



APS Virtual Learning Community

Community News | October 11, 2022



Thursday, October 20 is Global Peer Support Celebration Day. How will you celebrate?
For a Toolkit of Ideas [Click Here](#)

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Academy News

It’s hard to believe we’re halfway through Term 3 of the Academy of Peer Services (APS). This term will remain open until November 18, 2022.

We have good news for those of you who are currently on the path to Certification. We normally close the core and elective courses for one month between terms. This year, however, we are holding a special 6-week winter session from December 5, 2022 through January 13, 2023 in which the core and elective courses will remain open and available to take toward certification or upgrade. The 2023 Academy Calendar is:

- Term 1 - Open 1/30/23 Close 4/21/23
- Term 2 - Open 5/22/23 Close 8/18/23
- Term 3 - Open 9/12/23 Close 12/1/23



Specialty Tracks for Peer Specialists Now Under Development

The Academy of Peer Services continues to develop specialty courses for offering peer support to specific populations:

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

The courses will be available in 2023. Watch for more information in the coming months to participate in one or more of these new specialty 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.

Recent blogs:

October 8, 2022 - [RANDOM ACT BY A PEER SPECIALIST: PART 5 by Howard Diamond](#)
October 6, 2022 - [Capital Region Suicide Prevention Program, Gov. Kathy Hochul](#)
October 3, 2022 - [Relationship Abuse and Domestic Violence by Howard Diamond](#)
October 1, 2022 - [October Wellness Institute Calendar](#)
September 30, 2022 - [Rikers is NY's Largest Psychiatric Services Provider](#)
September 20, 2022 - [Laura Van Tosh Receives Two Awards](#)
September 8, 2022 - [Language and its Power by Howard Diamond](#)
September 1, 2022 - [September 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 <mailto: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 Noun Project

988 – More Than A Number For Peers!

Broadcast on September 29, 2022

Presented by Katerina Gaylord (OMH), Gail Bower (Vibrant), and Matt Costanzo (Vibrant) with added information related to justice-involved peers by LaVerne Miller.

Organized by Patrice Peterson (NYC DOHMH, Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium), Jamie Neckles (Vibrant), and Rita Cronise (APS)

[Statewide Presentation Slides \(OMH\)](#) | [Statewide 988 Response Cards](#)
[NYC Presentation Slides \(Vibrant\)](#) | [Recording](#) (passcode: **hG3Hfh)

Information on Credentialing and Certification for Employers

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

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

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

Share your ideas!



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

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

Highlighted Upcoming Events (Conferences and Statewide Meetings)



Mark your calendar with these deadlines and dates.

Global Peer Support Celebration Day

October 20, 2022 | [Learn More](#)

National Association for Peer Supporters (N.A.P.S.) 2022 Annual Conference

October 20-21, 2022

Dallas, Texas | N.A.P.S. | [Learn More](#)

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

October 26-29, 2022

Newark, New Jersey | NARPA | [Learn More](#)

Alternatives 2022

November 2-4, 2022

National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery | [Learn More](#)

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

November 4, 9 am - 3 pm ET

BiCounty Conference Committee | [Learn More](#)

OMH Statewide Virtual Town Hall

November 9, 2022 2 - 4 pm ET

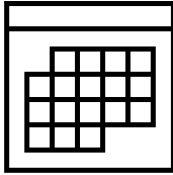
OMH | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

November 14, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting | OMH Office of Consumer Affairs | [Learn More](#)

Community Calendar



Note: Events in our Community Calendar are provided as a public service to our 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.



The following calendar entries were last updated **October 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.

October

[Wellness Institute Newsletter](#)

NYS Trauma-informed Network

October 3, 2-3 pm

NYS Trauma-informed Coalition | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

October 3: 3-4 pm ET

(Mondays while APS is in session)

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

National Center on Law & Elder Rights (NCLER)

Free Webcast: Preserving Homeownership Series Part 2: Tangled Title and Associated Probate Issues
Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 11:00-12:15 P.T./2:00-3:15 E.T..

