



APS Virtual Learning Community

Community News | July 4, 2022

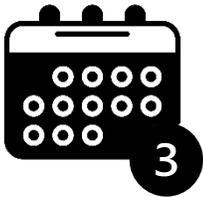


For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.
– Nelson Mandela

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Academy News

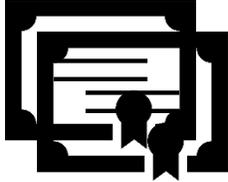


Three weeks remain in Term 2. Core, Elective, and Supervision Track courses will be open until 5 pm on Friday July 22. Then they will be closed for routine quality assurance, maintenance and updates until the start of Term 3 at noon on August 29. If you are working toward certification (or provisional certification) and want to finish the course requirements by July 22, plan your time accordingly. Several organizations offer classes to help you prepare for taking the certification courses and tests. The organizations in our Training and Support network can be found by clicking [here](#). If you know of other

organizations that offer assistance to Academy learners, let us know so we can invite them to the network by sending email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

Information About the Academy of Peer Services

If you are new to the Academy or haven't reviewed the onsite resources lately, the tabs across the top of the [Academy of Peer Services](#) website contain information that can be helpful in getting ready to apply for certification, understand how to access and use the courses, or to schedule your time according to the Academy calendar. Maryam Husamudeen, our User Support Specialist is also available during business hours to answer questions you might have. The **Ask Maryam** column at the end of this newsletter provides additional tips for accessing and completing the online courses.



New APS Courses

Two new CE (continuing education) courses launched recently:

- SBP00 What is Peer Support? (For New Supervisors)
- JPI05 Justice Peer Initiative: Technical Assistance

The [APS Course Catalog](#) for Term 2 has been updated and you can register for these courses toward continuing education for renewal (they do not count toward initial certification). The Course Catalog provides information about all of the courses currently offered through the Academy and how they fit within the requirements of certification or renewal of the NYCPS certification as well as the calendar of open Terms so you can plan your work on the courses accordingly.



Specialty Tracks for Peer Specialists

The Academy of Peer Services was recently awarded a contract through the Office of Mental Health and will be coordinating the development of five new specialty tracks of continuing education for the peer support workforce.

The specialty tracks are for supporting:

- Justice-Involved Individuals
- Older Adults
- People in Crisis
- Health and Wellness Coaching
- Supervision of Peer Specialists

Please welcome the newest members of the APS team who will coordinate the efforts of a diverse group of subject matter experts on the design and development of these new tracks.

- Specialization Track Coordinator, Joanne Forbes
- User Support Specialist, Matthew McDonald
- Graphic/Instructional Designer, Michelle Longmore
- Virtual Learning Community Liaison, Maryam Husamudeen

The team will be working with subject matter experts for each specialization track on a needs assessment for each specialization and training to equip peer specialists to meet the identified needs.

Supervision Competencies

The team of subject matter experts who have been working on the Supervision track recently conducted a survey of competencies based on a Five Critical Functions model of Supervision. If you participated in the focus groups, the confirmation survey, or the most recent survey to identify the frequency, importance, and criticality of each of the identified competencies, thank you! Your input has been valuable in determining the training that will be needed for that track.

More information about this and the other specialty tracks will be available in the coming months. If you have an interest in being involved in the development or review of one or more, send email with the area you are interested in to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Webinar for OMH Providers (and Supervisors) on Peer Credentialing and Certification

A recent webinar hosted by the OMH Office of Consumer Affairs offered presentations by the Academy of Peer Services, New York Peer Specialist Certification Board, Families Together in New York State, and the Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) on the certification and credentialing of peer support workers under OMH. If you know employers or supervisors who could benefit from an orientation, please share the [Slides](#) | [Q&A](#) | [Recording](#).

APS Blog



In addition to this monthly newsletter, the APS Virtual Learning Community hosts a blog site, which is another way you can stay informed and get involved. The following list includes recent articles by guest writers as well as reposts of news items.

The most recent blogs:

- June 1, 2022 - [July Wellness Institute Calendar](#)
- July 1, 2022 - [July is both Mad Pride Month & Disability Pride Month](#)
- July 1, 2022 - [988 — What Happens After a Call?](#)
- June 30, 2022 - [Mental Health Hearing: Bolstering Community Supports](#)
- June 17, 2022 - [Honoring Juneteenth](#)
- June 16, 2022 - [How Your Organization Can Recognize Juneteenth](#)
- June 12, 2022 - [When I'm Sixty-Four, by Howard Diamond](#)
- June 7, 2022 - [Statewide Trauma/Grief Support](#)
- June 1, 2022 - [June Wellness Institute 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 or news to share? Let us know. We may be able to repost it. Send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.



APS Webinars

The Virtual Community also hosts monthly webinars and members of the APS team and advisory council frequently participate in webinars for other organizations. Following is a list of recent webinars that are available on the Virtual Community under Recorded Webinars: <https://aps-community.org/webinars-recorded/>

Created by Luis Prado
from Noun Project

Support Groups for the Peer Workforce in New York City

Broadcast on June 2, 2022

Presented by Helen Skipper (Justice Peer Initiative), Phillip Fleming (Peer Workers United) and Edwin Havlovic (New York City Peer Recovery Coach Network). Hosted by the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene Peer Workforce Consortium and the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community.

[Flyer](#) | [Presentation Slides](#) | [Recording](#)

Transforming My Life with the Arts

Broadcast on May 24, 2022

Presented by Gayle Bluebird

(Hosted by the APS Virtual Community)

[Flyer](#) | [Presentation Slides](#) | [Recording](#)

Justice Peer Initiative: Technical Assistance

Broadcast on April 11, 2022

Presented by Helen Skipper

(Hosted by the APS Virtual Community)

[Presentation Slides](#) | [Recording](#)

What is Peer Support Series: Five Critical Functions of Supervision in Practice

Broadcast on April 20, 2022

Presented by Jonathan P. Edwards, Gita Enders, Joanne Forbes, & Rita Cronise

(Hosted by the South Southwest MHTTC)

[Description and Access to Sides](#) | [Recording](#)

What is Peer Support: For New Supervisors

Broadcast on March 17, 2022

Presented by Rita Cronise and Gita Enders

(Hosted by the South Southwest MHTTC)

[Presentation Slides](#) | [Recording](#)

For more APS (and related) webinars on the Virtual Community website visit:

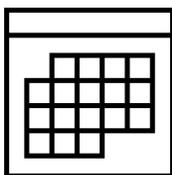
<https://aps-community.org/webinars-recorded/>



Do you have any ideas for blogs, webinars, or other items for the Virtual Learning Community?

Send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

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.



Please save the date for (or take action on) these special events!

Workshop Proposals Due for the NYAPRS Conference

Deadline: July 8

In-Person Conference, Sept 21-23

[Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

July 18, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting, OMH Office of Consumer Affairs

[Learn More](#)

16th Annual Conference for Working Peer Specialists

Thursday, July 21, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday, July 28, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

[Register on Eventbrite](#)

Kracking Up: In a Good Way

July 29, 7 pm ET

(Stand Up for Mental Health) Virtual and In-Person

Fountain House, 425 W. 47th Street, New York, New York

[Register Here](#)

Workshop Proposals Due for the 29th Annual Bi-County Empowerment Conference: Unity for Change

Deadline: August 19

Conference Date: November 4, 9 am - 3 pm ET

Bi-County Empowerment Conference Committee | [Learn More](#)

Community Calendar



The following calendar entries were last updated **July 1, 2022**

Be sure to mark your personal calendar with events you want to attend.

New announcements are added to our Community Calendar frequently.

Visit our online [Community Calendar](#) for the latest additions.

