



APS Virtual Learning Community

Community News | August 1, 2022

Contents



To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. –
Audrey Hepburn

- Academy News 1
- Community Calendar 3
- Get Involved 15
- Research and Groups Conducting Surveys 18
- Resources 21
- Job Openings 26
- Funding Opportunities..... 29
- APS Training/Support Network..... 30
- About the Academy of Peer Services 32
- About the Virtual Learning Community 32
- APS End User Support..... 32
- Monthly Column: Ask Maryam 33

Academy News

The Academy of Peer Services is now in the ‘limited access’ Summer Session. During this scheduled break between terms, the core and elective courses are closed for routine maintenance and quality assurance updates. A limited number of CE (continuing education) courses are available for those seeking renewal hours toward the NYCPS/NYCPS-P certification. See the [Summer Session catalog](#). The full range of core and elective courses will be available again when **Term 3 starts on August 29**.

For more information on the break between terms, check out the column “Ask Maryam” at the end of this newsletter by our User Support Specialist, Maryam Husamudeen.

General Information About the Academy of Peer Services

If you are new to the Academy the tabs across the top of the [Academy of Peer Services](#) website contain information to help you navigate the site, get ready to apply for certification, understand how to access and use the courses, get help, and schedule your time according to the Academy calendar.

Information on Credentialing and Certification for Employers

A recent webinar hosted by the OMH Office of Consumer Affairs offered presentations on the certification and credentialing of peer support workers under OMH. If you know employers or supervisors who could benefit from this orientation, please share the [Slides](#) | [Q&A](#) | [Recording](#).



Specialty Tracks for Peer Specialists Now Under Development

The Academy of Peer is now working with subject matter experts on the development of five new specialty tracks to qualify for offering peer support to specific populations. The specialty tracks are for supporting:

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

Watch for more information in the coming months to participate in the early training that will be available from each of these tracks.

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:

- Aug 1, 2022 - [August Wellness Institute Calendar](#)
- July 28, 2022 - [My Role: Receiving and Giving Peer Support, Howard Diamond](#)
- July 19, 2022 - [New Intensive Crisis Stabilization Centers](#)
- July 17, 2022 - [Random Act by a Peer Specialist \(Part 3\), Howard Diamond](#)
- July 16, 2022 - [988 is Live](#)
- July 8, 2022 - [Summer Hope Can Lead to Summer Success, Howard Diamond](#)
- July 1, 2022 - [July is both Mad Pride Month & Disability Pride Month](#)
- July 1, 2022 - [988 — What Happens After a Call?](#)
- July 1, 2022 - [July 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 of 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 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 available on the Virtual Community website under Recorded Webinars: <https://aps-community.org/webinars-recorded/>

Created by Luis Prado
from Nour Project

Peer Certification and Credentialing 101

Broadcast on July 15, 2022

OMH Lunch & Learn with presentations by:

- Academy of Peer Services
- New York Peer Specialist Certification Board
- Families Together of New York State
- Community Technical Assistance Center
- Families Together of New York State
- Community Technical Assistance Center

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

Peer Certification and Credentialing 101 for OMH Providers

Broadcast on June 8, 2022

New York Certified Peer Specialist (adult mental health peer certification)

Youth Peer Advocate Credential

Family Peer Advocate Credential

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

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

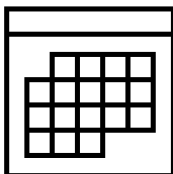
<https://aps-community.org/webinars-recorded/>



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.



Mark your calendar with these deadlines and dates.

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). | [Learn More](#)

Call for Proposals Deadline: August 19

29th Annual Bi-County Empowerment Conference: Unity for Change

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

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

Call for Proposals Deadline: Sept 15

7th Annual Substance Use and Mental Health Peer Conference

Peer Professionals: The Ongoing Evolution

Conference Date: Friday, December 2

[Learn More](#)

NYAPRS Conference (In-Person)

A New Alliance - It Takes a Community!

