



# APS Virtual Learning Community

## Community News | November 14, 2022

### National Gratitude Month

Take time this month to give thanks for the big and small things that you appreciate. It's good for your mental health!

*(November Wellness Institute Calendar)*



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### Academy News

We are now entering the last week of Term 3, which closes at 5 pm on November 18, 2022. Twelve weeks sure goes by fast!

Good news for those on the path to initial Certification. We normally close the core courses for one month between terms for routine updates. But this year there will be a special 6-week winter session from **December 5, 2022 through January 13, 2023** for you to be able to take core courses toward certification electives toward 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

### 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. This includes the New York Certified Peer Specialist (NYCPS) certification, the Family Peer Advocate (FPA) credential, and the Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) credential. If you know employers or supervisors who could benefit from this orientation, please share the [Slides](#) | [Q&A](#) | [Recording](#).

## New Technical Assistance Center – PeerTAC



Clinics across the state are now able to bill for peer support services. To support this new opportunity, OMH has funded a new technical assistance center called the Peer Support Services Technical Assistance Center. PeerTAC is a collaboration between the Academy of Peer Services, managed by Rutgers University, and McSilver Institute at New York University, which operates the Managed Care Technical Assistance Center (MCTAC) and the Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC). PeerTAC will provide training, technical assistance, and consultation for employers that are starting or expanding peer services. PeerTAC is currently assessing the kinds of technical assistance that will be needed by organizations that are including peers for the first time or expanding their current peer services. Stay tuned for more information about listening forums, webinars, toolkits, and the launch of a new website dedicated to the inclusion and expansion of peer support across the lifespan.



### 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:

- November 12, 2022 – [Language Guidance when Serving LGBTQ+ Population](#)
- November 11, 2022 – [OMH Celebrates and Honors The Critical Sacrifices Made By Our Veterans!](#)
- November 10, 2022 – [Native American Heritage Month](#)
- November 10, 2022 – [SAMHSA Releases Interim Strategic Plan](#)
- November 9, 2022 - [Kathy Hochul Becomes 1st Woman Elected NY Governor](#)
- November 1, 2022 – [November Wellness Institute Calendar](#)

October 31, 2022 – [Halloween, Nutmeg, and Pumpkin Spice by Howard Diamond](#)  
October 20, 2022 – [Global Peer Supporter Day](#)  
October 18, 2022 – [100 Words on Steve Harrington by Howard Diamond](#)  
October 15, 2022 – [Fall Sports 2022 by Howard Diamond](#)  
October 12, 2022 – [988 Brochures now available](#)  
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](#)

### 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



Created by Luis Prado  
from Noun Project

The Virtual Community hosts monthly webinars through APS and/or members of the APS team and Advisory Council participate in webinars or conference presentations for other organizations. To view list of recent webinars on the Virtual Community website go to Recorded Webinars or click the link: <https://aps-community.org/webinars-recorded/>

### Next Webinar: The CORE Peer Navigator Project, Nov 15th 12-1pm EST

The CORE Peer Navigator Project was developed to assist both individuals and clinicians in navigating the community-based behavioral health care system. The CORE Peer Navigator will support an individual in accessing Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment (CORE) services or Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) of their choice. Individuals will be connected to a peer navigator through a toll-free phone number. Data driven outreach will take place in the community where Health and Recovery Plan (HARP) members receive the most behavioral health services (e.g., Clinics, FQHCs, Community-based Settings).

**Join Emily Childress** presenter for an informational session on the CORE Peer Navigator Project. Emily currently serves as the Director of the Peer Navigator Project at NYAPRS (New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services).

[Register and Learn More](#)



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

Send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

## Highlighted Events (Conferences and Statewide Meetings)



Mark your calendar with these deadlines and dates.

### Alternatives 2022

November 2-4, 2022

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

### Healing as Homecoming Festival

December 4, all day

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA)

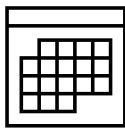
[Learn More](#)

### Bi-County Empowerment Conference: Unity for Change

December 16, 9 am – 2:00 pm

[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 **November 13, 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.