July

[Wellness Institute Newsletter](#)

Peer Workforce Readiness Basics: Leadership

July 1, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Association for Mental Health and Wellness | [Learn More](#)

Deadline Extended: July 5

OMH Survey: Understanding Attitudes, Beliefs, and Behaviors of Service Recipients

OMH | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

July 5, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

(Every Tuesday at noon)

MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

July 5, 5:15 - 6:30 pm

(Every Tuesday evening)

- Special Guests from the Regional Peer Networks

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

Implementing the SAMHSA/NASMHPD 988 Convening Playbooks

July 6, 1:00 pm ET

National Council for Mental Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

Long Island Peer Networking Meeting

July 6, 4:00 - 5:00 pm ET

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Judi's Room on the Controversy Surrounding Assisted Suicide

July 6, 6:00 pm ET

National Council for Mental Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to Apply: July 7

Student Loan Repayment

HRSA | [Learn More](#)

Training: Wellness in 8D for Personal and Professional Practice

July 7, 11 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Integration of the National CLAS Standards in Service Delivery

July 7, 4:00 - 6:00 pm ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

Navigating the Tough Stuff: LGBTQ Suicide Awareness for Families

July 8, 1:30 - 3:00 pm ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to Submit: July 8

Workshop Proposal for the NYAPRS Conference (In-Person)

A New Alliance - It Takes a Community!

Conference Dates: September 21-23, 2022

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

Forensic Peer Support Training (8 Sessions)

July 11-21, 9 am - 12 pm ET

MHEP | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

July 11, 3-4 pm ET

Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

July 11, 7 - 8:30 pm ET

WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

The Tenant Defense Fund

July 12, 11:30 - 1:00 pm ET

CCSI | [Learn More](#)

Talking with Intention: Effective Communication and Purposeful Self-Disclosure

July 12 and 13, 12:00 - 3:00 pm ET

Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

Working with Hearing Voices & Unusual Beliefs (6 sessions)

July 12-14, and 26-28 (times vary)

Wildflower Alliance | [Learn More](#)

CCAR Ethical Considerations (3 Days)

July 12, 13 & 15, 9:00 - 3:00 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

July 12, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

(Every Tuesday at noon)

MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

July 12, 5:15 - 6:30 pm

(Every Tuesday evening)

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

What is Peer-Supported Open Dialogue?

July 13, 11:00 am

Mad in America | [Learn More](#)

988 Goes Live

July 13, 12:00 pm

RI International | [Learn More](#)

Support for Peer Workers

July 13, 4:00 - 5:00 pm ET

2nd Wednesday of each month

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Using my Strengths & Celebrating Success

July 14, 9 am ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

Boundaries and Self-Awareness

July 14, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm ET

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

Workplace Burnout: How We Get There; How We Recover

July 14, 12:00 - 1:30 pm ET

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

Statewide Organizing Meeting

July 14, 6:00 pm ET

Center for Community Alternatives | [Learn More](#)

Deadline: July 15

SAMHSA Recovery Innovation Challenge

SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

Application Deadline: July 15

Summer Organizing Institute

CCA | [Learn More](#)

Deflection, Diversion and Mental Health Recovery: A Systems Approach and DEI Practice Perspective

July 15, 12:30 - 2:00 pm Eastern

SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

White House Office of Public Engagement: Long-Term Effects of COVID Briefing

July 15, 4:00 pm Eastern

White House | [Learn More](#)

988 Lifeline Transition Begins

July 16, 2022

SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

July 18, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting

OMH Office of Consumer Affairs

[Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

July 18, 3-4 pm ET

Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workers United

July 18, 6:00 - 7:30 pm ET

[Flyer](#)

City Voices | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

July 18, 7 - 8:30 pm ET

WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

NYS Trauma Informed Network Quarterly Meeting

July 19, 9:00 - 10:30 am ET

NYS Trauma Informed Network | [Learn More](#)

Tuesday Talk: Racial Equity and Data Innovation

July 19 | 12:00-1:30 pm ET

CCSI | [Learn More](#)

Peer Supervision Training in a ROSC

July 19 and 20, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Self-Assessment for Modification of Anti-Racism Tool (SMART)

July 19 and 20, 11:30 am - 12:45 pm ET

The College of Behavioral Health Leadership | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

July 19, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

(Every Tuesday at noon)

MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

Filling Up Your Cup: The Necessity of Self-Care for Leadership

July 19, 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET

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

Finding Our Voice

July 19, 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

National Empowerment Center | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

July 19, 5:15 - 6:30 pm

(Every Tuesday evening)

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

Older Adults in Crisis: Preparing the Workforce

July 20, 1:00 pm Eastern (12 pm Central)

Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging | [Learn More](#)

Healing Connections Support Group

July 20, 4:00 - 5:00 pm ET (New Time)

3rd Wednesday of each month

AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Motivational Interviewing

July 21 & 22, 9:00 - 3:00 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

NYC Conference for Working Peer Specialists (Day 1)

July 21, 9 am - 2 pm

(Day 2 is on July 28)

[Learn More](#)

The Effects of Racism on the Mental Healthcare Community

July 21, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

PsychU | [Learn More](#)

Application Deadline: July 22

NYC H + H Peer Academy Fall Training

NYC H+H | [Learn More](#)

Navigating the Tough Stuff: LGBTQ Suicide Prevention for Families

July 22, 1:30 - 3:00 pm ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

Activism: Creative & Empowered for Change
July 23, 2-5:00 pm ET
Families Together in New York State | [Learn More](#)

Application Deadline: July 25
Scholarship for CRPA Training
Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)
July 25, 7 - 8:30 pm ET
WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

Family Supported Recovery Workshop
July 26, 9 - 4 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)
July 26, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET
(Every Tuesday at noon)
MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

Navigating Compassion Fatigue
July 26, 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Peer Support is in Demand
July 26, 2-3 pm ET
Doors to Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting
July 26, 5:15 - 6:30 pm
(Every Tuesday evening)
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Long Island Supervision Learning Collaborative
July 27, 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET
Needs Assessment
LI Supervision Learning Collaborative | [Learn More](#)

Anti-Oppression Training
July 27-29, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ET
In-Person Training in West Springfield, MA
Wildflower Alliance | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Ongoing Education
July 27, 4:00 - 5:00 pm ET (New Time)
4th Wednesday of each month - AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle

July 27, 6-8 pm ET - ([Flyer](#))

NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

Creating & Sustaining a Flourishing Plan

July 28, 9 am ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

NYC Conference for Working Peer Specialists (Day 2)

July 28, 9 - 2 pm

[Learn More](#)

Trauma-Informed Care

July 28, 9 - 4 pm

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Digital Health Tools: Combating Stigma & Healthcare Disparities

July 28, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

PsychU | [Learn More](#)

Learning Collaborative: Wellness in 8 D for Organizational Wellness

July 28, 1:30 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Kracking Up: In a Good Way

July 29, 7 pm ET

(Stand Up for Mental Health) Virtual and In-Person
Fountain House, 425 W. 47th Street, New York, New York

Michelle Hammer | [Learn more](#)

[Register Here](#)

Deadline to Apply July 31

Navigator Certificate in Human Services and Community Justice

John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity

[Learn More](#)



Future Events

The following events have been submitted for August and beyond. As with all events in our community calendar, they are provided as a service to the peer community. To find out whether an event is eligible for continuing education for a specific certification or credential, contact the event organizer.