September 21-23, 2022

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA)

2022 Annual Rights Conference

October 26-29, 2022

Newark, New Jersey

NARPA | [Learn More](#)



Do you have any special events or announcements to share on the Virtual Learning Community?

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

Community Calendar



The following calendar entries were last updated **August 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.

August

[Wellness Institute Newsletter](#)

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](#)

Agitation in Dementia Care

August 2, 12:00 - 1:00 pm ET (10 Sessions)

PsychU | [Learn More](#)

Peer Workforce Workgroup (Rockland)

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

(Every Tuesday at noon)

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

Billing & Coding

Aug 2, 1-2 pm Eastern

Mohawk Valley Health Education Center | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

August 2, 5:15 - 6:30 pm

(Every Tuesday evening)

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

Frontline Workers: Addressing the Great Resignation

August 3, 12-1 pm ET

CTAC | [Learn More](#)

Compassion Fatigue and Burnout

August 3, 2-4 pm ET

Howie the Harp | [Learn More](#)

August 5: Deadline to Enter Arts Festival

Needy Ego Arts Festival (Finger Lakes Region)

Temple Beth El | [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](#)

Home Equity Theft and Other Emerging Scams Impacting Older Adults

August 9, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

NCLER | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

August 9, 5:15 - 6:30 pm

(Every Tuesday evening)

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

Peace from Anxiety: A Summer Check In and Reboot

August 9, 6-8 pm (Eastern)

(3-5 pm Pacific)

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

Returning to Our Roots: Remembering Why the Work is Important and Why We Love It

August 10, 12-1 pm ET

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

The Power of the Narrative

August 10, 2-4 pm ET

Howie the Harp | [Learn More](#)

Conducting Supervision with a Trauma-Responsive Lens

August 11, 10-11:30 am ET

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

A Coach Approach: Coaching Skills for Recovery Coaches

August 12, 9:00 - 4:00 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

August 15, 7 - 8:30 pm ET
WiseCrackers | [Learn More](#)

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

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

Peer Learning Collaborative

August 17, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET
3rd Wednesday of each month
Recovery Coach University | [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
BiCounty Conference Committee | [Learn More](#)

Ethics Workshop

August 19, 9:00 - 1:00 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Ethical Considerations

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

Motivational Interviewing for Beginners

August 22, 10-12:00 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

August 22: Mondays, 3-4 pm ET
(While APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

WiseCrackers (Group for Over 50)

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

Bridges Out of Poverty

August 23, 8:30 - 3:30 pm ET
Hudson/Mohawk Valley Health | [Learn More](#)

Intermediate Motivational Interviewing

August 23, 10-12:00 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [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](#)

Advanced Motivational Interviewing

August 24, 10-12:00 pm ET
The Coalition for Behavioral Health | [Learn More](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative (Lunch Hour Annex)

August 25, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET
4th Thursday of each month
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

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

Needy Ego Arts Festival
August 28, 10 am - 4 pm Eastern
(Finger Lakes Region)
Temple Beth El | [Learn More](#)

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

Trauma (Historical & Intergenerational) and Resiliency
August 29: 12-1:30 pm
National Council for Mental Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative
August 29: Mondays, 3-4 pm ET
(While APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [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](#)

Building Culturally & Linguistically Specific Recovery Community Organizations For Latinos
August 30, 2-3 pm
Doors to Wellbeing | [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](#)

MAT Training

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

Ethical Considerations

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

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

Sept 6: 3-4 pm ET
(Rescheduled due to Labor Day)
Hands Across Long Island | [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](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

Sept 12: 3-4 pm ET
(Mondays while APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

Call for Proposals Deadline: Sept 15

7th Annual Substance Use and Mental Health Peer Conference
Peer Professionals: The Ongoing Evolution
Conference Date: Friday, December 2
[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](#)

Workplace Stability

September 16, 8:30 - 3:30 pm ET
Hudson/Mohawk Valley Health | [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](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

