



APS Virtual Learning Community

Community News | April 2, 2023



You can fool all the people some of the time,
and some of the people all the time,
but you cannot fool all the people all the time.
~Abraham Lincoln

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Academy News

What is the Academy of Peer Services (APS)?

APS is an open source, online, on-demand, training and testing platform funded and sponsored by the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) Office of Advocacy and Peer Support Services (OAPSS). The courses include the 13 CORE courses required as a first step toward applying to become a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) in New York State. All together there are over 90 elective, continuing education (CE), supervision, and professional development courses. A companion website offers monthly webinars on current issues and an online calendar of events, newsletter, blogs, and more for the peer support workforce.

To view the latest course catalog, [click here](#).

To access the Virtual Learning Community website, [click here](#).

What is new?

The Academy is now entering the 9th week of Term 1, so now is a good time to start wrapping up the courses you are taking for this Term. The Academy will remain open until 5:00 pm on Friday, April 21. The next full term starts on May 22. During the scheduled maintenance period, you will not have access to the CORE courses (required for certification) but you will be able to access continuing education courses that you can use toward the renewal of your certification.

If you are new to the Academy you will want to read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn more about the Academy and the Certification Board (which is a completely separate organization that manages applications for certification) and what is required to submit an application. To learn more, [click here](#).



APS Virtual Learning Community Blog

The APS Virtual Learning Community hosts a blog site, which is another way you can stay informed and get involved. We're always looking for guest writers. The current blog also includes reposts of newsworthy items. Recent blogs include:

- March 31, 2023 - [Black/Women History Leader – Teena Brooks](#)
- March 31, 2023 - [March, Lions and Lambs by Howard Diamond](#)
- March 24, 2023 - [Black/Women History Leader – LaVerne Miller](#)
- March 17, 2023 - [GREEN by Howard Diamond](#)
- March 10, 2023 - [Black/Women History Leader – Helen “Skip” Skipper](#)
- March 3, 2023 - [Black/Women History Month Leader – Taina Laing](#)
- March 1, 2023 - [Random Act by a Peer Specialist – Part 7 by Howard Diamond](#)
- Feb 28, 2023 - [Black History Month Celebration by Luke Sikinyi](#)
- Jan 25, 2023 – [Daniel’s Law: How it Could Transform NY MH Crisis Response](#)
- Jan 17, 2023 – [CORE Peer Navigator Project Announcement](#)
- Jan 1, 2023 – [Wellness in 8 Dimensions](#)

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 to share? Let us know. We may be able to repost it. Send email to <mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com>.

Recent 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/>

Webinar Series

The Academy of Peer Services in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, Consumer Affairs, Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium presented a three-part series on Trauma in the Workplace.

Trauma In the Workplace Session 1: Trauma and its Impacts



In this first webinar we define trauma, sources of trauma, trauma responses, and the impact trauma has on those in the workplace. We explore key concepts such as individual, interpersonal, community, climate, and cultural trauma experiences as described in the four realms of ACE and resilience. We discuss how working in human services requires us to be especially sensitive to the impact of trauma on service users and their families. Peer specialists may experience trauma due to the frequent retelling of traumatic life events, however, everyone is vulnerable to trauma, and workplace practices can affect the wellbeing of every employee. Broadcast on January 19, 10-11:30 am Eastern.

[Flyer](#) | [Presentation Slides](#) | [Resources](#) | [NYS Trauma-Informed Network Membership](#) | [Tools for Transformation](#) | [Recording](#)

Trauma In the Workplace Session 2: Creating a Trauma-Informed Workplace



In this second session, we review sources of trauma and ways in which workplace practices can lead to trauma responses. Employees that identify as members of marginalized groups are frequently vulnerable to sometimes invisible and inequitable harms such as hierarchical reporting structures that can make them feel “less than,” and interpersonal, institutional, and structural forms of discrimination such as racism, ageism, sexism, mentalism, and ableism. People who have been incarcerated or involved in the criminal justice system are especially vulnerable to discrimination and rarely given equal opportunity to enter, let alone succeed in the workplace. Those who work in human services need to be sensitive to power dynamics, use of force and subtle forms of coercion, and the impacts these traumatizing practices can have on staff, and service participants and their families. This session prepares the learner for the next webinar in the series on how to take action to create intentional change in a traumatizing workplace. Broadcast on February 16, 10-11:30 am Eastern.