Transitioning Families: Guidance in Supporting Trans and Gender Expansive Youth and Families

August 1, 10-11:30 am

Families Together in New York State | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

August 1, 7 - 8:30 pm ET

WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

Intentional Peer Support Core Training

August 2, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm ET (10 Sessions)

Intentional Peer Support | [Learn More](#)

CCAR Recovery Coach Academy Training

August 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET (30 Hours)

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

August 2, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET

(Every Tuesday at noon)

MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

August 2, 5:15 - 6:30 pm

(Every Tuesday evening)

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

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

August 8, 7 - 8:30 pm ET

WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

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

(Every Tuesday at noon)

MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

August 9, 5:15 - 6:30 pm

(Every Tuesday evening)

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

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

August 15, 7 - 8:30 pm ET

WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

Tuesday Talk: Innovation and Transformation in Education through Trauma-Responsive, Equity-Focused Practice

August 16 | 12:00-1:30 pm ET | CCSI | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

August 16, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET
(Every Tuesday at noon)
MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

August 16, 5:15 - 6:30 pm
(Every Tuesday evening)
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Training: Making the Time to Pause and Unplug for Self-Care

August 18, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET
Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Deadline: Call for Proposals August 19

29th Annual Bi-County Empowerment Conference

Unity for Change

Conference Date: November 4, 9 am - 3 pm ET
Bi-County Conference Committee | [Learn More](#)

Ethical Considerations

August 22, 23 & 25, 9:00 - 3:00 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

August 22, 7 - 8:30 pm ET
WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

August 23, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET
(Every Tuesday at noon)
MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

August 23, 5:15 - 6:30 pm
(Every Tuesday evening)
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Motivational Interviewing

August 24 & 31, 9:00 - 3:00 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Spirituality for Recovery Coaches

August 26-27, 2022
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

WRAP Facilitator Training
August 29-September 2, 2022
San Juan Bautista, CA
The Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)
August 29, 7 - 8:30 pm ET
WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)
August 30, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET
(Every Tuesday at noon)
MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting
August 30, 5:15 - 6:30 pm
(Every Tuesday evening)
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle
August 31, 6-8 pm ET | [Flyer](#)
NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

Ethical Considerations
September 3, 4 & 6, 9:00 - 3:00 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Peer Supervision Training in a ROSC
September 8 and 9, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

CCAR Recovery Coach Academy Training
Sept. 12, 13, 15, 20, and 21, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET (30 Hours)
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

National Latino Behavioral Health Conference
September 15-16, 2022
National Latino Behavioral Health Association | [Learn More](#)

Training: Making the Time to Breathe, Move and Nourish Yourself
September 15, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET
Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

WRAP Facilitator Training
Sept. 19-23, 2022
Brattleboro, VT
The Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

September 19, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting

OMH Office of Consumer Affairs

[Learn More](#)

Tuesday Talk: Building Resilient Organizations Through Adaptive Leadership

September 20 | 12:00-1:30 pm ET

CCSI | [Learn More](#)

NYAPRS Conference (In-Person)

A New Alliance - It Takes a Community!

September 21-23, 2022

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

Learning Collaborative: Tools and Tactics for Getting a Restful Sleep

September 22, 10:30 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Trauma-Informed Care

September 27, 9 - 4 pm

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Family Supported Recovery Workshop

September 23, 9 - 4 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

In My Mind Conference

October 7, 2022

LGBTQ+ Older Adults of Color Mental Health

Tenacity and Agelessness in Healing

In My Mind | [Learn More](#)

Training: Creating a Personal Wellness Self-Care Plan

October 13, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA)

2022 Annual Rights Conference

October 26-29, 2022

Newark, New Jersey

NARPA | [Learn More](#)

Learning Collaborative: Implementing Organizational Self-Care Programs

October 27, 10:30 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

National Association for Rural Mental Health Conference

November 2-4, 2022

[Learn More](#)

The International Conference on Trauma and Mental Health

November 3-4, 2022

[Learn More](#)

Training: Workplace Resources for Wellness

November 3, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

29th Annual Bi-County Empowerment Conference

Unity for Change

November 4, 9 am - 3 pm ET

Bi-County Empowerment Conference Committee | [Learn More](#)

ISPS-US (International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis—U.S. Chapter)

November 4-6, 2022

Sacramento, CA

[Learn More](#)

Peer Supervision Training in a ROSC

November 7 & 8, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Learning Collaborative: Building a Workplace Wellness Culture

November 17, 10:30 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [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](#)

Training: Winter Wellness Planning

December 8, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

----- 2023 -----

Learning Collaborative: 2023 Wellness Planning

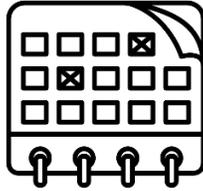
January 19, 10:30 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Training: The WTLC Finale!

January 26, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)



Are we Missing Anything?

The Virtual Learning Community online [Community Calendar](#) is updated regularly. If you have announcements or corrections for the online Calendar, send them at any time to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Get Involved



Access to Recovery (A2R) / Urban Justice - 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](#).

Benefits Checkup (for Older Adults) - As an aging services professional, your community trusts and depends on you to guide them to the help that's available. Now you have an even better tool to do just that. | National Council on Aging (NCOA) | [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](#)

City Voices - the following activities are ways to get connected and involved with the peer community!

- **Website & Social Media** – Website content includes articles, zoom interviews and other videos to educate and empower our peers. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter are tools we use to promote events, network, open dialogues, empower, inspire and stay connected with our constituency.
- **PIP (Peers in Person)** – Peers, friends, family and allies meet for outings in Central Park and other parks for outdoor experiences. Coffee shops and museums for indoor experiences. We encourage people to open up, connect, bond and have a good time in settings where diverse peoples congregate.

- **Kracking Up (Nights of Mental Health Comedy)** – Peers are trained in comedy to perform their 6-minute routines at a live virtual and/or in-person event with a crowd of onlookers. The comedy pokes fun at our mental health, addictions and other life-challenges. Someone famous and wise once said that laughter is the highest form of coping mechanism.
- **The Friendship Squad** – Peers who are secure in their recovery together with peers who are having difficulties, form friendships. Friends speak every week for about an hour for 6-months or more. Peers can be paired with peers from other states, even other countries. The only barriers are language and access to technology.
- **Penpal a Prisoner in Need** -- It's called unconditionalfreedom.org - a wonderful opportunity to write to lonely and vulnerable people who are incarcerated in the prison system. There is a brief enrollment process where you will watch three wonderful videos and take a short quiz. This program allows you to enrich your life and the lives of others in a safe way by following a few simple guidelines. | [Learn More](#)
- **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](#).
- **Writing Forum** - Join the [City Voices Writing Forum](#) with Eileen McManus! Do you like to write? Would you like a forum to showcase your writing and get positive feedback? It's FREE! Eileen McManus is a person with lived experience who has a BA in Creative Arts and is a writer of three books. ([Learn More](#))
- **Zoom Spirituality Group** – Weekly (currently Saturdays) group that discusses all topics that are considered spiritual like: relationship to a higher power, perceptions of good/evil, non-duality, meditation, mindfulness, other realms, near-death experiences, the afterlife, and more. Special events include poetry sharing and writing exercises.

For all of these City Voices activities and initiatives: [Learn More](#)

Helping Black New Yorkers Heal from Buffalo Tragedy and Increased Rates of Trauma

In response to elevated levels of grief and trauma experienced by Black New Yorkers in the aftermath of the May 14th Buffalo shooting and elevated rates of racial trauma statewide, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) has partnered with the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi), Inc. to provide virtual “Sawubona” healing circle support groups for individuals and families seeking support.

- The Black-led healing circles, which are non-clinical, provide culturally relevant ways for people to express thoughts, feelings, and stories in a healing way. Culturally grounded in African-centered practices, the model helps address racial and other forms of trauma in communities of color. If you want to attend a “Sawubona” healing circle, please sign up here <https://abpsi.site-ym.com/general/?type=BSHCA>.
- To grow this effort, OMH is looking for New York State residents interested in becoming trained Sawubona Healing Circle facilitators. This is a perfect opportunity for volunteers, retirees, students, advocates, and mental health service providers interested in supporting resilience in the Black community. If you are interested in this free training opportunity, go to this link and apply <https://abpsi.site-ym.com/general/?type=bshcf>.

- The Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi), Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) membership association organized in 1968. One of the National Programs of the association is the Sawubona Healing Circle (SHC) program. Sawubona is a Zulu word that means “I see you.” Sawubona Healing Circles are a culturally grounded rapid response intervention model designed to provide coping and wellness strategies in an affirming space for Black people experiencing race-related stress and trauma. | [Learn More](#)

International Society for Ethical Psychology & Psychiatry (ISEPP) seeks signatures on a petition to “[m]ake a strong statement that any psychiatric or psychotherapeutic interventions without full and honest informed consent are unethical and inhumane.” (Courtesy The Key Update). For the petition, [click here](#).

