Lunch and Learn Logistics

- We are scheduled for 1:00-2:30
- All participants are muted upon entry
- Enter questions or comments for the presenters in chat-send to “everyone” not just presenters
- Q&A will be at the end of the webinar-please use chat to ask questions
- If you want to ask a question verbally during the Q&A period, please use the raise hand feature and you will be unmuted
- Stop video if you’re not speaking for bandwidth considerations
- Presentation is being recorded.
- Recording, slides, and the Q&A will be distributed to all registrants
Purpose of Lunch and Learn

• The purpose of today’s Lunch & Learn is for OMH staff to learn about the training and certification/credentialing process and requirements for all three OMH Peer Credentials:
  • New York Certified Peer Specialist Certification
  • Youth Peer Advocate Credential
  • Family Peer Advocate Credential

Today’s lunch and learn will NOT:

• Address specific questions about personal credentials. If you have a question about your certification or credential, please follow up with your credentialing or certification entity.

• Address the OASAS peer certification (CRPA). For more information, you can follow up with OASAS or New York Certification Board:
  – https://oasas.ny.gov/recovery/become-certified-recovery-peer-advocate
  – http://nycertboard.org/

• Address the DOH Certified Peer Worker certification. For more information:
  – NYSDOH AIDS Institute Peer Worker Certification Program
  – About the AIDS Institute - HIV Education and Training (ny.gov)
Order of Presentations

1. **New York Certified Peer Specialist (adult mental health peer certification)**
   - Academy of Peer Services
   - New York Peer Specialist Certification Board

2. **Youth Peer Advocate Credential**
   - Families Together of New York State
   - Community Technical Assistance Center

3. **Family Peer Advocate Credential**
   - Families Together of New York State
   - Community Technical Assistance Center

4. **Questions & Answers**

Academy of Peer Services

APS is funded by OMH, and is operated by Rutgers University, in cooperation with NYAPRS.
Academy of Peer Services Team

Amy Spagnolo  
Project Director

Rita Cronise  
VLC Coordinator

Karen Richards  
Instructional Designer

Athena Anderson  
Instructional Designer

Maryam Husamudeen  
User Support Specialist

Varsha Kamat  
Web & Data Analyst
Open Source

All courses are open source (no proprietary information)

Online & on-demand

Free for learners

Course Calendar

Three 12-week terms per year

Core and electives closed for 4 weeks between terms
  • Review/replace test items
  • Fix broken links
  • Revise course content based on user feedback

CE courses open between terms
Universal Design for Learning

508 compliant (for online accessibility)

Multiple engagement strategies

Multiple content delivery methods

Multiple opportunities for meeting objectives

70+ Subject Matter Experts

Content developed by leading experts and practitioners in the peer support field.
Virtual Learning Community

User Support

Email support
Phone & text support
Tracking
Level 2 tech support
Follow up
Reporting
Thanks!

Please include questions for the Academy of Peer Services in the Chat Box.

The Development of the Peer Specialist Certification in New York State

Tanya Stevens
Deputy Director, Mental Health Empowerment Project and Certification Board Director
**NYPSCB Mission**

To preserve the integrity of peer support through the development of standards of competency and practice

**History of the New York Certified Peer Specialist Certification**

- **2007**: NYS OMH received a Transformation Transfer grant for the development of peer-run Recovery Centers
- **2008**: A needs assessment was conducted in collaboration with peer leaders and Rutgers University and NYAPRS about the most important, critical, and frequent competencies needed by Recovery Center staff and managers
- **2009**: MHEP and OMH convened peer leaders from across NYS to determine core competencies required for peer staff and managers to be successful
- **2010**: The NYPSCB officially began meeting toward the development of a peer specialist certification (NYCPS)
- **2011**: The Academy of Peer Services was launched
- **2012**: NYCPS certification was officially launched
- **2013**: MHEP awarded contract to support NYCPS
- **2014**: NYPSCB
About the Certification Board

**Board Roles**
The NYPSCB sets the standards of the Peer Specialist Certification as well as the criteria by which applications are reviewed and certifications issued.