**Month of November**  
[Wellness Institute Newsletter](#)

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

**43<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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  
Bi-County 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**  
November 8-9, 2022  
NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

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

**SUPPORT FOR PEER WORKERS**  
November 10, 2022 4:00-5:00 PM EST  
a support group for and by peer workers in non-supervisory roles  
Today's Topic: "Continuing Education, Workshops, and Conferences"  
MHW | [Learn More](#)

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

**The Crisis Industry: How Capitalism, Cops, and Coercion Shape Care Today**  
Sunday, November 13, 12-3 pm EST  
Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [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](#)

**The CORE Peer Navigator Project**

Nov 15th 12-1pm EST  
NYAPRS (New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services).  
[Register and 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  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

**Practitioners & Subpoenas:**

**Understanding the Legal Issues Involved with Client Communication**  
November 16, 10 - 1:00 pm ET  
November 17, 10-12:00pm ET  
CBH | [Learn More](#)

**6 Hr Trauma Informed Care for Recovery Professionals**

November 17, 9-4 pm ET  
Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

**Learning Collaborative: Building a Workplace Wellness Culture**

November 17, 10:30 - 12:00 pm ET  
Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

**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 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 10-11:30am:

[Register Here!](#)

**Peer Internship Program: Where Lived and Work Experience Make the Difference**

November 29, 2-3 pm ET  
Doors to Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

**APS Networking Meeting**

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

**Harm Reduction & Substance Abuse**

November 30, 10 - 11:30 am ET  
CBH | [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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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](#)

**Motivational Interviewing (MI)**

**A Trauma-Responsive & Equitable "Way of Being" with Others**

December 8, 2022 | 9:00am - 12:00pm

(Check-in b/w 8:30-9:00 am)

CCSI | [Learn More](#)

**When Race/Racism is the Elephant in the Room: How to Bring Up Race  
in Therapeutic Conversations and Not Come Undone**

December 8, 2022 | 12:00-1:30 pm ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

**Do You See Me? Moving from Intolerance to Acceptance**

December 9, 2022 | 12:00-1:30 pm ET

MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

**Shifting Mindset to Shift Practice: Visions for a Liberated Crisis Response**

Sunday, December 11, 12-3 pm EST

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 10-11:30am:

[Register Here!](#)

**29th Annual Bi-County Empowerment Conference**

**Unity for Change**

December 16, 9 am - 2 pm ET

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

**Peer Learning Collaborative**

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#)

----- 2023 -----

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

Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10-11:30am:

[Register Here!](#)

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

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 3-4:30pm:

[Register Here!](#)

**Alternative Care Approaches: Honoring Authenticity and Vulnerable Expression**

Sunday, January 15, 12-3 pm EST

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [Learn More](#)

**Learning Collaborative: 2023 Wellness Planning**

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

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

**6 Hr Trauma Informed Care for Recovery Professionals**

January 26<sup>th</sup> , 9-4 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

**Training: The WTLC Finale!**

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

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

**Building Communities to Meet Crisis: Resourcing our Relationships**

Sunday, February 19, 12-3 pm EST

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [Learn More](#)

**6 Hr Trauma Informed Care for Recovery Professionals**

March 10, 9-4 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

**Paradigm Shifters: Transformative Programs Redefining Crisis Care**

Sunday, March 12, 12-3 pm EST

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [Learn More](#)

**Creating a Crisis Toolkit: Reconciling Personal Values with Professional Ethics**

Sunday, April 16, 12-3 pm EST

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [Learn More](#)

**Re-Orienting to Emergency: A Slower Urgency**

Sunday, May 7, 12-3 pm EST

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [Learn More](#)

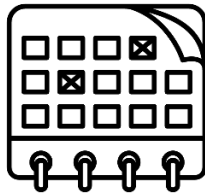
**Embodied Wisdom: A Lived Experience Showcase**

Sunday, June 4, 12-3 pm EST

Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA) | [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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#)

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## **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](#).

## 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.

### **Assessing Experiences, Knowledge, Attitudes and Needs of Mental Health Providers in Delivering Services and Supports to Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired**

Dear Mental Health Provider and Staff:

The Northeast & Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) is currently conducting a research study to increase our collective understanding of the experience, knowledge, attitudes, and perceived needs of mental health providers in delivering services and supports to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. With the information gained from this survey, we hope to better support clinicians and increase access to quality care. Participation in the study involves completion of a short 15-to-20-minute survey and qualifies you for a chance (via raffle) to win a \$25.00 Amazon gift card. If you would like additional information about this study, please contact Dr. Alicia Lukachko at [alicia.lukachko@rutgers.edu](mailto:alicia.lukachko@rutgers.edu). | [Complete the Survey](#)

### **Young Adults with Psychiatric Diagnoses Are Sought for Study on Community Participation (Courtesy The Key Update)**

The Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion is recruiting young adults (ages 18-30) with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression to take part in ConnectionsRx, designed to support engagement in meaningful community activities. Participants will be enrolled in the peer-led study for six months, and receive support to help meet community participation goals. Interviews (approximately 60 minutes each) will take place on Zoom. Participants will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card (to a maximum of \$45) for each survey completed. For the website, [click here](#). Questions? Write to [ConnectionsRx@temple.edu](mailto:ConnectionsRx@temple.edu).

