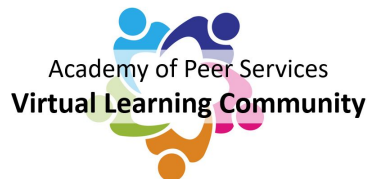


[APS-News] Virtual Community News Update | January 23, 2023

Rita Cronise <coordinator@aps-community.org>

Sun 1/22/2023 11:20 PM

To: APS-News <aps-news@aps-community.org>



APS Virtual Community News Update

January 23, 2023

This is a quick summary of upcoming events, job openings, and resources

Academy News

The Academy is on a scheduled break for course updates. CE courses remain online, but the Core, Elective, and Supervision courses are undergoing scheduled updates. Term 1, 2023 begins at noon on Monday next week (January 30, 2023). Here is the calendar of course openings:

Term 1 Opens 1/30/23 Closes 4/21/23

Term 2 Opens 5/22/23 Closes 8/18/23

Term 3 Opens 9/12/23 Closes 12/1/23

Highlights this Week

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

January 23, 2023, 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting

OMH Office of Advocacy and Peer Support Services | [Learn More](#)

The Center for Rehabilitation & Recovery (CRR)'s Live Virtual Offerings

What's Next? Transitioning from "Traditional" Treatment

January 23, 2023 | 11:30-12:30 pm

CBH | [Learn More](#)

Trauma-Informed Peer Support for Justice-Involved Peers

This free, online series will run for four days

January 23-26, 2023 | 1-4 pm

MHEP | [Learn More](#)

Online Seminar Peer Supported Community Inclusion

January 24,26,31, 11-3 pm ET

CCWR | [Learn More](#)

National Stakeholder Call with the CMS Administrator

Wednesday, January 24, 2023 1:00-2:00 pm EST

CMCS | [Learn More](#)

Healing Youth Trauma

January 26, 2023 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

CBH | [Learn More](#)

6 Hr Trauma Informed Care for Recovery Professionals

January 26, 9-4 pm ET

Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

Training: The WTLC Finale!

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

Rutgers | [Learn More](#)

Ancestral Trauma, Wisdom, Resilience

January 30, 2023 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

CBH | [Learn More](#)

Deadline January 31, 2023

NAMI Convention Call for Proposals

(Conference is May 24-27 in Minneapolis, June 6-8 Online)

NAMI | [Learn More](#)

For more upcoming events, check our online [Community Calendar](#)

Research Opportunities

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

The Northeast & Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) is 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.

[Complete the Survey](#)

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. | [Learn More](#)

Boston University (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

This study seeks 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.

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). You 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. Participants will be compensated with a \$10 gift card for their participation in the study. Complete the survey by clicking the link below.

https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77Fnz6gEVS1QcE6

Resources & Opportunities

Spring Excelsior Scholarship applications are open!

Are you interested in attending college in NYS? Looking for a way to obtain continuing education for you or a loved one? The Excelsior Scholarship Spring application period is open, and if your family income is less than \$125,000 per year you may qualify to attend college tuition free!

<https://www.ny.gov/programs/tuition-free-degree-program-excelsior-scholarship>

Other options available to help pay for college are listed on the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation website. [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](#).

Criminal Justice - The Key Update.

The Key Update monthly publishes recent articles on the intersection of criminal justice and mental health. For the latest Key Update: <https://www.mhselfhelp.org/the-key-update-latest>

Hearing Voices Network

Interest in the Hearing Voices Network has been growing after a long-form article in the [New York Times this year](#) and recent community panel discussions of the short film [Beyond Possible](#). This progressive mental health movement began in Europe 35 years ago as a collaboration between experiencers, mental health professionals and family members. Over the decades, this global initiative has created more options for understanding and healing for those who hear, see or sense things that others do not (phenomena often called 'psychosis' in medical settings). | [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. Both the e-book and the paperback will be available through Amazon on **February 14, 2023**. [E-Book pre-order link](#).