NCLER | [Learn More](#)

October Elective Training

October 4,12,18,24, 2022

Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) | [Learn More](#)

Making Connections to Medicaid Behavioral Health Care

October 4, 27, 2022 1pm ET

BCAARE | [Learn More](#)

Motivational Interviewing (2 Days)

October 5 and 12: 9 - 3 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

PEER NETWORKING MEETING

October 5th 4-5 pm ET
MHAW | [Learn More](#)

Center for Community Alternatives

October 6: In-person fundraiser
Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) | [Learn More](#)

Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!

October 6, 2022
Rainbow Heights | [Learn More](#)

Long Island Children, Youth, & Families' Behavioral Health Symposium

October 6th 8:30-3 pm ET
Families Together in New York State | [Learn More](#)

Virtual Lunch & Learn: Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

October 6th 12-1 pm ET
SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

The Art of Supervision: A Series for Supervisors of Youth Peer Advocates

October 6, 13, 25, Nov 9, 17, Dec 7
Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) | [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](#)

Overdose Awareness Walk

October 8, 10:00 am Start
MHANC | [Learn More](#)

Advanced Level WRAP Facilitator Training

Sunday, October 9 through Friday, October 14 (6 Days)
West Chester, PA
Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

October 11: 3-4 pm ET

(Mondays while APS is in session, except for holidays)

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

APS Networking Meeting

October 11, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET

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

**4 Hr. Ethics Workshop
for CRPA & CARC Renewal & Peer Supervisors**

October 11, 9 - 1 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Fostering a Culture of Mental Health Recovery with Hispanic and Latino/é Communities

Oct 12, 2022 02:00 PM

Northeast & Caribbean MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

OMH Webinar- Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!

Wednesday, October 12th, 2022 from 3-4:30pm: [Register Here!](#)

OMH | [Learn More](#)

Training: Creating a Personal Wellness Self-Care Plan

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

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Next Regional Communication Meeting for CNY

October 13, 3-4pm ET

CNY | [Learn More](#)

BOOK LAUNCH EVENT: Crash: A Memoir of Overmedication and Recovery

October 13th 7-8pm ET

Wildflower Alliance | [Learn More](#)

Deadline: October 14

Survey: NYAPRS Wants Your Input!

Strategic Planning

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

East Side Institute Trainings

October 15 and 16 10am ET

ESI | [Learn More](#)

NY Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training Academy

October 17th from 2:00-3:00 pm

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative
October 17: 3-4 pm ET
(Mondays while APS is in session)
Hands Across Long Island | [Learn More](#)

Decarcerating Care: The Evolution of Mental Health Surveillance
October 17 6-8 pm ET
IDHA | [Learn More](#)

Why We Need Social Justice in Behavioral Health: Understanding the Impacts of Systemic Racism on our Collective Mental Health
October 18, 3-4 pm ET
Center for Practice Innovation | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting
October 18, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative
October 19, 4:30 - 6:00 pm ET
3rd Wednesday of each month
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Global Peer Support Celebration Day
October 20, 2022
A day to celebrate peer support
N.A.P.S. | [Learn More](#)

National Association of Peer Supporters Annual Conference
October 20 and 21, 2022
Dallas, TX (Live and Virtual)
N.A.P.S. | [Learn More](#)

How to Grow the Youth & Young Adult Peer Workforce
October 20, 12:00 - 1:30 pm ET
TACR | [Learn More](#)

Free Webinar: Art and Beauty - The Healing Path
Oct 20, 2-3:30pm
NEC | [Learn More](#)

Harm Reduction Pathway
October 20-21, 9:00 - 4:00 pm ET
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](#)

**30 Hr. CCAR
Recovery Coach Academy Training**
October 24,25,27 9- 4 pm ET
Zoom Virtual Live Delivery
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting
October 25, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