Lancet Offers Stakeholders New Opportunities (Courtesy The Key Update and Dr. Nev Jones) – Check out these opportunities for stakeholder involvement! (1) The Lancet Psychiatry Commission's "Lived Experience Hub" invites stakeholders to contribute blogposts to convey criticisms, concerns and/or ideas relevant to the work of the Commission. For details, [click here](#). To submit a blog, email lancetcommissionpsychosis@gmail.com. (2) The Lancet Psychiatry Commission's "lived experience research group" is a new listserv focused on lived experience advocacy and activism on participatory psychosis research and related policy and practice. In part, this will serve as a sounding board for Lancet Commission work and a place to engage in dialogue about what needs to change. To join, email lancetcommissionpsychosis@gmail.com.

“Mental Health System: Open Letter to the Media” Seeks Signatures (Courtesy The Key Update). “Everyone who believes that the problematic aspects of the mental health system are not adequately represented in the media is invited to sign this letter,” writes Yulia Mikhailova, who launched this initiative to educate the media. The letter begins: “We, a group of people with first-hand experience of the mental health system, write to express our concern about what we see as one-sided coverage of this system in the media and to draw the attention of civil rights organizations to the systemic discrimination that we witnessed and experienced. We, our loved ones, or inmates in the facilities where we worked, were exploited for monetary gain and victimized in various other ways. We saw how abuse, corruption, and exploitation were covered up, while victims and critics of the system were silenced and marginalized.” Questions? Contact Yulia Mikhailova at yuliamikh@gmail.com. For a short version of the letter, which includes a link to a longer version, [click here](#).

National Association of Peer Supporters (N.A.P.S.) is Seeking Board Members – N.A.P.S. is opening the application process for new Members of the Board of Directors. Nominees MUST be members of N.A.P.S. to be considered. Multiple nominations will be accepted. We ask that you nominate yourself and encourage others that you would like to see on the board to nominate themselves. The length of a term for members of the Board of Directors lasts for (2) two years, with the ability to serve a total of (3) three consecutive terms. Currently the N.A.P.S. Board of Directors is a working board, with a direct goal of transitioning into a governing board. ([Submit your nomination here](#).) If you would prefer to volunteer on a committee or in another way, please be on the lookout for a Volunteer application soon.

National Justice-Involved Peer Support 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](#)

New York City, DOHMH Consumer Advisory Board Mission: 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](#).

NYC Justice Peer Initiative – the purpose of the JPI is to develop 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 have been created for continuing education (CE) through the Academy of Peer Services. Sign up to Join our Community: <https://mailchi.mp/707473840384/nyc-justice-peer> or schedule a meeting with the JPI Director - <https://calendly.com/nyc-jpi-exec-dir> | [Learn More](#)

NYS Trauma-Informed Network Seeks Contributors and Participants - Our goal is to support champions of trauma responsive practices across the state with improved connection and access to quality resources. Here you can connect with other organizations around New York State, search resources and events on a variety of topics, and post resources and events that promote trauma-responsive practices. Together we can increase the collective understanding of trauma, improve practice, and support resilience throughout New York State. Not sure where to begin? Consider using the Trauma-Responsive Understanding Self-assessment Tool (TRUST), a free online assessment to determine where your organization might have the greatest opportunity for change. Visit the site: <https://www.traumainformedny.org/Home>

Reclaiming Employment - Live & Learn, Inc. is now recruiting users for a free, new interactive platform for budding entrepreneurs with mental health challenges related to work. Our goal is to prepare users for the logistics and emotional ups and downs of self-employment. For a brochure, click here. Find out more at www.reclaimingemployment.com or email info@reclaimingemployment.com

Share Your Experiences to Help Others Who Are Trying to Find Freedom, Healing & Hope Beyond Psychiatry? (Courtesy of Philip Benjamin via Jacek Haciał)- I am currently working on a book about life beyond psychiatric services and would love to include the wisdom and expertise of as many survivors as possible!," Jacqui Dillon, a person with lived experience in the UK, posted on Facebook. "I am looking for submissions between 500 and 2,000 words. I am aiming to cover a range of issues and experiences which many of us have had to engage with, which will be useful for people currently trying to navigate their way out of the system. Please feel free to focus on whichever areas interest you most. You are free to use your own name, or a pseudonym, whichever feels most comfortable to you. Please contact me for further information, or send your submissions here: beyondthepadhouse@gmail.com. Submissions are required by mid-September." For the Facebook post, [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

The Coalition Against Medicalized Psychology & Psychiatry (CAMPP) (Courtesy The Key Update and Elizabeth R. Stone)—the action committee of the International Society for Ethical Psychology & Psychiatry (ISEPP)—asks mental health practitioners and academicians worldwide "to join us in signing an open letter to the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, National Association of Social Workers, and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy to provide evidence for framing emotional distress and troublesome behaviors as

illnesses or defects in a person’s biology—and, if they can't, to publicly reject the medical model of mental disorder. With this we hope to raise awareness of the harmful effects of that model. Send me your name, credentials, profession, position, city, state, and country to be appended to the letter. Pass this email on to others in your network and ask them to sign too. Our plan is to share the above organizations' responses (or lack of responses) with The Washington Post and The New York Times science and/or health editors.” For the letter, [click here](#).

The Copeland Center - It's A Great Time to Become a Member of the Copeland Center Community. We have Something for Everyone! [Learn More](#)

Veteran Resources - Post deployment resources for Veterans. MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

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](#)



Ongoing Support Groups

Another way to get involved is to attend regular support groups. Here are a few options. Let us know if you host a support group or attend on regularly. They are listed here in chronological order by day of the week, and time of day, followed by frequency (every Tuesday, every third Wednesday, etc.).

Creative Wellness Opportunities

Daily Activities

Rochester MHA | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

Mondays, 3-4 pm ET

(While APS is in session)

Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workers United

First and third Monday, 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET

City Voices | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

Mondays, 7 – 8:30 pm ET
WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

Tuesdays 12 – 1 pm Eastern
MHA of Rockland County | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Group

Tuesdays from 5:15 – 6:30 pm Eastern
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

The Art of Letting Go

Tuesdays at 7 pm
City Voices / Chaplain Yael | [Learn More](#)

Peer Networking Meeting

1st Wednesday of each month at 4:00 – 5:00 pm
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Support for Peer Workers

2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 – 5:00 pm
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Healing Connections Support Group

3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 – 5:00 pm
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Ongoing Education

4th Wednesday of each month at 4:00 – 5:00 pm
AMHW | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition (PWC) Support Circle

Last Wednesday of every month at 6-8 pm
NYC PWC | [Join Meeting](#)

Long Island Peer Specialist Community of Practice

4th Thursday at 3:00 pm
Long Island COP | [Learn More](#)

Long Island Peer Supervision Learning Collaborative

Last Wednesday of each month at 2-3 pm
Hands Across Long Island (HALI) | [Learn More](#)

Spiritual Talk and Meditation (on Zoom)

Saturdays at 11:30 am
City Voices | [Learn More](#)

Research and Groups Conducting Surveys



Another way to get involved in the peer workforce is to participate in research related to mental health topics or to assist groups by completing surveys.

988 Implementation - Help Us Map the Landscape of Lived Experience and Family Involvement in 988 Policy and Related Crisis Response System Planning (Courtesy The Key Update)

As 988 implementation rolls out alongside additional efforts to strengthen crisis response systems throughout the US, it's important to gauge the extent to which direct stakeholders (i.e., individuals who use or have used mental health crisis services and their families) have been involved in related policy, implementation and evaluation at the local, regional, state or federal level. To map out involvement nationally, Mental Health America (lead: Kelly Davis), Nev Jones (University of Pittsburgh) and Keris Myrick (National Association of Peer Supporters) have developed a survey aimed at documenting the extent of stakeholder involvement, the forms this involvement has taken, and, where available, what concerns stakeholders have raised.

| [Learn More](#)

Administrative/Leadership Positions in the Mental Health Field Survey (Courtesy The Key Update and Oryx Cohen)

If you are in an administrative/leadership position in the mental health arena, "the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP) Committee on Psychiatric Administration and Leadership invites you to participate in the International Survey on Administrative Psychiatry. The survey has two purposes:

1. To identify the concerns and needs of mental health professionals/psychiatrists in administrative and leadership positions.
2. To determine training needs in administrative psychiatry.