Sept 19: 3-4 pm ET

(Mondays while APS is in session)

Hands Across Long Island | [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](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative

September 21, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET

3rd Wednesday of each month

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Learning Collaborative: Tools and Tactics for Getting a Restful Sleep

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

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative (Lunch Hour Annex)

September 22, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET

4th Thursday of each month

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Family Supported Recovery Workshop

September 23, 9 - 4 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Spirituality for Recovery Coaches

September 23-24, 9 - 4 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

Sept 26: 3-4 pm ET

(Mondays while APS is in session)

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

Trauma-Informed Care

September 27, 9 - 4 pm

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

MAT Training

September 29, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

October 3: 3-4 pm ET

(Mondays while APS is in session)

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

Center for Community Alternatives

October 6: In-person fundraiser

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

In My Mind Conference

LGBTQ+ Older Adults of Color Mental Health

Tenacity and Agelessness in Healing

October 7, 2022

In My Mind | [Learn More](#)

A Coach Approach: Coaching Skills for Recovery Coaches

October 7, 9:00 - 4:00 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

October 10: 3-4 pm ET

(Mondays while APS is in session)

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

Training: Creating a Personal Wellness Self-Care Plan

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

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

October 17: 3-4 pm ET

(Mondays while APS is in session)

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

Peer Learning Collaborative

October 19, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET

3rd Wednesday of each month

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative
October 24: 3-4 pm ET
(Mondays while APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [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](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative (Lunch Hour Annex)
October 27, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET
4th Thursday of each month
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative
October 31: 3-4 pm ET
(Mondays while APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [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
BiCounty 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](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative
November 7: 3-4 pm ET
(Mondays while APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative
November 14: 3-4 pm ET
(Mondays while APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative
November 16, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET
3rd Wednesday of each month
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](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative
December 21, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET
3rd Wednesday of each month
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative (Lunch Hour Annex)
December 22, 11:00 - 12:00 pm ET
4th Thursday of each month
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

----- 2023 -----

Learning Collaborative: 2023 Wellness Planning

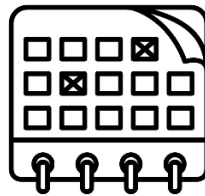
January 19, 10:30 - 12:00 pm ET

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



International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL2022).

The [International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership](#) (IIMHL) brings together and connects mental health leaders to help spread innovation and best practice to improve mental health and addiction services around the globe. [The College for Behavioral Health Leadership](#) (CBHL) serves as the US Liaison to IIMHL, functioning as a connector between behavioral health leaders across the US and international leaders through IIMHL. In October 2022, IIMHL is hosting the [2022 Leadership Exchange - Valuing Inclusion, Resilience, and Growth](#) - where leaders from across the globe will come together in both virtual (October 3-20) and in person (October 26-27, Washington DC for North America) environments to collaborate, learn emerging innovations, and further knowledge exchange. | [Learn More](#)



Ongoing Support Groups

New Group Forming

Sharing Memories of Psychosis: A Peer-to-Peer Reflection Group
(Dates/Times to be determined) | [Learn More](#)

Creative Wellness Opportunities

Daily Activities ([August](#))
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](#)

Shedding Skins

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

Hearing Voices and Alternate Realities

Wednesdays at 12-1 pm
City Voices | [Learn More](#)

Peer Support for Peer Supporters

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am
Life Connections Peer Recovery Services | [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
[Mission, Vision, Values](#)
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.

Certified Peer Specialist Career Outcomes Study (Courtesy Live and Learn)

With funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Live & Learn, Inc., in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago [Center on Mental Health Services Research & Policy](#) and the Temple University [Collaborative on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities](#), is conducting a three-year, national study of employment outcomes of individuals who have obtained a certified peer specialist (CPS) credential. The study is designed to improve the understanding of how CPS certification contributes to new graduates' outcomes and opportunities, and improve the careers of workers with psychiatric disabilities. It uses an observational prospective cohort study design to follow a sample of 680 adults who recently received a CPS. | [Learn More](#)

BU 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](#).