Peer Leadership and Learnership Collaborative
October 25, 3- 6 pm ET (5 days)
The Copeland Center | [Learn more](#)

New Hire Orientation Training
October 26th 1-4 pm
NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

**MassPRC First Annual Conference
Lessons Learned, the Power of Connection**
October 26-27, 2022
Marlborough, MA | [Learn More](#)

PCORI Annual Meeting: COVID-19 and Its Impact on Clinical Research, Telehealth, and More
October 26-27, 2022
PCORI | [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](#)

FREE Orientation to WRAP as an Evidence-Based Practice

October 27, 4-5:30 pm ET
Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

NYC - Mental Health in Communities of Color Symposium!

October 28th 9-1pm
NYSEC | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative

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

APS Networking Meeting

November 1, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

43rd Annual ACLAIMH Conference

November 1-4, 2022
ACLAIMH | [Learn More](#)

Alternatives 2022

November 2-4, 2022
National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
[Learn More](#)

National Association for Rural Mental Health Conference

November 2-4, 2022
[Learn More](#)

OMH Webinar- Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 from 3-4:30pm: [Register Here!](#)

The International Conference on Trauma and Mental Health

November 3-4, 2022
[Learn More](#)

International Hearing Voices Congress

November 3-5, 2022
Porto Alegre, Brazil, with an Online Option
[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](#)

MAT
November 4, 9-4 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

EXPLORING 'DEVELOPMENT!' A Practical-Philosophical Investigation with Lois Holzman
November 5, 19 & Dec 3,10, 2022
ESI | [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](#)

APS Networking Meeting
November 8, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

NYAPRS 13th Annual Rehabilitation and Recovery Academy
SAVE THE DATE: November 8-9, 2022
NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

OMH Statewide Virtual Town Hall
November 9, 2022 2 - 4 pm ET
OMH | [Learn More](#)

Deadline to Apply: November 10
Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshops
SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting
November 14, 2022 8:30 – 12:30 pm
Statewide Meeting
OMH Office of Consumer Affairs
[Learn More](#)

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

APS Networking Meeting
November 15, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET
Academy of Peer Services | [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](#)

Live Variety Show
November 18, 7:00 pm start
Fountain House NYC
City Voices | [Learn More](#)

12 Hr CCAR Spirituality for Recovery Coaches
November 18,19 9-4 pm ET
Zoom Virtual Live Delivery
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Motivational Interviewing (2 Days)
November 21-22: 9 - 3 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting
November 22, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

OMH Webinar- Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!
Tuesday, November 29th, 2022 from 10-11:30am: [Register Here!](#)

APS Networking Meeting
November 29, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET
Academy of Peer Services | [Learn More](#)

MAT
December 1, 9-4 pm ET
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

SUNY Empire + Families Together

December 1, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

FTNYS | [Learn More](#)

7th Annual Substance Use and Mental Health Peer Conference

Peer Professionals: The Ongoing Evolution

December 2, 2022

NYC DOHMH | [Learn More](#)

OMH Webinar- Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!

Monday, December 5th, 2022 from 3-4:30pm: [Register Here!](#)

APS Networking Meeting

December 6, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET

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

Training: Winter Wellness Planning

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

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

December 13, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET

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

OMH Webinar- Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!

Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 from 10-11:30am: [Register Here!](#)

Peer Learning Collaborative

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

3rd Wednesday of each month

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

December 20, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET

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

Peer Learning Collaborative (Lunch Hour Annex)

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

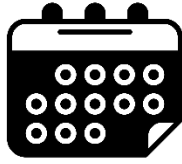
4th Thursday of each month

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

December 29, 5:15 - 6:30 pm ET

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



Future Events | 2023

The following events have been submitted for 2023. 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.

OMH Webinar- Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 from 10-11:30am: [Register Here!](#)

OMH Webinar- Trans 101: Creating a Safe and Affirming Environment for Transgender Consumers!