We ask you to complete this brief, [15- to 20-minute] questionnaire to help us in developing recommendations for action. We also want to let you know that, if you fill out this questionnaire, you permit the committee to use your anonymous data for scientific work." Peer providers are included. For the survey, [click here](#).

"Are You Between the Ages of 21 and 60 and Drink Alcohol?" (Courtesy The Key Update and Fran Hazam)

"Researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are seeking adults--[both smokers and non-smokers]--to study whether a gene and smoking may affect drinking alcohol. Volunteers should be healthy and drug-free, and not seeking treatment for alcohol-related problems. Research participation includes three outpatient visits at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD; alcohol consumption; brain scans (MRI), blood draws, and filling out questionnaires. There is no cost to participate and compensation may be provided." For more information, [click here](#).

Boston University Seeks Peer Support Specialists for a Research Study (Courtesy The Key Update)

The Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University is developing and testing the effectiveness of a coaching service called Coaching and Advancement for Peer Providers (CAPP) “to increase organizational commitment and job satisfaction and decrease turnover among mental health peer providers.” BU CPR writes: “We need Peer Support Specialists (PSS) to participate in our study.

Who can participate? People who are in a paid job as a Peer Support Specialist providing support to other people with mental health challenges, who are employed at least 10 hours per week, who have worked for the past six months in a mental health program, and who are experiencing stress because of challenges in the workplace.

The study involves 16 one-hour sessions of coaching over a four-month period designed to help you with your job, meeting online (through Zoom, for example) with your coach, and filling out surveys one time before coaching starts and three additional times. You will have a 50/50 chance of getting a coach or having a one-time meeting to give you information about challenges at work.

Benefits? You may learn strategies to help make work less stressful.” For questions, contact Principal Investigator E. Sally Rogers, Sc.D., at erogers@bu.edu or 617-353-3549. For more information, [click here](#).

Credible Messenger Survey

For the last year, we've been building a robust survey to examine how COVID-19 has impacted the work of Credible Messengers, in collaboration with the New School's Center for New York City Affairs. | [Learn More](#)

Emergency Preparedness Access-A-Ride Survey

The Access-A-Ride Reform Group (AARRG!) would like to know about any safety issues you've had while using Access-A-Ride during the ongoing COVID pandemic. It should take you less than five minutes to complete this survey, and your answers will allow us to advocate for better conditions for Access-A-Ride customers. | [Learn More](#)

“Experiences with Hospitalization” Survey Seeks Participants (Courtesy The Key Update and Leah Harris)

“The purpose of this survey is to help us understand people's lived experience with voluntary and involuntary treatment because of suicidal thoughts. It was created by people with lived experience...We are planning to use this information to facilitate discussions with suicidologists and the suicide prevention community about the impact of the use of these interventions, particularly within marginalized populations. We feel the voice of people with lived experience with these interventions has not had adequate opportunity to be heard, and hope that by completing this survey anonymously, people who have been most impacted can find a safe way

to share their experiences. Please note that this is not a research project." For more information and/or to participate, [click here](#).

If You've Had, or Been Labeled with, "Negative Symptoms" in the Context of Psychosis...(Courtesy The Key Update)

"If you have experienced or been labeled with 'negative symptoms' in the context of psychosis, please consider contributing an anonymous account of your views and experiences," Dr. Nev Jones writes. "Currently, there is nowhere one can go to find lived experience perspectives/ accounts on this topic—even though 'negative symptoms' regularly feature in research and clinical trials. Help us change this!" This survey is a companion to Psychosis Outside the Box; for that survey, [click here](#).

For more information and/or to share your story about "negative symptoms," [click here](#).

International Survey on Antipsychotic Medication Withdrawal Seeks Respondents (Courtesy The Key Update)

"Have you taken antipsychotic medication (such as Zyprexa, Seroquel, Abilify, Risperdal, Haldol, Geodon, Stelazine, and others), for any condition or diagnosis, with or without other medications? And did you ever stop taking antipsychotics, or try to stop taking them? Are you 18 years or older? If yes, you can take this survey about antipsychotic withdrawal and attempts to withdraw, including if you stopped taking them completely or if you tried to come off and still take them. The survey aims to improve mental health services by better understanding medication withdrawal. Lead researcher is Will Hall, a therapist and Ph.D. student who has himself taken antipsychotics. Service users/survivors/consumers from around the world also gave input. The study is sponsored by Maastricht University in the Netherlands; co-sponsors include the International Institute for Psychiatric Drug Withdrawal. Questions? Please contact will.hall@maastrichtuniversity.nl."

For more information or to take the survey, click on www.antipsychoticwithdrawalsurvey.com

Long Island Community of Practice and Regional Peer Network Survey (Courtesy Hands Across Long Island)

This survey is a peer workforce survey created by the Long Island Community of Practice and OCA's Cory Muraglio. The Regional Peer Network project has collaborated and is looking forward to utilizing the information received to steer the work of the RPN coordinators across the state. | [Learn More](#)

National Survey on Student Rights, Discrimination, and Accommodations in Higher Education Seeks Respondents (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? Mental Health America (lead: Kelly Davis) and collaborators Dr. Nev Jones (University of Pittsburgh), Stefanie Kaufman-

Mthimkhulu (Project LETS) and Brit Vanneman Esq. (Bazon Center for Mental Health Law) have developed "a survey aimed at providing a more comprehensive understanding of student experiences of campus-based discrimination, mandated leaves of absence, and/or denial of academic, administrative and/or student-work accommodations in the U.S. Data will be used to inform national advocacy efforts and future projects, and in reports, presentations and publications." For eligibility and to access the survey, [click here](#).

Peer Support in Higher Education Survey Seeks Respondents (Courtesy The Key Update, July)

"Peer support programs are growing on college campuses across the U.S. Mental Health America, Doors to Wellbeing, and the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion want to better understand the availability of peer support in higher education as well as the experiences and needs of students accessing peer support programs...We hope to use this research to support the expansion of peer support in higher education, including developing a national database of peer support programs in higher education and documenting pressing issues in campus programs...You may also indicate if you are interested in having your school's peer support program listed in a national database of peer support programs in higher education." For more information and to complete the survey, [click here](#).

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](#)

Supporting Each Other Survey (Wildflower Alliance)

This survey is intended to look at what sorts of responses actually feel supportive. The results will be shared in 2022 and will help guide us in our work and training approaches. [Learn More](#)

Temple University Collaborative Seeks Participants for Its Parenting Through Leisure Project (Courtesy The Key Update)

See Also the TU Collaborative's Parenting Resources, Including Information on Custody Issues
The Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion is seeking parents with lived experience of a mental health condition to participate in a paid research study. The TU Collaborative writes: "Our program, Parenting Through Leisure, focuses on helping parents with a serious mental illness participate in leisure activities with their child. We are looking for individuals who are 18 and older; are an adult parent with a diagnosis of schizophrenia-spectrum disorder, bipolar disorder, or depression; have a child who is 7 to 15 years old and is interested in participating in family leisure with you; have legal visitation rights, joint custody or full custody of the child, with at least weekly contact; and have a desire to engage in more leisure activities with their child." For details about the study and the remuneration as well as other benefits to eligible participants, and a link to sign up, [click here](#).