REACH (Resilience, Education, Action, Community, Health) (Courtesy Live and Learn)

The Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery is dedicated to innovations in recovery peer support and community inclusion. We have developed a new online peer group workshop called REACH (Resilience, Education, Action, Community, Health) with the goal of bringing activity into, or back into, your life. The Copeland Center is partnering with Temple University on a research study to examine the impact of REACH. [Learn More](#)

Long Island Community of Practice 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](#)

Participants Needed for a Research Study: 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](#)).

"Sweet Feet": Reflections on Volunteering With Boston's Homeless (Courtesy Live and Learn)

Earlier this month, our friend Amy Shea, the writing program coordinator for Mount Tamalpais College (a free community college for the incarcerated people of San Quentin), was a finalist in [The Missouri Review's](#) 2022 Perkoff Prize contest for writing about health and medicine. The piece reflects on her discoveries during a summer spent volunteering as a foot-care assistant for Boston's unhoused population. | [Learn More](#)

Disability Pride Month (Courtesy Live and Learn)

Since 2006, the month of July has been recognized as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. We can all use this as an opportunity to discuss mental health stigma with our communities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [Office of Minority Health](#) (or OMH) has posted resources and publications to start the conversation. You can find those links by clicking on the photo below. To engage via social media, search for the hashtag #MinorityMentalHealth.

In July 1990, the first Disability Pride Parade was held in Boston, Massachusetts to celebrate the passing of the Americans With Disabilities Act on July 26 of the same year. The [Administration for Community Living](#), whose mission is to "maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people

with disabilities across the lifespan, and their families and caregivers," is a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information on the vast work that ACL does to support individuals with disabilities, [please click here for an update](#).

Minority Mental Health (Courtesy Live and Learn)

Since 2006, the month of July has been recognized as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. We can all use this as an opportunity to discuss mental health stigma with our communities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [Office of Minority Health](#) (or OMH) has posted resources and publications to start the conversation. You can find those links by clicking on the photo below. To engage via social media, search for the hashtag #MinorityMentalHealth.

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 (ie 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](#)

TU 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](#).

Survey Seeks Respondents Who Are in Administrative/Leadership Positions in the Mental Health Field (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](#).

“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](#).

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 Second Newsletter

We are pleased to share the second edition of the OMH 988 Updates and Education Newsletter!
[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#)

This edition features articles on what happens when someone contacts 988, the difference between 988 and other three-digit hotline numbers, and highlights the important work being done in one of the NYS 988 Lifeline Crisis Contact Centers. The first edition of the newsletter, as well as other 988 resources, can be found on the OMH webpage: [988: More than a Number](#). Please be sure to check back soon to stay updated on 988 in New York.

988 Dialing Code for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis

This new, simplified tool is critical for older adults and those living with a disability because such individuals are at greater risk for mental health crisis and suicide. As SAMSHA pointed out in its [Appropriations Report for 988](#), suicide rates are higher among older adults. Among men, the suicide rate is highest for adults aged 75 and older, while among women, the suicide rate is highest among those aged 45 to 64. Likewise, [a recent study](#) found that people with disabilities were significantly more likely than those without disabilities to report suicidal ideation, planning, or attempt. The 988 Suicide and

Crisis Lifeline offers a simpler and more effective way for older adults and those living with disabilities to access help in the event of a mental health crisis. | [Learn More](#)

988 Live Jam (Recording) -

Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, as she spoke as our featured presenter on the developments of 988 and the work ahead.