Thursday, January 12, 2023 from 3-4:30pm: [Register Here!](#)

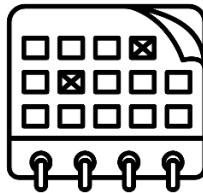
Learning Collaborative: 2023 Wellness Planning

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](#)

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.



Are we Missing Anything?

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



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](#)

Professional Peer Support Group (Baltic Street)

Every other Tuesday 3:30 -4:30 Eastern
Baltic Street | [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](#)

Get Involved



Friendship Project - Start Your Own Guide (Dan Frey, City Voices)

“The Friendship Squad is a mutual aid project for social support,” writes Dan Frey, director of [City Voices](#). “Basically, my purpose was to connect people who were secure in their recovery from mental health and/or addiction challenges and who have a solid support system, with people who may be struggling, lacking support, lonely and/or isolated,” he said. If you want to start your own Friendship Project, “I will help you every step of the way free of charge.” For more information, [click here](#).

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](#)

Invitation to Contribute to a Celebration of Steve Harrington

We are holding a celebration of the life of Steve Harrington at the upcoming N.A.P.S. Annual Conference. Steve was the founder of the National Association of Peer Specialists and touched many lives in his quest for growing the peer support workforce. He died in November 2021. Rita Cronise is collecting items to include in a slideshow of Steve's life that will be shared at the conference. If you knew Steve and have a brief memory or photo to share, please contact Rita at rita.cronise@rutgers.edu

NYC Justice Peer Initiative – Congratulations!

Congratulations to the NYC Justice Peer Initiative and CASES who are winners of the SAMHSA Recovery Innovation Challenge! Be sure to congratulate the NYC Justice Peer Initiative team on this accomplishment. For more information and to view the winners [here](#).

Research Opportunities



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. In this section, we include groups conducting surveys to better understand the peer support workforce.

You Can Play a Role in Combating Stigma!

The Office of Mental Health has been planning a broad effort to improve help-seeking through a wide scale public messaging campaign. We want your input on messaging used to address the stigma surrounding mental illness and encourage more people to seek out services and assistance. This will help us to better shape a future awareness campaign that will resonate with more people. We also want to understand your current view of stigma, mental wellness, mental illness, and help-seeking. So, whether you're a clinician, a program director, a person who receives mental health services, a family member, or an advocate- we want to hear from you.

Please consider taking 5 minutes out of your day to complete [this survey](#). Your answers will be anonymous and only collective data will be used to shape our future messaging strategy. You'll have the chance to weigh in on messages, design, and whether you'd share our sample graphics with your friends and followers on social media. **In just 5 minutes you can play a role in combating stigma!**

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.

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](#)

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. 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](#)). To Participate: You may complete the survey by clicking the link below or scanning the QR code in the above invitation. https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77Fnz6gEVSIQcE6

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](#)

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



NYAPRS Psychiatric Rehabilitation Academy

The NYS Office of Mental Health today announced a collaboration with the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) to create a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training Academy. Psychiatric rehabilitation helps adults living with major mental health conditions obtain the skills, supports and resources needed to successfully advance their health and recovery and to meet their essential personal social, employment, housing and related life goals. [Learn More](#)

NYAPRS Note: Thanks to funding and support from the NYS Office of Mental Health, NYAPRS and our partners are very excited to have been afforded this extraordinary opportunity to offer state of the art psychiatric rehabilitation training and technical assistance to community providers across New York State over the next 3 years, via the formation of the New York Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training Academy. Our partners include Boston University for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Coalition for Behavioral

Health, Center for Practice Innovation, Coordinated Care Services Inc, McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, Partnership to End Addiction, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State (ASAP), Friends of Recovery New York and the Academy of Peer Services.

See the Training Academy's website at <https://psychrehabacademy.org/>.