**Staff Roles**
Staff provide administrative support to the board, review and prepare applications for the board's review, etc.

*Only the Board is authorized to approve applications.*
The certification board sets standards - staff implement them.

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**NY Peer Specialist Certification Purpose**

- Established qualifications for the workforce
- Set the standards for the skills and training required
- Provided a credential for Medicaid reimbursement for peer support services
**Two Levels of Certification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NY Certified Peer Specialist (NYCPS)</th>
<th>NY Certified Peer Specialist-Provisional (NYCPS-P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 hours supervised work experience</td>
<td>No work experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[http://nypeerspecialist.org](http://nypeerspecialist.org)
info@nypeerspecialist.org

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**How to Become Certified**

- Meet all standards for NYCPS Certification

- Complete either the **NYCPS** or **NYCPS-P** (provisional) application and submit it and all required documents

- Read and agree to abide by the Code of Ethical Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures

*TIP: Use the checklist on page 1 of the application to make sure you submit all required documents*
NYCPS-P Requirements

Peer Status
Must identify as actively in recovery from a mental health condition or major life disruption and self-disclose one's mental health recovery journey.

Education
A minimum of a high school diploma or the equivalent.

Training and Education
Complete all 13 Core Courses of the Academy of Peer Services: www.AcademyofPeerServices.org
Successfully complete post-tests for all Core Courses.

Professional References
Submit three signed references from individuals able to speak to your ability as a peer specialist directly to the NYPSCB.

NYCPS (Full) Requirements

Application is the same as NYCPS-Provisional with added:

Training and Education
Successfully complete all 13 Core Courses of the Academy of Peer Services:

AND
Complete a minimum of 5 additional Electives (15 hours of training total)

AND
Supervised Work/Volunteer Experience
Document 2000 hours of peer specialist experience under the supervision of a qualified supervisor.
NYCPS-P Renewal

To renew the NYCPS-P, you will need to submit:

- 20 hours of Peer Specialist specific training every 2-years (10 hours per year of certification)
- The training must have been completed after initial NYCPS-P certification date
- Training can be fulfilled by taking additional, not previously completed, APS Elective Courses or other board approved workshops or training.

All renewal documents and certificates must be submitted to http://nypeerspecialist.org/ or mailed to:

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board
3 Atrium Drive, Suite 205
Albany, Ny 12205

Upgrade to NYCPS (Full)

In addition to the NYCPS-P, you need to submit:

Training – An additional 15 hours (minimum) of board approved continuing education

Letter of Recommendation – Signed letter of recommendation from current or most recent supervisor expressing perception of the experience and knowledge of applicant’s ability and performance as a Peer Specialist

Work/Volunteer Experience - 2000 hours of documented peer work/volunteer experience under the supervision of a qualified supervisor on Experience Verification Form
Renewal Questions

My Renewal date is coming up—should I apply for the Upgrade?
If your renewal date is approaching—focus on your Renewal before Upgrading.

My renewal is past due, and I need more time to submit my renewal. What should I do?
Request an extension to be given additional time to complete your Renewal.

How can I request an extension?
Extension requests should be submitted in writing by email to info@nypeerspecialist.org

Questions?

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board
3 Atrium Drive, Suite 205
Albany, New York 12205
Phone: 518.426.0945
www.nypeerspecialist.org

NYPSCB Coordinator, MHEP
info@nypeerspecialist.org
Questions for the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board can be placed in the chat

Training and Credentialing for YPAs and FPAs...
What You Need to Know

**Presenters:**
Joanna Ahlatis, FTNYS
Robbie Lettieri, FTNYS
Anne Kupinger, CTAC
Families Together In NYS

The Department of Workforce Development oversees **Training and Credentialing Activities** for Family Peer Advocates and Youth Peer Advocates.