425 People Joined, 24 Crisis Leaders Spoke. | [Learn More](#)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) & Parenting

Do the people that you serve know that untreated trauma can be passed down from generation to generation? Depression, unhealthy relationships, and chronic illness are some common consequences of intergenerational trauma. The good news is that healing and hope can also be passed down! | [Learn More](#)

Agitation in Alzheimer's (Older Adults) Resource Library

Agitation is a difficult behavioral issue for health care providers and caregivers because it can be hard to determine the cause of the agitation and how to best address it. | [Learn More](#)

Behavioral Health News

The BHN Summer 2022 Issue is Now Online! This special issue is the first of a two-part series on Stigma produced in partnership with the New York State Office of Mental Health
["Understanding the Impact of Stigma"](#) | [Learn More](#)

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](#)

CRW Job Fair Follow Up

On July 15, 20, and 22 the Association for Mental Health and Wellness held a Careers in Recovery and Wellness Training Center Job Fair. View the schedule of presenters by [clicking here](#).
For more specific information, reach out to Tracy Puglisi, Coordinator of Peer Recovery and Wellness Education at tpuglisi@mhaw.org

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](#)

NAMI Helpline launches Text Line

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) today launched a nationwide SMS/text message support option for the [NAMI HelpLine](#), adding a communications medium that is overwhelmingly preferred by young people — a population experiencing an unprecedented [mental health crisis](#).

Help-seekers can now text “HELPLINE” to 62640 between 10 a.m.–10 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday, to connect with the NAMI HelpLine. The free, peer-support service provides information, resource referrals and support to people living with a mental health condition, their family members and caregivers, mental health providers and the public. | [Learn More](#)

NCLER - Celebrating the Anniversary of the ADA

This week marked the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA). When it was passed on July 26, 1990, the ADA ushered in a new era for people with disabilities, including older adults. The ADA promised that people with disabilities would be able to fully participate in all aspects of life, guaranteeing the right to vote, work, obtain an education, and access public accommodations and government, including housing.

The ADA has increased the availability of home-based care and other programs that help older adults stay connected to their families and communities and out of institutions; lessened physical barriers to allow them to safely navigate their neighborhoods and created more options for accessible transportation; and made information and communication more accessible. | [Learn More](#)

Proud Parents - Support Group for Parents of Coming Out LGBTQ

Coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or questioning (LGBTQ) can be emotionally difficult for a teen or pre-teen, but the process can also be challenging for their parents, who are navigating their own feelings of hope, loss, worry or uncertainty. To help meet this need, Citizen Advocates’ Behavioral Health team recently launched Proud Parents, a support group for parents of LGBTQ youth, covering topics such as resources for transitioning, how to advocate for one’s child,

grieving the past and the future a parent envisioned for their child, unfamiliar terms, popular myths and working through religious/moral concerns. | [Learn More](#)

The Art of Grief - Art Gallery

CURATED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN ARTS AND JUSTICE ARTS COALITION ([Gallery](#)). Grief is a universal experience with both individual and collective dimensions. It can stir up a range of emotions and experiences, from sorrow, loneliness, and isolation to empathy, solidarity, and connection – especially when held in community. In March 2022, the [Institute for the Development of Human Arts](#) (IDHA) and [Justice Arts Coalition](#) (JAC) [invited our networks](#) to create artwork demonstrating the myriad shapes that grief can take, as well as the many ways that we can tend to our grief. In order to uplift the voices and experiences of those currently or formerly incarcerated in institutions, JAC coordinated the inclusion of works from incarcerated artists, and IDHA coordinated the inclusion of works by psychiatric and trauma survivors. | [Learn More](#)

Other Newsletters



Behavioral Health News

The BHN Summer 2022 Issue is Now Online! This special issue is the first of a two-part series on Stigma produced in partnership with the New York State Office of Mental Health ["Understanding the Impact of Stigma"](#) | [Learn More](#)

Behavioral Health News Update

Mental Health is Essential to Stability | [Learn More](#)

Doors to Wellbeing

Quarterly Newsletter | [Learn More](#)

NAMI Newsletter

The NAMI NYS Newsletter contains information about 988, July as BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month, a Virtual Discussion for Latinx Mental Health, OMH Survey to help Combat Stigma | [Learn More](#)