The Effect of Social Influence on Physical Activity in Adults with Psychiatric Disabilities

Description of Project: The purpose of this study is to understand how relationships with friends, family, and healthcare providers as well as the community affect how people diagnosed with mental health conditions perform physical activity. We are looking for 200 participants to take part in the research.

To Be Eligible: 1) participant must be 18 years of age or older, 2) have a mental health diagnosis of major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or generalized anxiety disorder and, 3) be fluent in English (able to read, write, and speak).

What you will do: You may complete a survey about your physical activity, how your relationships and community influence your physical activity, and provide information about your physical and mental health. The survey is expected to take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete.

To Participate: You may complete the survey by clicking the link below or scanning the QR code in the attached invitation. https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77Fnz6gEVSIQcE6
If you have questions or would like assistance with completing the surveys, please contact the principal investigator of the study, Sean Karyczak, at karyczse@rutgers.edu or 908 (889) 2501. Participants will be compensated a \$10 gift card for their participation in the study. IRB Approved ([View QR code and invitation](#)).

World Psychiatric Association (Courtesy The Key Update) –

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](#)

Researchers: Do you Need Participants for a Study or Survey?



If you are a researcher, work for a research institute, or are conducting a survey of the peer support workforce (and related populations) and are seeking participants send a description of your study to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Resources



988 A Guide to 988 by the MHTTC - The main purpose of the 988 number is to simplify access to suicide prevention services and mental health crisis counselors. To achieve this legislation was introduced in 2020 to create a nation-wide three-digit number (988) that will be routed through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. 988 will be available across the country by July 16, 2022. By creating a mental health crisis number, law enforcement’s involvement in mental health crises may be reduced. This shift in mental health crisis response has the potential to break the cycle of ER visits, involvement in the criminal justice system, and experiences with homelessness, which disproportionately affect historically marginalized communities. This guide highlights benefits of 988, reviews key pieces of the federal legislation, and describes state-level efforts. MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

988 Partner Toolkit – SAMHSA recognizes the need for governments, states, territories, tribes, crisis centers, and partners to speak with one voice to ensure there is a clear understanding about what 988 is and how it will work. We encourage you to use these communication outreach materials and build upon them with your community coalitions to meet the needs of your specific audiences. | [Learn More](#)

988 Program Under Development - Cambridge HEART (Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team) recently presented at the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society’s Envisioning an Equitable Mental Health Crisis Response Conference. This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of the development and current state of Cambridge HEART. It also showcases all of the impactful work that has been done up until this point. [Video] [Learn More](#)

Addressing Community Grief and Trauma in the Wake of the Tragedy in Buffalo -

OMH held a statewide community webinar, “Addressing Community Grief and Trauma in the Wake of the Tragedy in Buffalo.” For the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVmjFYnQPDM>. Presentation slides: https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/disaster_resources/buffalo-tragedy-webinar.pdf Additional resources for New Yorkers impacted by the Buffalo shooting are available at: https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/disaster_resources/emergency-mental-health-resources.html

Community-Delivered Services: Best practices and innovations

Each part of this series will focus on a specific topic related to delivering services in the community, so you can explore the information that is relevant to your work. The series will be released in batches in the coming weeks, with a Community-Delivered Services Planning Workbook wrapping up the series as the final release. This series is directed toward senior leadership, program directors, supervisors, front line staff, and other professionals interested in best practices in community-delivered services. CTAC | [Learn More](#)

Crisis Alternatives Series - mental health systems of care are rapidly evolving to include expanded roles for peer- and consumer-run services, and this trend is especially prevalent in crisis response. In this series, CEO of North Carolina’s Promise Resource Network and Bazelon Center Innovator of the Year Cherene Caraco will present an overview of five peer- and recovery-centered crisis alternatives: peer-

operated warm lines, peer respites, peer-run wellness centers, community response teams, and the use of psychiatric advance directives (PAD's). This is the fourth in a series of learning collaboratives on Crisis Alternatives, recordings for prior sessions are included – CAFE TA (Technical Assistance Center) | [Learn More](#)

CUCS Academy for the Justice Involved - This newsletter contains a review of recent events and upcoming opportunities. | [Learn More](#)

DeafBlind Awareness Resources - To encourage awareness of the deaf-blind community the following courses are being offered for free | [Learn More](#)

Fostering Grief Ready Workplaces - A Starter Kit for Mental Health and School Mental Health Leadership - essential ingredients to guide you and your organization through the basics of supporting a grieving workforce. This starter kit recaps the contents we covered in the Grief Readiness Lab (April-May 2021) and Series (November-December 2021). We offer an overview of what was explored in the Lab and Series, and a taste of some of the conversations shared among participants. MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

Hearing Voices Infographic – (Courtesy The Key Update, July) A three-page infographic from the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community answers “Why do people hear voices?” with “I don’t know why any one person hears voices, but here are just a handful of reasons why some people believe that they do...” and then offers details on some of the possible reasons. For this 2016 infographic, [click here](#).

Helping Children, Youth, and Families Cope After Mass Violence

The presentation was designed to help parents, educators and other trusted adults to better understand common reactions to traumatic stress in children and youth. The presentation overviewed what adults can do and say to help children at various developmental stages as well as coping skills for caregivers. The webinar also provided information about the mental health effects of hate-based violence and racism on children and youth.

If you weren't able to attend, you can find a recording of the proceedings at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gUMXjmNvLU>.

A copy of the presentation is also available at: https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/disaster_resources/children-youth-families-webinar.pdf.

Keeping a Promise - Creative Wellness Opportunities of the Mental Health Association Rochester is honored to present the extended showing of *Keeping A Promise*, a collection of 25 photographs by Joe Ripperger. These prints are curated and accompanied by the poetry of Barb Murphy, Joe's Aunt. *Keeping A Promise* seeks to break the stigma of mental health challenges and provide supportive resources for suicide prevention. Joy Gallery in downtown Rochester hosts the second edition of *Keeping A Promise*, with viewing hours on July 9th, 16th-23rd, and 30th. 10-2 pm. The closing reception will be on July 30th. 10:30-1:30 pm. Remarks and resource information will be presented at 11:30 am by Barb Murphy, Catherine Ripperger, Mental Health Association of Rochester, and DePaul. Light refreshments will be served. | Sarah Kinard, Director, Creative Wellness Opportunities, Pronouns: She/Her/Hers, Mental Health Association, Rochester, NY 14607 | www.mharochester.org

LGBTQIA+ Resources from CTAC

This month, we reflect on and recognize the progress that our nation has made in the fight for inclusivity and equity of LGBTQIA+ rights. At the same time, we acknowledge and stand as allies with members of the LGBTQIA+ community who have endured discrimination and faced injustices. Please join us in our commitment to supporting LGBTQIA+ rights as human rights. Check out some of our past offerings at CTACNY.org. | [Learn More](#)

Live Another Day

A curated list of mental health and substance use resources for black, indigenous, and people of color. [Learn More](#)

Mental Health Outreach Team and Peer Training Expansion Project (MHOT-PTE)

The MHOT-PTE program is for individuals aged 18 and older who have experienced psychotic symptoms for at least one week in the prior two years. All participants will receive comprehensive peer support and care for up to 2-years, using evidence-based practices delivered by certified and licensed staff members. Services offered to include street outreach, benefits access/restoration, continued service referrals, and other supports as needed. Uninsured participants will receive project services on a sliding scale. SyrPeer, Inc., located in Syracuse, New York, conducts the project. Research suggests that the sooner an individual has support for mental health and substance use challenges, the more likely the person will experience significant recovery. The Mental Health Outreach and Peer Training Expansion aims to promote engagement and participation in personalized treatment, foster recovery, and reduce or prevent disability. To learn more or refer a potential participant, don't hesitate to contact James Clarke, the program director, at (315) 552-1337 or james.clarke@syrpeer.org or visit our website at <http://syrpeer.org>. ([SyrPeer flyer](#)). Individuals and their families are also encouraged to call for information. | [Learn More](#)