We develop and provide **Continuing Education** options for advocates and their supervisors and **Technical Assistance** is available to agencies who currently provide, or are interested in providing, Family Peer Support and/or Youth Peer Support and Training.

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Families Together in NYS

**PARTNERSHIP**

Community Technical Assistance Center
Community Technical Assistance Center

- Part of New York University’s McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research
- Training and TA for NY Behavioral Health Providers
- Dual focus on supporting the Family and Youth Peer Advocate workforce + supporting agencies’ to effectively implement peer services
- Online training for Family and Youth Peers and their supervisors on the CTAC Self-Learning Center
- Partner closely with Families Together in New York State and Youth Power in all of this work

Why a Credential?

- Supports Uniform Competency
- Promotes leadership and professionalism
- Expands reimbursement options
Youth Peer Advocacy Training & Credentialing

Definition of Youth Peer Services

- Outreach and Information
- Engagement, Bridging and Transition Support
- Self-Advocacy, Self-Efficacy and Empowerment
- Community Connection and Natural Supports
- Youth Skill Development
- Promoting Effective Youth Guided Practice
### YPA Credential Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provisional Credential</th>
<th>Professional Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Lived Experience</td>
<td>• Level 2 Online Training &amp; IN PERSON/Virtual Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Level 1 Training</td>
<td>• Supervisor Letter of Recommendation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 18 – 30 years old</td>
<td>• Documented Work Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High School Diploma or equivalent (Education Waiver for eligible candidates)</td>
<td>• 600 hours for YPAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 letters of Recommendation</td>
<td>• Signed Code of Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Statement of Lived Experience</td>
<td>• Renewed every 2 years with 20 hours of Continuing Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Signed Code of Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Valid for 18 months</td>
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</tbody>
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### Youth Peer Advocate Applications

**Provisional**

Youth Peer Advocate Provisional Credential Application [online]
Youth Peer Advocate Provisional Credential Application [print version]

**Professional**

Youth Peer Advocate Professional Credential Application [online]
Youth Peer Advocate Professional Credential Application [print version]

To open link: Hit “ctrl” and click on each link.
Defining Lived ‘Experience’

Lived experience relates to personal experience navigating one or more child service systems/services such as:

- Mental Health
- Special Education
- Child Welfare
- Substance Use
- Juvenile Justice
- Criminal Justice
- Intellectual or Developmental Services
- Complex Healthcare Needs
- Vocational Services

In-Person YPA Training

The In-Person/Virtual YPA Training covers a number of different topics. Some of those topics include:

- Clarifying the Youth Peer Advocate Role
- Building Positive Connections
- Mentoring and Coaching
- Cultural Competency
- Interdependence
- Professional Expectations
- Documentation
Consultation Calls

As part of the Level 2 Training, one must complete 5 Consultation Calls (1 hour 30 minutes each).

1. Personal & Professional Self Care
2. Role Clarity
3. Working with a Team
4. Building on Strengths Through Cultural Humility
5. Utilizing Your Skills to Empower Young People

The Steps to a Professional Credential

- Level 1 Training
  - Online modules

- Apply for a Provisional Credential

- Level 2 Training
  - Online modules
  - 4 Day Virtual Training
  - 5 Consultation Calls

- Apply for a Professional Credential

- Renew every 2 years
The 6 Steps to a Youth Peer Advocate Credential Handout

1. Complete Level One Online YPA Training
   - You will need to complete the Level One online component in order to apply for a Provisional Credential.

2. Apply for the YPA Provisional Credential
   - Once you have completed the Level One YPA training you can apply for the Provisional Credential. Once approved, all requirements for the Professional Credential must be completed within 28 months.

3. Complete Level Two Online YPA Training
   - To begin pursuing the Professional Credential, complete Level Two of the online YPA training.

4. Complete Level Two In-Person YPA Training
   - Once you have completed the Level Two Online Training and you are currently employed providing YPA services, you will need to complete the Level Two in-person training. This includes a 2-day training session.