PRA Recovery Update

The newsletter of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | [Learn More](#)

Key Update - The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse Newsletter - Key Update is already out! Read it here! <https://www.mhselfhelp.org/the-key-update-latest>

Here's a preview of what you'll find in the August 2022 issue:

1. A Great Opportunity! FDA Issues Request for Nominations for Individuals and Consumer Organizations for Advisory Committees! Deadline: August 15
2. Your Input Is Sought for SAMHSA's August 2022 Office of Recovery Planning Meeting
3. Informational Webinar for "Emerging Adults" (18-30) on ConnectionsRx: August 1
4. A Free, Two-Part SAMHSA-Sponsored Webinar on Youth Mental Wellness on August 3 and 4
5. MindFreedom International's Next Judi's Room to Be Held on August 3
6. There Is "No Evidence Low Serotonin Causes Depression"
7. Past Alternatives Conference Attendees: Your Input Is Sought as NCMHR Plans Alternatives 2022!
8. MHA Is Accepting Applications for Its Young Mental Health Leaders Council
9. Researchers Seek Peer Supporters with Psychiatric Histories Who Have Had Cancer
10. "Crisis Now" Offers a "Roadmap to Safe, Effective Crisis Care"
11. South Southwest MHTTC Publishes "Hotline Peer Specialist Integration: Preliminary Considerations for Equity and Sustainability"
12. Free Webinar: "Returning to Our Roots: Remembering Why the Work Is Important and Why We Love It"
13. New Study Explores Employment Outcomes of Certified Peer Specialists
14. HALI's Next Academy of Peer Services Learning Collaborative Will Begin on August 22
15. Building Culturally & Linguistically Specific Recovery Community Organizations for Latinos
16. Learning Collaborative Webinar Series Offers Several Archived Presentations
17. AD4E 2022 Virtual Conference to Take Place September 16
18. ISEPP's 2021 Conference Is Available to View Online
19. APA to Host Mental Health Services Conference October 13-14 in Washington, DC
20. "What Is the Meaning of Life?" This Free Online Collection Offers Answers
21. The August 2022 Digest of Articles Offering Healthy Lifestyle Advice
22. The August 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)
23. FROM PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE KEY UPDATE BUT STILL FRESH!
 - a) OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH
 - b) CONFERENCES
 - c) PETITIONS AND OPEN LETTERS
 - d) OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Here's the link again!

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

I hope you find it valuable!

Susan Rogers

Director

National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse

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.

[Latest Issue](#) | [Learn More](#)

August 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](#)

August Wildflower Alliance

Formerly Western Mass Recovery Learning Community Newsletter

[Learn More](#)

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 August 1, 2022. **Openings are listed in order of submission. Most recent jobs are listed at the top.**

Albany

[Administrative Coordinator](#)

NYAPRS

New York City

[Peer Counselor Level 3](#)

Coney Island

New York City Health + Hospitals

Albany

[Equal Opportunity Specialist 3](#)

[View on StateJobsNY](#)

Office of Mental Health, Central Office

New York City

[Senior Peer Bridger AHI \(full time\)](#)

[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

New York City

[Peer Specialist](#)

Manhattan Psychiatric Center

Office of Mental Health

New York City

[Peer Health Navigator \(ID #533139\)](#)

New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

Brooklyn

[Resource Center Specialist](#)

Baltic Street Community Resource and Wellness Center

Brooklyn

[Peer Specialist \(OnTrack\)](#)

Family Health Centers at NYU Langone – EnTRy Program

Brooklyn

[Director of Operations](#)

Baltic Street, AEH

Staten Island

[Peer Bridgers 2 and 3](#)

Baltic Street, AEH

Brooklyn and Staten Island

[Peer Bridger Adult Home Initiative](#)

Baltic Street, AEH

Albany

[Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives](#)

NYAPRS

Albany, Rensselaer and Westchester/Rockland

[Peer Support Mentors](#)