[Flyer](#) | [Presentation Slides](#) | [Resources](#) | [Recording](#)

Trauma In the Workplace Session 3: Transforming Trauma



Do you recognize traumatizing practices in your own workplace? In this third session in the series we acknowledge common causes of trauma in the workplace and consider strategies for transformation. Change requires leadership's commitment to equity and elevating the voices of those most impacted. We explore a variety of individual, interpersonal, and systemic workplace practices that cause trauma responses and offer concrete strategies for creating accessible, culturally responsive, and trauma informed (NCDVTMH, 2018) workplaces that are comfortable, safe, inclusive, and welcoming. Broadcast on March 16, 10-11:30 am Eastern.

[Flyer](#) | [Presentation Slides](#) | [Resources](#) | [Recording](#)

The series was presented by Cathy Cave, Senior Training Consultant, National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health; Maryam Husamudeen, NYAPRS (former) Peer Bridger and current APS User Support Specialists; Helen "Skip" Skipper, Executive Director, NYC Justice Peer Initiative, and Patrice Peterson, Coordinator of the Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium in the NYC Office of Consumer Affairs, NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene. Development of the webinar was supported by LaVerne Miller. The webinar series was moderated by Patrice Peterson (the NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium), Rita Cronise (the Academy of Peer Services), and Maryam Husamudeen (NYAPRS and Academy of Peer Services).

For more recorded webinars posted on the Virtual Community website visit:

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

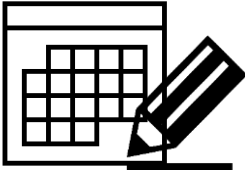
For upcoming webinars, review the online [Community Calendar](#) or continue on to the Calendar section of this newsletter.



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

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

Community Calendar



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 **April 2, 2023**. **Be sure to mark your personal calendar with events you want to attend.**

APS Networking Meeting

April 4, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

Submit a Proposal Deadline: April 5

Call for Presentations for SHARE!'s 3rd Annual Peer Workforce Conference

Conference on April 26, 11:30 am – 9 pm Eastern

For details, to register, or submit a proposal | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative (on Zoom)

April 5, 3-4 pm ET

(While APS is in session)

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

National Peer Entrepreneur Speaker Series

April 6, 12:00 ET

Peer Support Coalition of Florida | [Learn More](#)

National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery (NCMHR) Peer Advocacy Call

April 10, 2 pm

NCMHR | [Zoom link](#)

Deadline: April 10

SAMHSA Invites Public Comment on Its National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification.

“...SAMHSA’s Office of Recovery (OR) has developed a set of National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification, inclusive of Mental Health, Substance Use, and Family/Youth Peer Support.” The deadline for comments is April 10, 2023, at 5 p.m. ET.

For more information, [click here](#). To comment, [click here](#).

APS Networking Meeting

April 11, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative (on Zoom)

April 12, 3-4 pm ET

(While APS is in session)

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

PeerTAC: Peer Support Supervision

April 13, 12-1:15 ET

Webinar for supporting Family Peer, Youth Peer Advocates and Adult Peer Specialists

PeerTAC | [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](#)

2023 Integrated Care Conference

April 17-18, 2023

Helio | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

April 18, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

NYAPRS Executive Seminar

April 18-19, 2023

*What's Next: New Trends and Investments that Promote Health
and Community Integration*

NYAPRS | [Register](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative (on Zoom)

April 19, 3-4 pm ET

(While APS is in session)