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](#)

Compass Newsletter-Explore Housing Help with Benefits.gov

Finding housing assistance can be hard to do on your own. With so many types of loans, grants, and aid programs, it can be hard to know what is best for you and your family. This article is going to look at programs that help both homeowners and renters with housing needs. | [Learn More](#)

Criminal Justice - Seven Years of Stepping Up (Recommended by The Key Update)

“Communities across the country are reducing over-incarceration of people with mental illnesses as part of the national Stepping Up initiative...The virtual event will highlight counties’ achievements over the past seven years, explore emerging trends in the field, and chart a path forward for the movement. It is free and open to the public. The latest CSG JC newsletter also includes “How to Use an Integrated Approach to Address the Mental Health Needs of Youth in the Justice System” and a lot of other information. For the newsletter, [click here](#). For another CSG JC newsletter (State of Justice, August 19, 2022), [click here](#).

East Side Institute - What's Happening

Performance Activism, classes, events, and resources | [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](#)

Mental Health Moment Tip Sheets (CTAC)

There are constantly new and emerging critical issues surrounding the child and adolescent behavioral health field. Last year, CTAC launched 'A Mental Health Moment', an educational series in which we gain insights via supportive and constructive discussions from speakers with expertise on topics that are gaining increasing attention in the mental health space.

We are pleased to release these tip sheets that include summaries of our Mental Health Moment offerings. These quick tip sheets highlight information and practice suggestions to enhance and deepen your knowledge on these emerging topics. | [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](#)

NAMI - An Introduction to NAMI for New Leaders

We encourage you to enroll in the "An Introduction to NAMI for New Leaders" course! This is a perfect opportunity for new staff, leaders and volunteers as well as a refresher to all of the long-term leaders to gain a better understanding of NAMI — who we are, what we do and how we are structured. The course contains helpful information and resources for leaders in the Alliance. It also provides questions to guide discussions on organizational capacity. | [Learn More](#)

NAMI Book Release

You Are Not Alone: This Suicide Prevention Month Learn About NAMI's Newest Resource

“Some people do reach certain goals and milestones in their recovery that are very significant and important. But in my own life, it’s been phases of change and growth. And it requires a lot of humility to be strong enough to face it, to face the feedback and the truth about what vulnerabilities are still present, and what I still need to do to keep managing them,” stated Dr. Christine Yu Moutier, Chief Medical Officer of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in NAMI’s first book: “You Are Not Alone: NAMI’s Guide to Navigating Mental Health.” While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength to address difficult topic. The truth is, we can all benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide, because just one conversation can change a life. – Release Date: September 20, 2022 | [Learn More](#)

National Center on Law & Elder Rights (NCLER) Digest of Resources | [Learn More](#)

In case you missed it: a digest of July’s trainings and resources from the National Center on Law & Elder Rights, as well as offerings from our ACL resource center and federal agency partners.

More NCLER - Long COVID Resources

Most individuals with COVID-19 get better within weeks, but some continue to experience symptoms that can persist for a long time after their initial recovery or may even develop new symptoms. This

condition is commonly referred to as “long COVID” and can impact anyone, even those who only had mild symptoms. According to the CDC, health inequities may put some populations at greater risk for developing post-COVID conditions. | [Learn More](#)

The New York Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training Academy!

The target audience for this academy is PROS, BH HCBS and CORE administration, agency leadership, supervisors and direct care staff. For more information about the Training Academy, visit our [website](#) today!

NYS Office of Mental Health Launches Partnership to Help Black New Yorkers Heal from Buffalo Tragedy and Increased Rates of Trauma

The NYS Office of Mental Health is partnering with the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi), Inc. to provide specialized “healing circle” support groups for individuals and families traumatized by the racially motivated mass shooting in Buffalo earlier this year and increased incidents of hate crimes in general. The virtual support groups, known as “Sawubona” provide assistance and support to individuals and families dealing with elevated levels of grief, anxiety and trauma. | [Learn More](#)

Pat Deegan, 5 Part Video Series - I Am A Person (Recommended by NYAPRS)

