself. After that you will use the password to access your account on any device.

If you happen to forget your Password or Username you can use the “Forgot Password” feature at the Login page and a temporary password will be emailed to you with instructions on how to change it and create your own. However, if you forgot your Username you may want to give me a call or send me an email request for assistance to reset your Password or to get your Username.

If you’ve created multiple accounts (which is a violation of the Academy [Terms of Use](#)), the one you are trying to access may be the one that has been Suspended/Archived. That’s another good reason to give me a call or send me an email so I can look into your request and discuss what happens next.

Question: What are CE courses for and how many do I need to take to become certified?

CE or Continuing Education courses are not part of the requirements to apply for NY Peer Specialist Certification. They only count towards recertification (renewal) once you have received a provisional or standard certification. Click the link to access the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board (NYPSCB) and the application for certification: <http://nypeerspecialist.org/>

The NYPSCB has selected 13 specific courses that are mandatory for anyone that wants to apply for certification as a Certified Peer Specialist. The required courses can be found on page 4 of the (Certification Board) PDF versions of their application under the heading **Requirements for the New York Certified Peer Specialist**. This listing of required courses can also be found on the Dashboard once you Login your Active APS account. Look at the section labeled “**Learning Path**”.

Electives and CE courses count toward continuing education that you will need to renew (recertify) once you have achieved a provisional or standard certification. Those who had the requirement for recertification postponed or extended due to COVID will need to complete 20 hours of continuing education by June of this year in order to remain certified (provisional or standard).

‘Ask Maryam’. If you have a question for the next issue of the newsletter, send it to “Ask Maryam” at academy.virtual.community@gmail.com (the newsletter email address). For other questions you can reach Maryam via the APS User Support email: academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com or call during business hours (M-F: 9-5) at 917-837-1957.