MHEP

Onondaga, Oswego, Cayuga, Cortland, and Madison counties

[Family Support Navigator](#)

Prevention Network

Suffolk County

[Peer Specialist CCBHC](#)

Family Service League

Suffolk County

[Certified Peer Specialists \(Full and Part Time\)](#)

Family Service League

New York City

[Mobile Crisis Team \(multiple opportunities\)](#)

Visiting Nurse Service

New York City

[Volunteer Positions](#)

City Voices

988 Lifeline Jobs

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.](#)**

Find YOUR opportunity: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/jobs>

Read more about 988 at <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988>

SAMHSA

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, visit our [Job Search Strategies page](#).

Funding Opportunities



Bidders Conference Date: August 2, 2022

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

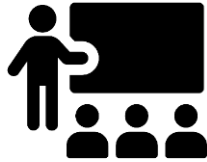
The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) have issued a Request for Proposals for the development of 12 new Supportive Crisis Stabilization Centers (SCSCs). | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to submit Suicide Prevention letter of intent: August 31

The New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH) is pleased to announce the availability of funds dedicated to implementation of Suicide Prevention Programs for Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native and LGBTQI+ New York Youth and Young Adults. | [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](#)

[HALI Internship](#)

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

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 (support by and for peer supporters) is held on zoom every Tuesday evening from 5:15 – 6:30 pm Eastern. Facilitators: Rita Cronise and Maryam Husamudeen. 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, the APS User Support Specialist 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: Why does the Academy close for a month between terms?

This is one of the most important questions learners ask and I'm finally happy to address it at a time it may be most understood and appreciated. APS offers 3 terms each year that runs for 90 days (3 months) each and then we close down for 1 month (30 days).

Here's APS's perspective. The shutdown between terms is a busy time for the Academy staff. When the term closes, the instructional designers review all of the feedback you provide in the course evaluations. There are over 2000 people taking courses in the Academy each term. And there are now over 90 courses. At the close of term 2 this year, there were 1290 written suggestions that are being used right now to make improvements, fix things that no longer work (like links or videos), or update material in the courses.

What you may not know is why the courses need to close. During the shutdown, there are several things that can only be done while there are no learners taking courses. How do we know? We've tried to leave the courses Active in the past and do the behind-the-scenes work. It was a disaster.

An important task that can only be done while there are no learners in the systems is to review the test results for the core and elective courses of all who took the previous term and update the tests based on those results. Tests need to assure someone has attained a certain level of understanding of the course material, sufficient rigor. If tests are too easy, they can't verify a candidate has met the learning objectives and attained the basic knowledge to be successful on the job. At the same time, tests can't be so hard that people can't pass. Each term, all of the test items are reviewed to look for items that are too easy or too hard based on the test results of the 2000 people who took the courses in the prior term. If there are problem items (based on the statistics that show too many or too few are passing) they are revised as needed.

Many people want to know why we don't provide the "right answer" to questions that they got wrong on the post test. The reason is that the post test is a certification test; a demonstration that you have attained the knowledge required to do the job. When you were in "learning mode," there were quizzes and knowledge checks in the online courses that provided feedback.

But that feedback was a learning tool – sort of like training wheels on a bicycle - to help you while you were learning the material. When you take the post test, you are indicating that you know the subject matter well enough to be ready to use it as a working peer support specialist. The APS post test, like any other job preparation certification exam, requires you to know the right answers. Unlike other job preparation certification exams, which only allow one opportunity to take the test, APS provides two attempts per term. The post tests may be challenging but over 1000 people each term pass the post tests, so review the course material and try again if you miss it the first time.

Once you are working and supporting another peer you will build on the knowledge gained in APS to learn skill you personally need to address their needs and see that the information in the course was just to give you a head start. APS not only strives to give you quality courses but the best and most up to date information, which relies quite a bit on the feedback you provide in the course evaluations. As I said in the beginning, APS reviews each of your comments and suggestions in the process of updating the courses during this shutdown. Keep those comments and feedback coming!

‘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.