In this [5-part series](#), Pat Deegan shares important lessons she learned on her journey of recovery after being diagnosed with schizophrenia as a teenager. She illustrates how to use these lessons in everyday work with young people diagnosed with early psychosis and their families. In this first of five stories, Pat focuses on the fact that illnesses don't recover, people do. | [Learn More](#)

Peer Involvement and Leadership in Early Intervention in Psychosis Services: From Planning to Peer Support and Evaluation by Nev Jones (Recommended by The Key Update)

This guide aims “to provide a range of different stakeholders with information and best practices for peer support and leadership in early intervention for psychosis (EIP) services...Unlike many other U.S. peer support manuals, the aim of this guide is to provide coverage of a broad range of domains in which peers might assume leadership or advisory roles. These include program development and planning, direct service delivery (including peer support), public outreach and engagement, clinician education, and quality improvement and evaluation.” | [Learn More](#)

REACH Alliance Develops a New Cultural Humility Toolkit for Mental Health Service Providers New from the Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies

The Racial Equity, Advocacy, and Community Health (REACH) Alliance group has released a newly developed resource toolkit to help promote cultural humility among mental health service providers. The toolkit can be used by providers across a broad range of disciplines—including psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, and social workers. The authors wanted to develop this toolkit after seeing firsthand how often researchers, clinicians, and mental health training programs talked about the need for culturally relevant mental health care, with persistent questions remaining about how to put these principles into practice. The team saw a need for a collection of accessible resources that helped to describe and illustrate actionable ways to discuss cultural identity and to build these topics into service provision. | [Learn More](#)

Recovery Coach University 2022 Training Schedule

Plan your fourth quarter training schedule with a calendar view of our training workshops for October - December in one place. Workshops are listed below under the month they will be offered, in

chronological order. Just click on the program box for more information and to register! All NYS, National and International aspiring and seasoned Recovery Professionals are welcome. All training is delivered in Eastern Time Zone (ET), and facilitated LIVE via Zoom. | [Learn More](#)

Robyn Priest, Live Your Truth

In addition to full training for peer support workers, they are offering fall workshops in supporting someone who is experiencing Parallel Realities/Hearing Voices, supporting family members and friends, nutrition, and more. | [Learn More](#)

Welcoming Space to Manage Crisis - Wellness Respite Program

(An article by Peggy Swarbrick) The need for behavioral health care prevention, treatment, and recovery supports, including crisis alternatives, has grown and is now receiving federal support through enhanced funding. When a person experiences severe emotional distress, crisis alternatives are a viable option instead of inpatient hospitalization to address the distress and restore balance. Peer respite programs are voluntary, short-term, crisis alternatives for people experiencing mental distress. Models have evolved in response to funding and regulatory requirements, yet research is limited. The current article describes a unique peer-led program, Wellness Respite, in operation for 7 years, including data from recent satisfaction surveys and the role of nurses in the program. Implications of a home-like, short-term crisis alternative and the role of the nurse are emphasized. ([Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services.](#))

Other Newsletters



This section contains links to other newsletters with content of interest to the peer support workforce.

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

Here's the menu:

1. The Current U.S. Drug Policy Is Not "Scientifically Coherent," Researchers Say
PSCFL's 3-Part National Supervision Series Begins on September 29
2. NCMHR Is Excited to Host Free (Virtual) Alternatives 2022: Nov. 2, 3, and 4!
3. MindFreedom International's Next Judi's Room to Be Held on October 5
4. Next Installment in PSCFL's National Peer Entrepreneur Speaker Series Is on October 6
5. Are You Interested in Pursuing Graduate School and/or a Research Career? Read Below.
6. "Making Mental Health & Well-Being for All a Global Priority" Is the Theme of World Mental Health Day
7. "So, You're Ready to Work; Now What?"