### **Researchers Ask, How Can Community-Based Organizations Use Data to Thrive? (Courtesy The Key Update)**

“Researchers at Live & Learn Inc. are exploring the needs and preferences of community-based organizations that want to use data to improve and sustain their programs. What we learn will help us to develop tools to support community-based organizations to conduct program evaluation. If you represent a community-based organization that offers programs and services to support the well-being of people with mental health and substance use concerns, please take 15 minutes to complete our survey. Survey respondents will be entered into a raffle for a \$25 eGift card. After the survey, we may invite you to participate in an interview, for which you will be compensated. Responses to the survey and interviews will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team. For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact Morgan Pelot: [morgan@livelearninc.net](mailto:morgan@livelearninc.net), 805.244.5262.”

### **South Southwest MHTTC Launches Youth and Young Adult Peer Supporters Survey (Courtesy The Key Update)**

“Are you a peer specialist who provides peer support to other people under the age of 30? We want to hear from you! Please fill out the survey to assist the South-Southwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (South Southwest MHTTC) in learning more about youth peer support across the country! The intent is to be able to include these peer supporters in research, training, and technical assistance activities surrounding youth peer support. The form should take 5-10 minutes to fill out and can be done from a phone or a computer browser. To take the survey, [click here](#).” Questions? Write to [southsouthwest@mhttcnetwork.org](mailto:southsouthwest@mhttcnetwork.org).

### **You Can Play a Role in Combating Stigma! (Courtesy The Key Update)**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

## Recent Research Articles on Peer Support

Adams, W., Rogers, E. S., Lord, E., Edwards, J. P., & Barbone, M. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 on Peer Support Specialists in the United States: Findings from a Cross-Sectional Online Survey. *Psychiatric Services*, Published Online: 27 July 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202100718>

Adams, W., Rogers, E. S., Edwards, J. P., Lord, E., McKnight, L. & Barbone, M. (2021). Impact of COVID-19 on Peer Support Specialists in the United States: Findings from a Cross-Sectional Online Survey. *Psychiatric Services*, Published Online: 23 June 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202000915>

Bochicchio, L., Stefancic, A., McTavish, C. *et al.* (2021). “Being There” vs “Being Direct:” Perspectives of Persons with Serious Mental Illness on Receiving Support with Physical Health from Peer and Non-Peer Providers. *Adm Policy Ment Health* **48**, 539–550. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-020-01098-z>

Charles A, Nixdorf R, Ibrahim N, Meir LG, Mpango RS, Ngakongwa F, Nudds H, Pathare S, Ryan G, Repper J, Wharrad H, Wolf P, Slade M, Mahlke C. (2021). Initial Training for Mental Health Peer Support Workers: Systematized Review and International Delphi Consultation. *JMIR Ment Health* *8*(5):e25528.  
doi: [10.2196/25528](https://doi.org/10.2196/25528)

Gillard, S., Banach, N., Barlow, E. *et al.* (2021). Developing and testing a principle-based fidelity index for peer support in mental health services. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol* **56**, 1903–1911. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-021-02038-4>

Mirbahaeddin, E. & Chreim, S. (2022). A Narrative Review of Factors Influencing Peer Support Role Implementation in Mental Health Systems: Implications for Research, Policy and Practice. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*, *49*:596-612.