Motivational Interviewing – The Pacific Southwest MHTTC is pleased to provide this series on Motivational Interviewing to improve our school and mental health workforce skills. Motivational interviewing (MI) provides us with a way to have conversations about change. In this series, participants will learn the basics of how to apply MI to both typical and challenging clinical situations. | [Learn More](#)

Positive Psychology Research Group - More and more people are seeking to use self-help materials to build better mental health. We are eager to help. In the Positive Psychology Research Group, we have created a number of 80-page workbooks that people can work through on their own to build their virtues or character strengths. In keeping with my philosophy, we want to give them away—just like we are giving away leader and participant manuals to run small groups and DVDs to illustrate how to run those groups. But, in the same way as with the group materials, we want to give away materials that have been investigated by scientific methods and found to be effective, and also published in refereed scientific publications. (Courtesy The Key Update, July, Peggy Swarbrick and Jacek Haciak) | [Learn More](#)

Psychiatric Advance Directives (PAD) - (Courtesy The Key Update, July Edition) A recent article in JAMA Psychiatry—“Effect of Psychiatric Advance Directives [PADs] Facilitated by Peer Workers on Compulsory Admission Among People With Mental Illness: A Randomized Clinical Trial”—found that “Peer worker-facilitated PADs are effective in decreasing compulsory hospital admissions and increasing some mental health outcomes (self-perceived symptoms, empowerment, and recovery). Involving peer workers in the completion of PADs supports the current shift of mental health care from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making.” To download a PDF of the article, [click here](#). (Courtesy of Dan Fisher) In

addition, the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion offers two documents to help people who want to create a PAD: “Advance Self-Advocacy Plan: A Guidebook for Creating a Mental Health Advance Plan or Psychiatric Advance Directive” ([click here](#)), and “Advance Self-Advocacy Plan: An easy-to-use, customizable plan for people who want to create a Psychiatric Advance Directive or Mental Health Crisis Plan” ([click here](#).) And the National Resource Center on Psychiatric Advance Directives ([click here](#)) is also helpful!

Understanding Pain (for Peer Specialists) – This is the recording and handouts for a session by: Michelle Marikos, Adrienne Scavera, and Nora Stern. Doors To Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

Warmspace - is a FREE online platform that will guide you in making a deeper connection with people in a one-to-one interaction. You can practice deep listening, mutuality and reciprocity with a random person or you can invite a friend to grow closer to. Take the plunge and give it a try soon. Improve your peer skills today. You won't regret it. - Submitted by Dan Frey / City Voices | [Learn More](#)

Wellness Training Learning Collaborative (W-TLC) - The Rutgers Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies has announced the release of the W-TLC virtual toolbox and Training/Learning Collaborative created to support the wellness of the healthcare workforce which has been directly experiencing the consequences of the pandemic, bearing the brunt of psychological, emotional, and physical effects firsthand. alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu - This resource kit aims to support the wellness of the healthcare workforce, which has been directly experiencing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. | [Learn More](#)

Other News



Looking for more news? Check out The Key Update, the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse Newsletter. Read it here!

<https://www.mhselfhelp.org/the-key-update-latest>

See the preview below.

- July Is Mad Pride Month and Disability Pride Month
- “Help Us Map the Landscape of Lived Experience and Family Involvement in 988 Policy and Related Crisis Response System Planning!”
- Free Webinar: “Implementing the SAMHSA/NASMPD 988 Convening Playbooks”
- MFI and I Love You, Lead On Will Co-Host Judi's Room on the Controversy Surrounding Assisted Suicide
- Do You Work in Substance Use Recovery and Have Outstanding Student Loans?
- Rutgers Releases W-TLC Virtual Toolbox and Training/Learning Collaborative Series
- NYAPRS 2022 Annual Conference Call for Presentations Deadline is July 8
- Psychiatric Advance Directives Facilitated by Peer Supporters Help Prevent Involuntary Commitment, Researchers Say
- “Would You Like to Share Your Experiences to Help Others Who Are Trying to Find Freedom, Healing & Hope Beyond Psychiatry?”
- Dealing with “Core Emotions,” Such as Disgust, May Be Key to Processing Trauma
- The AAPP Annual Meeting Includes a Focus on “the New Activism in Psychiatry”
- June MHTTC Newsletter Offers Resources and Opportunities
- “Mass Violence Takes Toll on Americans' Psyches,” Washington Post Reports
- Free Webinar: “Workplace Burnout: How We Get There; How We Recover”
- U.S. DOL Releases Guidance on FMLA Leave and Mental Health

- Free Webinar: “Deflection, Diversion and Mental Health Recovery: A Systems Approach and DEI Practice Perspective”
- You’re Invited to a White House and HHS Call on Reports Addressing the Long-Term Effects of COVID-19
- Free Webinar: “Finding Our Voice,” Presented by the National Empowerment Center on July 19
- PsychU Will Host Two Free Webinars in July: “The Effects of Racism on the Mental Healthcare Community” and “Digital Health Tools: Combating Stigma and Healthcare Disparities”
- Free Webinar: “Peer Support Is In Demand” on July 26, Presented by Doors to Wellbeing
- National Association for Rural Mental Health Conference to Be Held November 2-4, 2022
- Do You Want to Be More Humble? More Forgiving? More Patient? More Positive? Try This.
- “Why Do People Hear Voices?”
- The July 2022 Digest of Articles Offering Healthy Lifestyle Advice
- The July 2022 Digest of Articles about the [Criminal Legal System](#), in Which Many Individuals with Mental Health Conditions Are Incarcerated (and the Key Update continues after this Digest)

To view the current edition of The Key Update! <https://www.mhselfhelp.org/the-key-update-latest>

Other newsletters of interest include:

- **Live and Learn** - Employment and Self-Employment Resources | [Learn More](#)
- **MHTTC - June Newsletter** - (Review Courtesy The Key Update, July Edition) The June edition of the Northeast and Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network newsletter offers a variety of resources and opportunities. For LGBTQ+ Pride Month, in June, there are links to several websites that provide information and support to the LGBTQ+ community, which are useful year-round. The newsletter also contains links to “a self-paced, online, three-part HealtheKnowledge course,” an episode of its “Toward Wellness and Recovery” podcast, a new toolkit from SAMHSA’s National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery, and more. | [Learn More](#)
- **New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors** - The Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors advances public policies and awareness for people with mental illness, chemical dependency and developmental disabilities. We are a statewide membership organization that consists of the Commissioner/ Director of each of the state's 57 county mental hygiene departments and the mental hygiene department of the City of New York. [View Current Issue](#) | [Learn More](#)
- **WRAP Up Newsletter** - [WRAP](#) is an evidence-based practice, and WRAP peer-group intervention has been shown to increase hopefulness, improve quality of life, increase people’s ability to self-advocate, increase feelings of empowerment, reduce the need to use healthcare services over time, and improve recovery outcomes. | [Learn More](#)
- **Wildflower Alliance** - Formerly Western Mass Recovery Learning Community Newsletter | [Learn More](#)

What’s your favorite newsletter or blog site?

You can help to promote the work of your group or your favorite peer-organization.

Send links to newsletters to: academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

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.