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

PeerTAC: Peer Support Supervision Consultation Session

April 20, 12-1:15 ET

Webinar for supporting Family Peer, Youth Peer Advocates and Adult Peer Specialists

PeerTAC | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

April 25, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

SHARE! Annual Peer Workforce Conference

April 26, 11:30 am – 9 pm Eastern

For details, to register, or submit a proposal | [Learn More](#)

NYC Peer Workforce Coalition (NYC PWC)

April 26, 6-8 pm

Monthly Support Circle

PWC | [Join Zoom](#)

Families Together 2023 Annual Conference

April 30 and May 1, 2023

Building Strong Roots for Success: Supporting Children and Families' Health and Wellness

FTNYS | [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](#)

WRAP FACILITATOR TRAINING

May 1-5, 2023

Ann Arbor area, MI

CCWR | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

May 2, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

APS Networking Meeting

May 9, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

APS Networking Meeting

May 16, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

May 22, 2023, 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting

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

APS Networking Meeting

May 23, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

APS Networking Meeting

May 30, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

NYC Peer Workforce Coalition (NYC PWC)

May 31, 6-8 pm

Monthly Support Circle

PWC | [Join Zoom](#)

Embodied Wisdom: A Lived Experience Showcase

Sunday, June 4, 12-3 pm EST

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

WRAP FACILITATOR TRAINING

June 5-9, 2023

Springfield, MA

CCWR | [Learn More](#)

APS Networking Meeting

June 6, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

APS Networking Meeting

June 13, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

APS Networking Meeting

June 20, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

APS Networking Meeting

June 27, 5:15-6:30

APS Virtual Community | [Register](#)

NYC Peer Workforce Coalition (NYC PWC)

June 28, 6-8 pm

Monthly Support Circle

PWC | [Join Zoom](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

July 17, 2023, 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting

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

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

September 18, 2023, 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting

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

N.A.P.S. National Conference: Pathways

October 25 and 26, 2023

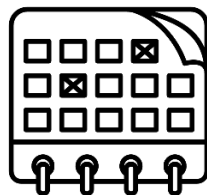
Norfolk, VA | [Learn More](#)

OMH Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

November 20, 2023, 8:30 – 12:30 pm

Statewide Meeting

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



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

New announcements are added to our Community Calendar frequently.
Visit our online [Community Calendar](#) for the latest additions.



Ongoing Support Groups

Creative Wellness Opportunities

Daily Activities

Rochester MHA | [Learn More](#)

HALI (APS) Learning Collaborative (on Zoom)

Wednesdays, 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](#)

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](#)

Support Group for Social Workers and Social Work Students in Recovery

First Saturday of the Month at 2:00 pm
City Voices | [Learn More](#)



Get Involved!

Deadline: April 10: SAMHSA Invites Public Comment on Its National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification.

“...SAMHSA’s Office of Recovery (OR) has developed a set of National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification, inclusive of Mental Health, Substance Use, and Family/Youth Peer Support.” The deadline for comments is April 10, 2023, at 5 p.m. ET. For more information, [click here](#). To comment, [click here](#).

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. | [Complete the Survey](#)

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](#)

EPICC Works to Help Parents with Mental Health Conditions Connect with Their Kids

[Engaging Parents and Increasing Connections with Children](#) (EPICC) is a 10-week program created by the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion that is focused on helping parents with serious mental health conditions connect with their children through meaningful activities. For details and to apply, [click here](#).

Young Adults with Psychiatric Diagnoses Are Sought for Study on Community Participation

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.

South Southwest MHTTC Launches Youth and Young Adult Peer Supporters Survey

“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.

Are You Interested in Pursuing Graduate School and/or a Research Career? Read Below.