NCLER - Addressing Ageism and Promoting Elder Rights

December marks National Human Rights Month, a time to stand up for equity, justice, and the dignity of all humans. Legal assistance, elder rights, and aging and disability service providers engage in this work by providing services and supports to advance elder rights. | [Learn More](#)

NYAPRS Psychiatric Rehabilitation Academy

The New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS), with funding from the Office of Mental Health, has created 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. See the Training Academy's website at <https://psychrehabacademy.org/>.

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](#)

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.](#))

Funding Opportunity

January 30, 2023 Deadline to apply

[Request for Proposals Issued to Add 500 Scattered-Site Supportive Housing Units for People Experiencing Homelessness in New York City](#)

New Units with Supportive Services Will Be Available for People Living with Mental Illness on the Streets or in the Subway System

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the availability of up to \$16 million in annual state funding to operate scattered-site housing with support services for people who are experiencing homelessness on the street and in the subway system in New York City. Administered by the state Office of Mental Health, the funding will help develop 500 additional units of supportive housing, which will then take referrals from the city's Safe Options Support teams.

"Now more than ever, we need to invest in our mental health care system and boost treatment services for New Yorkers who lack stable housing," **Governor Hochul said.** "These units will provide both a safe home for unhoused New Yorkers as well as supportive services, ensuring the most vulnerable among us have the resources needed to bring stability to their lives."

Office of Mental Health Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said, "Individuals living with mental illness, like all of us, need a safe place to live in a supportive environment. These supportive housing units will provide that safe environment and the services needed for each person to move forward in their recovery. Housing in the community is critical to enable someone living with mental illness to live a full and productive life."

Scattered-site supportive housing is integrated housing that consists of apartments located in multiple buildings throughout the community, with each connected to community-based support services based on the needs of the resident. The goal is to place unhoused individuals into a setting where they can live in an independent setting and fully integrate into their communities. The funding is provided by Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI).

The scattered site units will complement the work underway by the Safe Options Support teams, which work with individuals who have a history of mental illness and/or substance use disorder. These multidisciplinary teams have enrolled 554 unhoused people into Critical Time Intervention services, placing 176 of them into temporary housing. Housing staff will encourage and assist residents to develop community supports, use community resources, and pursue an individualized path towards recovery. Applicants must develop at least 15 units and may apply for funding to operate up to 60 units. The [request for proposals](#) sets a Jan. 30 deadline for submissions.

Job Openings

Brooklyn

[Peer Specialist OnTrackNY](#)

Kings County Hospital Center

All Regions

[Family Policy Advisors](#)

Families Together in New York State

Albany

[Advocacy Specialist 2, Central Office](#)

Office of Mental Health, Central Office

New York City

[Advocacy Specialist 2, New York City Field Office](#)

Office of Metal Health, NYC

New York City

[Peer Specialist \(1 FTE\) for OnTrackNY Program](#)

NYCHHC

Newburgh

[Team Leader SUD](#)

[Peer Diversion Specialist](#)

[Peer Bridger](#)

[Peer Recovery Specialist \(SUD\)](#)
[Peer Recovery Specialist - Onward](#)
[Certified Recovery Peer Advocate](#)

Independent Living, Inc. and Independent Home Care, Inc.

Watch the Virtual Community online [Job Bank](#) for more openings.

If you have a job to advertise, check the [Welcome Employers](#) page for instructions, then send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

The next full newsletter will be published on or near February 1, 2023.

In the meantime, check the Virtual Learning [Community Calendar](#) for the latest updates.

Thank you for participating in the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Learning Community. Be sure to check out our weekly networking meeting on Tuesdays from 5:15 - 6:30 pm. The link to register is: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlqd-mgpz0jGtcwhcuTJGzeDMpcpmLLgSKE>

Enjoy your week,

Rita and Maryam

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