Current Job Openings

The jobs listed in the newsletter are current as of July 1, 2022. **Openings are listed in order of submission. Most recent jobs are listed at the top.**

<p>Brooklyn Director of Operations Baltic Street, AEH -----</p> <p>Staten Island Peer Bridgers 2 and 3 Baltic Street, AEH -----</p> <p>Brooklyn and Staten Island Peer Bridger Adult Home Initiative Baltic Street, AEH -----</p> <p>Albany Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives NYAPRS -----</p> <p>Piscataway, NJ Instructional Designer Project Manager Academy of Peer Services -----</p> <p>Suffolk County Peer Specialist CCBHC Family Service League</p>	<p>Rochester Recovery and Mental Health Services Professional Job Fair Thursday, July 7th from 10am – 12pm Register for the event Learn More RochesterWorks! -----</p> <p>Brooklyn Peer Counselor NYU Langone Health -----</p> <p>Albany, Rensselaer and Westchester/Rockland Peer Support Mentors MHEP -----</p> <p>Onondaga, Oswego, Cayuga, Cortland, and Madison counties Family Support Navigator Prevention Network -----</p> <p>Suffolk County Certified Peer Specialists (Full and Part Time) Family Service League</p>
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Rockland, Westchester, Orange, Putnam, Ulster,
Dutchess and Sullivan Counties
[Deputy Director, Psychiatric Center](#)
Rockland Psychiatric Center

New York City
[Mobile Crisis Team \(multiple opportunities\)](#)
Visiting Nurse Service

New York City
[Volunteer Positions](#)
City Voices

Virtual
[Director of Workforce Development](#)
(Some travel to NYC and Albany, but mostly
remote)
Families Together of NYS

Syracuse
[Peer Specialist](#)
CirCare

Central Islip
[Executive Admin Assistant](#)
Hands Across Long Island

988 Lifeline Jobs (SAMHSA)
The Lifeline Suicide & Crisis Network is looking to
bring on new volunteers and paid employees to
answer calls, chats, and texts from people in
crisis. All employees and volunteers receive
training, so if you are a caring person who wants
to help those in crisis, [apply today](#).
For more: [https://www.samhsa.gov/find-
help/988/jobs](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/jobs)
Read more about 988
at <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988>

Hudson River Field Office
[Regional Advocacy Specialist 2](#)
NYS Office of Mental Health

Bronx
[Peer Specialist – Intensive Treatment Living
Residence \(Full Time\)](#)
[Peer Specialist – Intensive Treatment Living
Residence \(Part Time\)](#)
[Program Description](#)
St. Joseph’s Medical Center

Bronx, Upper Queens, and Far Rockaways
[Peer Bridger- AHI Full Time](#)
Community Access

Rockland
[Peer Bridger](#) (full time)
To apply, download and complete
this [competency scale](#)
NYAPRS located at Rockland PC

Queens
[Peer Bridger](#) (part time)
To apply, download and complete
this [competency scale](#)
NYAPRS located at Creedmoor

Long Island
[Peer Bridger](#) (part time)
To apply, download and complete
this [competency scale](#)
NYAPRS located at Pilgrim

Corning
[Peer Specialist, and Social Skills Counselor](#)
Pathways, Inc.

Still looking? We receive new job openings from employers regularly. For the latest jobs that have been submitted to the Academy of Peer Services, visit the [Job Seekers page](#) on our website. This lists positions submitted directly to us by employers looking for qualified candidates. (For Youth and Family Peer Advocate postings, check the listings on [Families Together in NYS](#).)

Interested in a Career with New York State?

They are always hiring. | Search [StateJobsNY](#)
Also, check this listing of upcoming [Civil Service Exams](#)

Visit our Job Search Strategies Page

There are many more openings available than those listed here. You can also check through temporary staffing companies and employment agencies like Indeed, Job Zone, Career Builder, and the Dept. of Labor (DOL). To search for a specific job title, location, or employer, review the information below.

Job 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>

Funding Opportunities



Deadline: July 1, 2022

Expand Support for Children/Families with MH Needs (Disenfranchised/Marginalized Populations)

The New York State Office of Mental Health is providing two, one-time funding opportunities for agencies to expand activities that support children and families with significant mental health needs. These opportunities will expand critical treatment and support services for children with significant mental health needs and their families in areas of New York that have been impacted by the COVID pandemic. | [Learn More](#)

Deadline for Submissions: July 15

Behavioral Health Recovery Innovation Challenge

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is announcing its first-ever behavioral health Recovery Innovation Challenge. The goal of this challenge is to identify innovations developed by peer-run or community-based organizations, and entities that may partner with them—such as local or state governments, health systems, hospitals, or health plans—that advance recovery. | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to Apply: July 18

HHS Announces \$2 Million Funding Opportunity to Establish National Center of Excellence on Social Media and Mental Wellness: Effort Advances Biden-Harris Aim to Make Social Media Platforms Safer for Children and Youth | [Learn More](#)

Deadline: July 25, 2022

Community Crisis Response Partnerships

The purpose of this program is to create or enhance existing mobile crisis response teams to divert adults, children, and youth experiencing mental health crises from law enforcement in high-need community(ies). This program recognizes a high-need community as a community where mobile crisis services are absent or inconsistent, where most mental health crises are responded to by first responders, and/or where first responders are not adequately trained or equipped to diffuse mental health crises. Grant recipients will be expected to utilize SAMHSA's National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care: Best Practice Toolkit as a guide for best practices in the delivery of mobile crisis services. | SAMHSA | [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) | [Learn More](#)

Bidders Conference Date: August 2, 2022

Request for Proposals: Development of 12 New Supportive Crisis Stabilization Centers

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) have issued a Request for Proposals for the development of 12 new Supportive Crisis Stabilization Centers (SCSCs). The Offices are seeking to establish three Centers within the New York City economic development region and nine Centers throughout the remaining economic development regions in New York State. The Crisis Stabilization Centers will be jointly certified by NYS OMH and OASAS. Crisis Stabilization Centers are developed in collaboration with the communities they serve,

including Local Mental Hygiene Directors, schools, community providers, law enforcement agencies, and other identified programs, to provide a comprehensive continuum of care for referrals and follow-up. |

[Learn More](#)

APS Training/Support Network

APS has established a network of training and support organizations that meet regularly to share strategies, approaches, and best practices in delivery of live peer support training. These organizations are listed on the Virtual Learning Community website and can advertise upcoming training opportunities through the Virtual Community calendar and newsletter.



[View the Training/Support Network Page](#)

Training Organizations offering Peer Support Training

Instructor-Led Peer Specialist Training Opportunities
(Organizations that offer certification preparation based on APS)



Several organizations around the state offer instructor-led peer specialist training based (at least in part) on APS courses. Many of these training programs provide an 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.

Association for Mental Health and Wellness (AMHW)

Long Island

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](#)

Howie the Harp

16 Week Sessions with 12 Week Internship

Employment Support

Community Access | [Learn More](#)

Hands Across Long Island (HALI)

APS Learning Collaborative / Term 2
Preparation for the APS Tests toward NYCPS Certification

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

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA)

View their latest video and year-end report

[Learn More](#)

LaGuardia Community College

Mental Health Peer Specialist Training Program
Preparation for the APS Tests toward NYCPS Certification

[Learn More](#)

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

[Apply Now!](#)

MHA Westchester Peer Specialist Training

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Preparation to take the NYS Peer Exams

[Program Brochure](#)

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

Empowerment Exchange (Troy)

RISE Center (Mt. Vernon)

8-week peer specialist training

[Learn More](#)

New York City Health + Hospitals

NYC H + H Peer Academy

Free training toward NYCPS and CRPA

[Learn More](#)

Does your organization offer instructor-led or peer facilitated training to help learners prepare for the NYCPS certification? To learn more about joining the Training/Support Network, send email to

academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

About the Academy of Peer Services



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 90 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](#).



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)



Monthly 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 has been a few years since I started the Academy. Do I need to repeat older courses in order to apply for certification?

Grades and Certificates At End of Course Term

Any Academy of Peer Service (APS) course module that has been successfully completed does not have to be repeated.

- The grades and certificates of your successfully completed APS courses are continually maintained in the Dashboard feature of your APS account, will not expire, and will always be applicable to your certification.
- APS course modules that are incomplete at the end of a term can be completed during the following term(s).

Failed Post-test Attempts

For the Core, Elective, and Supervision track courses you are allowed two attempts each term to successfully complete the post-test with a minimum score of 75. The grades and/or the number of post-test attempts cannot be modified or deleted. If you have not successfully completed the post-test within two attempts during the current term, you will have two additional opportunities to complete the post-test during the following term(s).

CE (continuing education) courses are on a different schedule because they are open year-round. Those require a minimum score of 80, and you have additional attempts to attain that score.

Feel free to contact me if you require ongoing assistance.

'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.