8. Free Webinar: “Art and Healing—The Beauty Path”
“Mental Illness Is Not in Your Head”
9. Celebrate Global Peer Support Celebration Day at the N.A.P.S. Conference! And Download the “Global Peer Support Celebration Day” Toolkit!
10. Researcher Seeks Peer Supporters for Survey of Burnout and Job Satisfaction
11. Doors to Wellbeing Will Host Its Next Free Webinar on October 25
12. “Hearing Voices” Exhibit Provides First-Person Accounts of Life in 19th-Century Asylums
MHAHO Issues Call for Proposals for Peerpocalypse 2023
13. Mental Health America Offers “Peer Support: Research and Reports”
14. Peer Support Toolkit Is Designed to Help Agencies Successfully Integrate Peer Providers
15. NASMHPD’s 2014 Webinar Series on Trauma-Informed Peer Support Is Still Relevant“

Don’t miss it! - Susan Rogers, Director, National Mental Health Consumers’ Self-Help Clearinghouse
The Key Update - Read it here! <https://www.mhselfhelp.org/the-key-update-latest>

Intentional Peer Support Newsletter - October 2022- In our Global Community

- Peer Support is about Social Change: IPS Trainers Share about Surviving Race Dialogues
- Highlight Training: Intentional Peer Support (Bevisst Likepersonsarbeid) in Kongsberg, Norway
- Highlight Training: Udruga Feniks Split IPS Training in Croatia
- IPS Community: Incarcerated Community Members in Nebraska Share their IPS Experience
- IPS Update: Our Vermont Hub
- Our Congratulations
- IPS in Daily Life: Neesa Sumar Shares "How I Use the Mutuality of Intentional Peer Support in my Music Teaching"
- Upcoming Online Core Trainings
- Upcoming Online Co-Reflection Opportunities | [Learn More](#)

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Northeast and Caribbean Newsletter - 988; Religion, Spirituality, and Mental Health; Functional Contextual Thinking; Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) - An Overview; Toward Wellness and Recovery; Provider Wellness; Cultural Inclusiveness and Equity (WISE); Racial Equity Tools; and Journey to Medication Support with Pat Deegan | [Learn More](#)

NAMI-NYS Newsletter (Sept) - NAMI-NYS Educational Conference (Nov 11-12) in Albany, Suicide Prevention Month, Join the Board, Off the Mask, Model Ambassadors, Signature Programs, Affiliate News, Save the Dates, Back to School, Research Opportunities, 988 Crisis Line || [Learn More](#)

NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors
Visit their latest newsletter | [Learn More](#)

PeerSpirit Newsletter - September 2022 | [Learn More](#)

Wildflower Alliance Newsletter-October is our fullest newsletter of the year! Don't miss it! | [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 October 1, 2022. **Openings are listed in order of submission. Most recent jobs are listed at the top.**

Rochester Job Fair

[Peer Specialist Opportunities](#)

October 27, 10-12 pm

RochesterWorks!

Syracuse, Oneida, Auburn, and Oswego

[Crisis Respite / Peer Specialist Opportunities](#)

Liberty Resources

Long Island

[Peer Specialist Opportunities](#)

Association for Mental Health and Wellness

New York City

[Workforce Development Specialist](#)

[Case Manager](#)

Hudson Guild

Long Island

[Peer Specialist CCBHC](#)

Family Residences and Essential Enterprises (FREE)

New York City

[Peer Specialist Mobile Crisis Team](#)

Jamaica Hospital Medical Center

Long Island

- [Lead Peer Vaccination Readiness Navigator](#)
- [Program Coordinator for Peer Recovery and Wellness Education \(CRW\)](#)
- [CORE Psych Rehab Specialist / Peer Support Specialist](#)
- [CORE Peer Specialist](#)
- [Veteran Peer Mentor](#)
- [Peer Navigator \(DSS Shelter Project\)](#)
- [Part Time Outreach and Training Peer Specialist](#)

Association for Mental Health and Wellness

New York City

[Community Engagement & Training Specialist](#) (15 positions)

NYC DOHMH

Long Island

[Peer Vaccination Readiness Navigator \(Full Time\)](#)

[Peer Vaccination Readiness Navigator \(Part Time\)](#)

Association for Mental Health and Wellness

Albany

[Policy and Advocacy Specialist](#)

Mental Health Empowerment Project

Far Rockaway

[Peer Bridger \(Adult Home Initiative\)](#)

Community Access

Syracuse

[Peer Specialist or Peer Assistant](#)

Madison County Mental Health Dept.