Stephania Hayes (UC Davis), Shannon Pagdon (Columbia/NYS Psychiatric Institute/University of Pittsburgh), and Nev Jones (University of Pittsburgh) write: “We are gathering information from people with lived experience in the Coordinated Specialty Care ([CSC](#)) or early psychosis space (including peer specialists, current/former CSC participants, and CSC youth coordinators) who are potentially interested in pursuing graduate school and/or a research career. All of us identify as having lived experience, work in CSC, and are invested in supporting the next generation of scholars who also have lived experience. We would like to create a discussion group and/or other supports for people interested in this career path. The link below leads to a very brief survey that will help us understand the level of interest in such supports, as well as areas of career interest. (Please note that this is not a research study.)” To participate in the anonymous survey, [click here](#).

Researchers: Do you Need Participants for a Study or Survey?



If you are a researcher, work for a research institute, or are conducting a survey of the peer support workforce (and related populations) and are seeking participants send a description of your study to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.



Resources

Free Resources to Become a Conflict Resolution Leader

The Office of Consumer Affairs at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is excited to announce our collaboration with MH Mediate, so we can provide conflict resolution resources to behavioral health community members (peers, family members, providers, managers, etc.) who are interested in improving how they talk about mental health, navigate conflicts, and address challenging behaviors. The program is **free**, and designed for people who are willing to commit their time and energy to build these important skills. You will be expected to:

- Fill out an online application form and periodic program evaluation forms
- Share questions, scenarios, and examples so we can provide you tools specifically for the kinds of conflicts you are experiencing
- Attend several one-hour online training programs (live or through access to recordings) as well as three optional in-person group debrief sessions to discuss your examples
- At least 6 hours of programs are required to be completed, with extra resources available to those who want it.

You will receive support throughout this program from Dan Berstein, MHS. Dan is a mediator living with bipolar disorder, and the author of the American Bar Association book, *Mental Health and Conflict: A Handbook for Empowerment*. Dan will lead the trainings, answer questions, and share monthly messages working through key examples.

Visit www.conflictcompass.com/dohmh to learn more and sign up. The deadline to apply is **April 20, 2023** and access to the free training program is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Howie the Harp Job Support Program

At Howie the Harp, we have a job support program for people who 1) have a mental health condition, 2) live in NYC, and 3) are currently working. Individuals who are enrolled in that program will be connected to a career coach who they would work with two times a month to receive support around their job and any challenges that may come up for them at work. While the individuals do not have to necessarily be working in peer/mental health related positions, the vast majority of the people we work with do.

My name is Laura Rhymer and my email is lfafoutis@communityaccess.org.

Laura Rhymer | she, her, hers
Director of Howie The Harp Advocacy Center
Community Access

Mad in Ireland Presents a Podcast About Domestic and Sexual Violence Peer Support

(Courtesy N.A.P.S. News Update) Some peer supporters “are using their own lived experience of sexual violence and mental health to support others,” Mad In Ireland reports. “In this podcast facilitated by [Martha Griffin of Mad in Ireland](#), Leona O’Callaghan from [Haven Hub](#), Limerick, and [Karol Mac Gairbheith](#) from Peer Practice, Donegal, speak about sexual violence, peer support working, trauma, safeguarding and personal boundaries.” For the podcast, [click here](#).

National Center on Law & Elder Rights

[NCLER Resource Directory](#)

New York City

Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for NYC

Comprehensive plan for children and families, people with serious mental illness, and people at risk of drug overdose.

[View the Plan Here](#)

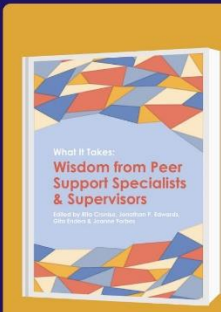
NCAPPS Culture and Person-Centered Practices Video Series

(Courtesy N.A.P.S. News Update) In a new series of short videos, community members of the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems “share their thoughts on how their racial and cultural identities shape their expectations and views of support systems...[K]ey topics include cultural norms, language barriers, ageism, sexuality, spirituality, and disability.” For details and to access the videos and a companion guide, [click here](#).