Mutschler, C., Bellamy, C., Davidson, L., Lichtenstein, S., & Kidd, S. (2022). Implementation of peer support in mental health services: A systematic review of the literature. *Psychological Services*, *19*(2), 360–374. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000531>

Ojeda, V.D., Munson, M.R., Jones, N. *et al.* (2021). The Availability of Peer Support and Disparities in Outpatient Mental Health Service Use Among Minority Youth with Serious Mental Illness. *Adm Policy Ment Health* **48**, 290–298 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-020-01073-8>

Ostrow, L., Cook, J., Salzer, M., Pelot, M. & J. Burke-Miller (2022). Employment Outcomes After Certification as a Behavioral Health Peer Specialist in Four U.S. States. *Psychiatric Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202100651>

Stefancic, A., Bochicchio, L., Tuda, D., Harris, Y., DeSomma, K. & Cabassa, L. (2021). Strategies and Lessons Learned for Supporting and Supervising Peer Specialists. *Psychiatric Services*, *72*(5), 606-609. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202000515>

Tate, M.C., Roy, A., Pinchinat, M. *et al.* (2022). Impact of Being a Peer Recovery Specialist on Work and Personal Life: Implications for Training and Supervision. *Community Ment Health J* **58**, 193–204.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-021-00811-y>

Waid, J., Halpin, K. & Donaldson, R. (2021). Mental health service navigation: a scoping review of programmatic features and research evidence. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 19(1), 60-79.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15332985.2020.1870646>

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## Resources



### **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. For the CSG JC newsletter, [click here](#). For a monthly compilation of articles on the intersection of criminal justice and mental health, [click here](#).

### **East Side Institute - What’s Happening**

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

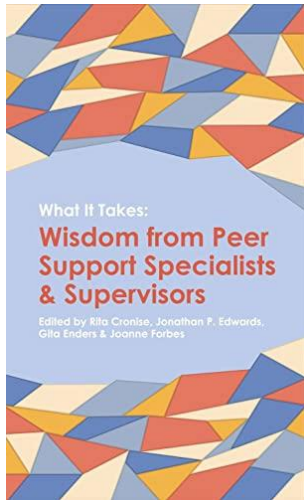
### **Mental Health Outreach Team and Peer Training Expansion Project (MHOT-PTE)**

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. 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](#)



### **National Association of Peer Supporters (N.A.P.S.) Book “What it Takes: Wisdom from Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors”**

"This book, edited by N.A.P.S. Workforce Workgroup members Rita Cronise, Jonathan P. Edwards, Gita Enders, and Joanne Forbes is about the practice of peer support from its origins in self-help to its continuing evolution as a profession. It provides some history, research, values, and guidelines of peer support brought together from conference presentations from real-world practitioners.

Written by the National Association of Peer Supporters (N.A.P.S.) for N.A.P.S. members, allies, and others, it aligns with foundational memes: "Nothing about us without us" and "Each one Teach one". Each chapter contains information from front-line practitioners and peer support allies who are crafting the profession on a daily basis. The purpose of this edition is to provide one of the first guides to peer support work from a peer-led authoritative source. The field has grown rapidly with a need to provide the basic information for those entering its ranks. The book is intended to provide the latest information on a philosophy and profession that is at the forefront of the transformation of behavioral health services from a medical model satisfied with symptom relief and stability to a recovery model determined to inform those with a mental health diagnosis that a quality life and goal attainment are possible and doable."



N.A.P.S. is now accepting pre-orders of the e-book version through Amazon. Pre-orders of the paperback version will follow soon. Both versions are due to be released on or around **February 14, 2023**.

[E-Book pre-order link](#)

*You can also scan the QR code.*

## **National Center on Law & Elder Rights (NCLER) Long COVID Resources**

[NCLER Main Site](#) - 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](#)

### **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](#)  
See the Training Academy's website at <https://psychrehabacademy.org/>.

### **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](#)

### **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.](#))

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## 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>

**Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC), Northeast and Caribbean Region** - [Newsletter](#)

**NAMI-NYS** – [Newsletter](#)

**NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Latest Newsletter** | [Learn More](#)

**Surviving Spirit Newsletter (Mike Skinner)** | [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 November 13, 2022. **Openings are listed in order of submission. Most recent jobs are listed at the top.**

Long Island

Careers in Recovery and Wellness Training Center's Peer Workforce Job Fair

November 16 & 17, 9:30 - 2:30 pm

[Zoom Etiquette](#) | [Learn More](#)

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Families Together in New York State (Statewide) Virtual Job Fair

November 16, 3-4 pm, November 17, 5-6 pm

[Learn More](#)

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Long Island

[Peer Internship \(Deadline to Apply, Dec 2\)](#)

Hands Across Long Island (HALI)

Posted 11/13/22

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Oneida

[Peer Specialist Per Diem](#)

Liberty Resources

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New York City

[Peer Support Specialist](#)