Syracuse

[Peer Engagement Specialist](#)

CCSI

New York City

[SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH WORKER](#)

In the Job ID search bar, enter: job ID number # 548287

NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene

Buffalo

Multiple openings at the Buffalo United Resiliency Center (BURC) [Program Manager](#)

- [Community Resource Director](#)
- [Case Manager](#)

Resource Council of WNY, Inc. – serving those impacted by the May 14th mass tragedy

Interested in a Career with New York State?

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

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. There are many more openings available than those listed here. You can 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](#).

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

Funding Opportunities



Deadline to apply, October 13, 2022

Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)

The purpose of Project AWARE is to develop a sustainable infrastructure for school-based mental health programs and services. Grant recipients are expected to build collaborative partnerships with the State Education Agency (SEA), Local Education Agency (LEA), Tribal Education Agency (TEA), the State Mental Health Agency (SMHA), community-based providers of behavioral health care services, school personnel, community organizations, families, and school-aged youth. Grant recipients will leverage their partnerships to implement mental health related promotion, awareness, prevention, intervention, and resilience activities to ensure that students have access and are connected to appropriate and effective behavioral health services. SAMHSA expects that this program will promote the healthy social and emotional development of school-aged youth and prevent youth violence in school settings. SAMHSA plans to issue 20 awards of up to \$1,800,000 per year for up to 4 years. | [Learn More](#)

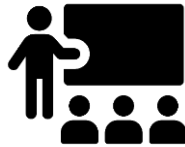
Deadline to apply, October 17, 2022

Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST)

The purpose of this program is to promote resilience, trauma-informed approaches, and equity in communities that have recently faced civil unrest, community violence, and/or collective trauma within the past 24 months; and assist high-risk youth and families through the implementation of evidence-based violence prevention, and community youth engagement programs. SAMHSA expects ReCAST to be guided by a community-based coalition of residents, non-profit organizations, and other entities (e.g., health and human service providers, schools, institutions of higher education, faith-based organizations, businesses, state and local government, law enforcement, and employment, housing, and transportation services agencies). SAMHSA plans to issue 10 awards of up to \$1,000,000 per year for up to 4 years

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](#)

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](#)

Baltic Street A.E.H.

Peer Training is Available
Baltic Street | [Learn More](#)

Center for Practice Innovation

Peer Training is Available
NYSPI | [Learn More](#)

Families Together

Youth and Family Peer Advocate Training is Available
FTNYS | [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 3
Preparation for the APS Tests toward NYCPS Certification
[Learn More](#)
[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](#)

NYAPRS

Peer Training is Available
[Learn More](#)

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

Free training toward NYCPS and CRPA
[Learn More](#)

NYC Justice Peer Initiative
Peer Training is Available
[Learn More \(Contact Helen Skipper\)](#)

The Coalition for Behavioral Health
Training for Peer Providers is Available
[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.

What if I miss the term start date. Can I make up the lessons?

Each course is online and self-paced. The courses can be started and taken at any time within the 12 weeks of the term. Terms are posted in the “About Us” tab on the Academy website. Because the courses are taken whenever you decide during a term, there is never anything to make up or catch up to. They are always ready to start from the beginning every time the term opens. Also, all the assignments are for your personal practice and not collected by anyone. (Unless you are working with a group that requires you to practice and turn it in.) Feel free to contact me if you require ongoing assistance. Write to me at: academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com

Be sure to provide your phone number if you want me to call you back.

‘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.