Pitt RISE-MH Lived Experience Research Academy (LERA)

Overview: A virtual 8-week part-time summer program for students with lived experience of significant psychiatric disabilities intended to strengthen preparation and planning for doctoral programs in mental health-related fields. This 8-week program will combine didactics and hands-on learning and is designed to strengthen research skills and contribute to professional development. Sponsors at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and the Center for Research on Innovations, Services and Equity in Mental Health (RISE-MH) in the School of Social Work. | [Learn More](#)

What it Takes: Wisdom from Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors



AVAILABLE NOW IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK EDITIONS!

What it Takes: Wisdom from Peer Support Specialists & Supervisors

ORDER NOW

This book – written by N.A.P.S. members for N.A.P.S. members and others – 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. All proceeds from the sale of the book (beyond the expenses of publishing and promoting) will support ongoing efforts of the National Association of Peer Supporters (N.A.P.S.).

[Order through Amazon](#)



Other Newsletters

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

[City Voices Online](#)

What city voices is All About

MISSION: To empower our peers to live full and active lives by providing information, resources and a means to participate in the community.

VISION: A vibrant community of our peers who have experienced mental health and/or substance use challenges where we engage in mindfulness and the arts to nourish our sense of peace, joy, and self-acceptance.

[Behavioral Health News Update -](#)

Consumer Perspectives: Housing is Essential for Recovery

Behavioral Health News (full newsletter) Winter 2023
Focuses on the Impact of Behavioral Health on Families
To view this and back issues of the newsletter, [click here](#).

The Key Update – The National Mental Health Consumers’ Self-Help Clearinghouse Newsletter -
Read the March 2023 Key Update! <https://www.mhselfhelp.org/the-key-update-latest>

NEWS

1. “Cause for Concern: The Stripping Away of Patients' Rights”
2. MHA Publishes “2022: The State of Mental Health in America”
3. “Performing Acts of Kindness is a Powerful Tool to Fight Depression and Anxiety, Study Finds”

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

4. NDRN (Virtual) Conference to Be Held February 27-March 2
5. Peerpocalypse 2023 Scholarships Applications Are Due February 28!
6. Call for Applications: Emerge July 2023 Hybrid Disability Studies Workshop. Deadline: February 28!
7. Deadline to Apply for Mad Camp 2023 Is March 1!
8. ABCT Issues Call for Proposals for Its 2023 Conference, November 16-19 in Seattle. Deadline: March 14
9. Call for Proposals: “Too Mad to Be True II—The Promises and Perils of the First-Person Perspective.”
Deadline: March 15
10. Registration Is Open for the ADA Virtual Mini-Con, March 28, 2023
11. SHARE!’s Free, Virtual Peer Workforce Conference Will Take Place on April 26
12. Active Minds Mental Health Conference July 7-8, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

FREE WEBINARS AND OTHER EVENTS

13. CoE-IHS Webinar: “Peers Part 1—Leveraging the Untapped Potential of Peer Services in Integrated Care”
14. “What is Peer Support and How Do I Supervise A Peer Support Specialist?”
15. “Community-Driven Crisis Response: A Workbook for Coordinators” to Be Launched on February 28
16. The Next Judi’s Room Will Celebrate the Life of Celia Brown
17. PENTAC Will Host the Next Presentation in Its National Entrepreneur Speaker Series on March 2
18. “Our Disability Roadmap” Webinar on March 10
19. NCMHR Invites You Its Next Advocacy Call, on March 13
20. The 3rd “Trauma in the Workplace” Webinar Is Coming Up
21. “Exclusionary Sanism: A Critical Dialogue” on March 21