5. Complete Consultation Calls
   - Once you have completed the Level Two in-person training, you will be enrolled in consultation calls through your trainer. Consultation calls are required to receive your certificate of completion.

6. Apply for the YPA Professional Credential
   - Once you have completed steps 5 you can apply for the Professional Credential.

You can access all links and documentation for the Youth Peer Advocate Credential on www.nyis.org, under Workforce Development.

If you have questions please email us at YPACredential@nyis.org or call 212-603-3333 ext. 10.
Family Peer Advocacy

Definition of FPSS

FPSS are provided by a trained and credentialed Family Peer Advocate (FPA) who is uniquely qualified to work with families based on his/her/their personal experience parenting a child with similar needs and the specialized training they receive.

FPSS can be provided through individual and group face-to-face work in various settings (e.g. family’s home, community, office, telephone.)
Family Peer Support Services

Credential Requirements

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<td>• Level 1 Training</td>
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<td>• 18 or over</td>
<td>• Documented Work Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High School Diploma or equivalent</td>
<td>• 1000 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Education Waiver for eligible</td>
<td>• Signed Code of Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>candidates)</td>
<td>• Renewed every 2 years with 20 hours of Continuing Education</td>
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<td>• 2 Letters of Recommendation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lived Experience Statement</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• Signed Code of Ethics</td>
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</table>
Lived Experience Defined

The parent (biological/foster/adoptive) or primary caregiver of a child/youth, who has a significant social, emotional, developmental, medical, substance use and/or behavioral disability which manifested itself prior to age 21.

A parent or primary caregiver is the person who is primarily responsible for the day-to-day care of a child. The broadness of this definition gives us the opportunity to be inclusive of non-traditional family arrangements.

*For this definition, Primary Caregiver does not include providers*
The Steps to a Professional Credential

• Level 1 Training
  • Online modules

• Apply for a Provisional Credential

• Level 2 Training
  • Online modules
  • 4 Day Virtual
  • 12 Weekly Coaching Calls

• Apply for a Professional Credential

• Renewals every 2 years

The Steps to a Family Peer Advocate Credential Handout
Additional Supports Available

Parent Advisors & Regional Youth Partners
Community Engagement

- **Advisory Committees**
  - YPSAC
  - FPACAC
- Databases
- Credential **Validation** Tool
- **Job Opportunities page**
- Individual focused **Outreach**, Encouragement and Technical Assistance

Other Training and TA Activities for YPAs & FPAs

- **Continuing Education** modules for Credentialed Advocates
- **Webinars, Learning Communities** and **Special Topic Learning Series** in partnership with CTAC
- Regional training and support for advocates and the agencies they work in
- **Statewide Monthly Technical Assistance** meetings for Family Peer Support Programs
- **FTNYS Website**-Workforce Development Tab
Technical Assistance for Supervisors

- FTNYS offers individual assistance to agencies/programs on YPA and FPA training & credentialing, including questions related to integrating YPAs and FPAs into the workforce

- YPA and FPA Orientation Training for Supervisors

Additional CTAC Resources

CTAC Website [www.ctacny.org](http://www.ctacny.org)
- CTAC Self-Learning Center
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Access to Recorded Webinars, Playlists and Tools
- Special Initiative pages for:
  - [Family Peer Support](http://www.ctacny.org)
  - [Youth Peer Support](http://www.ctacny.org)

While you are there, look around. There are many resources that will support your work!
Contact Information

For YPA Information:
Robert Lettieri - Youth Peer Services Training and Credentialing Manager
Email: RLettieri@ftnys.org or YPA Credential@ftnys.org
Cell: (585) 866-9333

For FPA Information:
Cortney Lovell - Director, Workforce Development
Email: clowell@ftnys.org or FPACredential@ftnys.org

For CTAC Information:
Anne Kuppinger - CTAC
Email: anne.kuppinger@nyu.edu

Questions?
Amanda Saake, LMSW, CPRP, NYCPS-P
Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Director of Office of Consumer Affairs
Amanda.saake@omh.ny.gov