MCMH

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New York City

- [B-H.O.P.E. Forensic Peer Specialist](#)
- [Peer Bridger \(Peer Advocate\) I and II](#)
- [Staten Island Peer Advocate](#)
- [Bronx Peer Advocate](#)
- [B-H.O.P.E. Peer Bridger](#)
- [Adult Home Initiative \(AHI\) Peer Bridger](#)
- [Resource Center Specialist](#)

Baltic Street

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Albany

- [Hotline Specialist](#)
- [Clinical Outreach Specialist](#)
- [Full time Peer Navigator](#)

NYAPRS

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Long Island

- [Peer Specialist Opportunities](#)
- Association for Mental Health and Wellness
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New York City

- [Workforce Development Specialist](#)
- [Case Manager](#)

Hudson Guild

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Long Island

- [Peer Specialist CCBHC](#)
- Family Residences and Essential Enterprises (FREE)
- 

New York City

- [Peer Specialist Mobile Crisis Team](#)
- Jamaica Hospital Medical Center
- 

**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



### **OMH is seeking Letters of Interest Statewide Training on Teen Mental Health First Aid**

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is seeking Letters of Interest from New York State organizations or agencies that offer Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training statewide, to expand availability of training to offer Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) training to eligible high schools statewide. The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on children and youth, and it is increasingly important for young people to be able to identify signs of a mental health or substance use problem and know how to access support. Therefore, training is critical to be able to equip youth in schools to understand and recognize the signs of mental health challenges, provide support to each other, and utilize established connections to professionals and trained adults.

The tMHFA training teaches teens ages 15-18 years old how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges in their friends and peers. Under tMHFA guidelines, it is required that for a school to receive tMHFA training, at least 10% of the school staff have been or become trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) prior to offering a tMHFA training. YMHFA is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis.

Eligible applicants for this SOI must be offering training in YMHFA to qualify to apply to provide tMHFA training for teens. Applicants will be expected to target schools which they have provided or can provide YMHFA training to supportive adults in the school in order to offer the tMHFA training under this award. OMH is seeking one (1) organization or agency to deliver tMHFA training statewide to complement and be coordinated with their existing YMHFA training capacity.

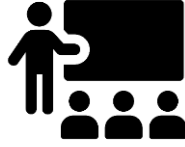
**The Solicitation of Interest can be found at:**

<https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/adsOpen.cfm?ID=C8FE0CAB-4AFB-4416-9395-4A94079F7B58>

## 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  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com) or by phone during business hours (M-F, 9 AM-5 PM)

## Monthly Column: Ask Maryam

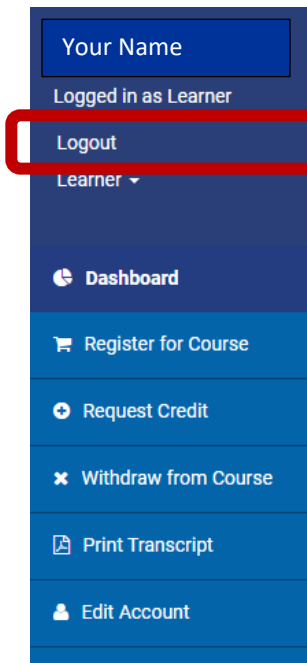


When you send an email for support, Maryam Husamudeen, the APS User Support Specialist answers your questions. As a regular feature of the newsletter, Maryam will answer some of the most frequent questions she receives from our learners.

### Why is my Log in button Gray and/or I see a Dashboard symbol sometimes?

Log in

 Dashboard



When you finish taking courses at the end of a day be sure to always log out of your account to ensure that it is successfully closed. To do that, use the Logout tab in the Blue Section on the left side of the dashboard. APS has two parts that work together to provide you with certificates and transcripts. One part manages the online courses and the other part keeps track of all the post tests and course evaluations you've completed for your certificates and transcript. If you leave the APS site without logging out these two parts sometimes get out of sync. At that point you will need to close your browser (Chrome, Firefox, or Edge) and maybe even restart your computer. After that you can enter the main APS website ([www.academyofpeerservices.org](http://www.academyofpeerservices.org)) and you should see the Log in button is Blue again.

Log in

To allow your system to run properly **ALWAYS USE THE LOGOUT** tab in the left navigation bar when you are ready leave the APS site for the day.

Feel free to contact me if you require ongoing assistance. Write to me at: [academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com) or call during business hours (M-F: 9-5) at 917-837-1957.