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

22. WPA Invites Responses to Its Survey on “Implementing Alternatives to Coercion as a Key Component to Improving Mental Health Care”
23. Request for Information (RFI): Gaps and Opportunities in Global Mental Health Research
24. “Stigma Toward Peer Specialists on Inpatient Units”
25. Call for Book Chapter Proposals for “Beyond Accommodations: ‘Crippling’ Possibilities in Higher Education”
26. EPICC Works to Help Parents with Mental Health Conditions Connect with Their Kids
27. The March 2023 Digest of Articles Offering Healthy Lifestyle Advice
28. The March 2023 Digest of Articles about the [Criminal Legal System](#), in Which Many Individuals with Mental Health Conditions Are Incarcerated (and the Key Update continues after this Digest)

Thanks for your interest in the Key Update! <https://www.mhselfhelp.org/the-key-update-latest>

[Wildflower Alliance](#) - March 2023.

Black leaders past and present: In-person exhibits in Western MA and CT.
Exploring psychiatric force with author Rob Wipond.
Legislative Action.
Anatomy of Interruption (Anti-Oppression Committee).
Online workshops with Peter Bullimore
And more...

[WRAP Up Newsletter](#) – March 2023.

This edition features an article By Carol Bailey Floyd, Retired Advanced Level WRAP Facilitator and Former Director of Programs, Mental Health Recovery and WRAP
Journaling – A Power Wellness Tool



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 December 18, 2022. **Openings are listed in order of submission. Most recent jobs are listed at the top.** (For Youth and Family Peer Advocate postings, check the listings on [Families Together in NYS.](#))

Albany

[Equal Opportunity Specialist 2](#)

Office of Mental Health

Posted 4/2/23

Albany, Westchester, Long Island, Native American Services

[Family Policy Advisor](#)

Families Together in New York State
Posted 4/1/23

Brooklyn

[Peer Specialist OnTrackNY](#)

Kings County Hospital Center
Posted 4/1/23

Albany

[Unit Director, Children's Crisis](#)

[Unit Director, Workforce Development Unit, Child and Families Division](#)

[Mental Health Program Specialist II, Residential and Inpatient Unit \(2\) FTE](#)

[Mental Health Program Specialist II, Outpatient Unit](#)

[Mental Health Program Specialist III, Workforce Development Unit, focused on provider training](#)

New York State Office of Mental Health
(through the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene)
Posted 3/28/23

Staten Island

[Peer Specialist](#)

St. Joseph's Medical Center
Posted 3/28/23

Statewide

[Program Director Peer Workforce Advancement & Mentoring Network](#)

National Association of Peer Supporters (N.A.P.S.)
Posted 3/10/23

For more information on Job Opening go to <https://aps-community.org/job-board/>

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](#).



Funding Opportunities

Application Due Date: Friday, April 28, 2023

SAMHSA [Historically Black Colleges and Universities Center for Excellence](#)

Application Due Date: Friday, April 28, 2023

SAMHSA [Project AWARE \(Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education\)](#)

Application Due Date: Monday, May 1, 2023

SAMHSA [Transforming Lives Through Supported Employment Program](#)

Application Due Date: Monday, May 1, 2023

SAMHSA [Rural Emergency Medical Services Training](#)

Application Due Date: Monday, May 1, 2023

SAMHSA [Mental Health Awareness Training Grants](#)

Application Due Date: Monday, May 22, 2023

SAMHSA [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Planning, Development, and Implementation Grant](#)

Application Due Date: Monday, May 22, 2023

SAMHSA [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Improvement and Advancement Grant](#)

Application Due Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023

SAMHSA [Cooperative Agreement for the Hispanic/Latino Behavioral Health Center of Excellence](#)

Application Due Date: May 30, 2023

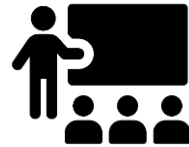
SAMHSA [Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support Grant](#)

Application Due Date: May 30, 2023

SAMHSA [Recovery Community Services Program-Statewide Network](#)

Application Due Date: May 30, 2023

SAMHSA [Recovery Community Services Program](#)



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 “Live” 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](#)

Navigator Certificate
In human services and community justice
(free 16-week course)
NYCPeerWorkForceCoalition | [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)