



## Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community News Digest

**April 21, 2017**

A news digest of the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community.

<https://virtualcommunityblog.wordpress.com/>

Welcome to the Virtual Community News Digest, a weekly summary of events, research opportunities, jobs, and other announcements for the peer workforce in New York State.

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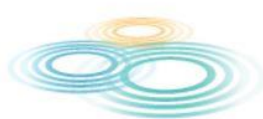
### Featured Event

#### ----- National Webinar -----

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. ET**

**Doors to Wellbeing, Last Tuesday Webinar**

**National Accreditation for Peer Specialists: How Canada Makes it Work**



**Peer Support Accreditation  
and Certification (Canada)**

Accréditation et certification du soutien par les pairs (Canada)

This webinar will share how Canada developed the National Standards for the Practice and Training of Peer Support. (For more, see page 4.)

**[Register](#)**

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## Deadlines (Don't Miss These Great Opportunities!)

**May 4 – Early Bird Deadline to Register**

### Alternatives Conference 2017



**Click here to register online:**

<http://www.power2u.org/alternatives-2017/registration.htm>

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**May 5 - Deadline to Apply**



**[Howie the Harp Classroom Training \(New York City\)](#)**

Class Starts July 2017

Call 212-865-0775 to attend an information session!

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## May 26 – Call for Proposals Deadline

### iNAPS 2017 Conference

#### Call for Proposals



Recovering & Sustaining Peer Support  
Creating a Path for Our Future

#### [Call for Proposals](#)

International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)  
Annual Conference (Arizona, October 16-18).  
Phoenix, Arizona  
([Click for details.](#))

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## Upcoming Events

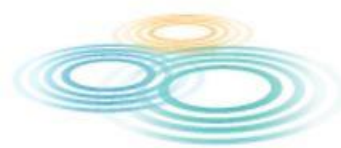
(listed chronologically)

### ----- National Webinar -----

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. ET**

**Doors to Wellbeing, Last Tuesday Webinar**

**National Accreditation for Peer Specialists: How Canada Makes it Work**



Peer Support Accreditation  
and Certification (Canada)

Accréditation et certification du soutien par les pairs (Canada)

There has been a lot of discussion among peer specialists trying to determine if national certification is a good thing for the profession or would it get in the way of personal or professional achievement. A lot of ideas, organizations and plans are being discussed.

This workshop will examine the Canadian Peer Support Certification process from start to completion, along with the internal organizational structure and supports needed for the process. We will also share how Canada developed our National Standards of Practice for the Practice and Training of Peer Support.

- Participants will learn about the framework behind the Canadian National Standards;
- Participants will learn about the infrastructure and processes required for Peer Support Certification; and
- Participants will learn about the National Peer Support Certification process for candidates.

**[Register](#)**

----- National Networking Call -----

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

**Equity and Inclusion in Leadership**



There are many issues faced by people of color that are major stressors impacting our mental health status including the continued disparities in health and mental health outcomes for people of color. Increasing the capacity of leadership in mental health organizations to reach and connect with communities of color is a recognized organizational change strategy.

The STAR Center's monthly national networking call for people of color is for anyone who is interested in increasing the number of people in organizational leadership roles who are African-American, Native American/American Indian/Alaskan Native, Latino/Hispanic or Asian/Pacific Islanders. Our hope is that this opportunity to network and support each other's leadership efforts across the country and in our target states/regions will make a measurable and remarkable difference towards eliminating the health and mental health disparities we currently experience across the country.

**Register now**

**for this next session on April 26, 2017 from 2-3pm ET/11-12 PT!**

Want to learn more about the STAR Center and all that we do?

Check out the [STAR Center's website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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----- National Webinar -----

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. ET

**Peer-Run Respite: Effective Alternatives to Hospitals**

**Description:** Leaders of Peer-run Respite from around the country will provide an overview of Peer-run Respite and how they voluntarily engage people and offer a continuity of care which is often unavailable with traditional care and hospitalization. Success stories will be shared, along with reports from the latest research on Peer-run Respite effectiveness.

**Moderator:** Oryx Cohen, MPA

**Presenters**

- Steve Miccio – Executive Director, PEOPLE, Inc.
- Bevin Croft, M.A., M.P.P., Human Services Research Institute
- Daniel B. Fisher, MD, Ph.D. – CEO, National Empowerment Center, Inc.
- Jayme Lynch – Director of First Peer Support and Wellness Center in Decatur, GA
- Camille Dennis – Program Coordinator, SHARE! (the Self-Help and Recovery Exchange)
- Faith Boersma – Wisconsin Peer-Run Respite
- Roslind Hayes – Coordinator of the Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers (PSWRC)

## **Register**

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----- Albany -----

**Thursday/Friday, April 27-28, 2017**



**NYAPRS 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Executive Seminar:  
All Hands On Deck**

**[click here to view the program](#)**

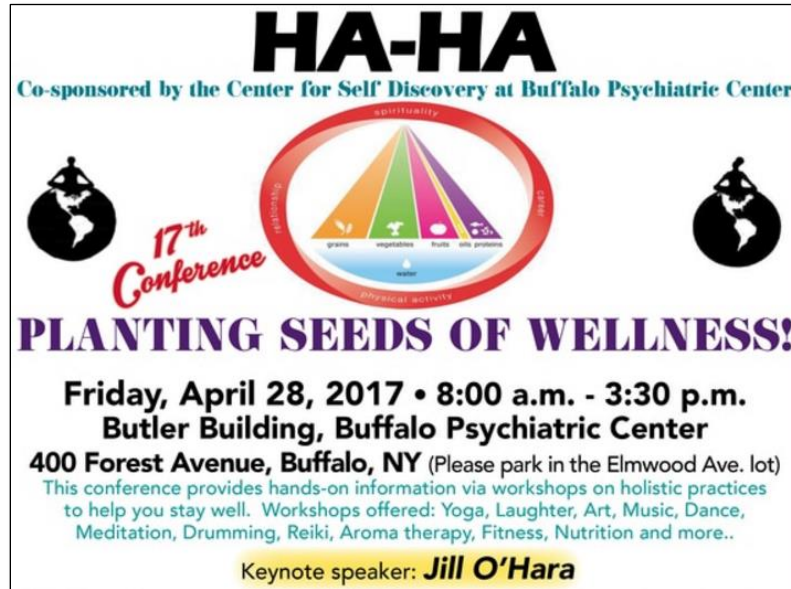
## **Register**

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----- Buffalo -----

April 28, 2017 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

2017 Healthy Alternatives through Healing Arts (HAHA)



(Buffalo Psychiatric Center)

Here's a start ([from the HAHA site](#)):

## SMILE

### 1. Smiling Makes Us Attractive To Others

We are drawn to people who smile. They seem friendly & accepting. Angry or fearful faces e.g. frowns & scowls push others away -- but a smile draws them in and may bring a smile to their faces.

### 2. Smiling Relieves Stress

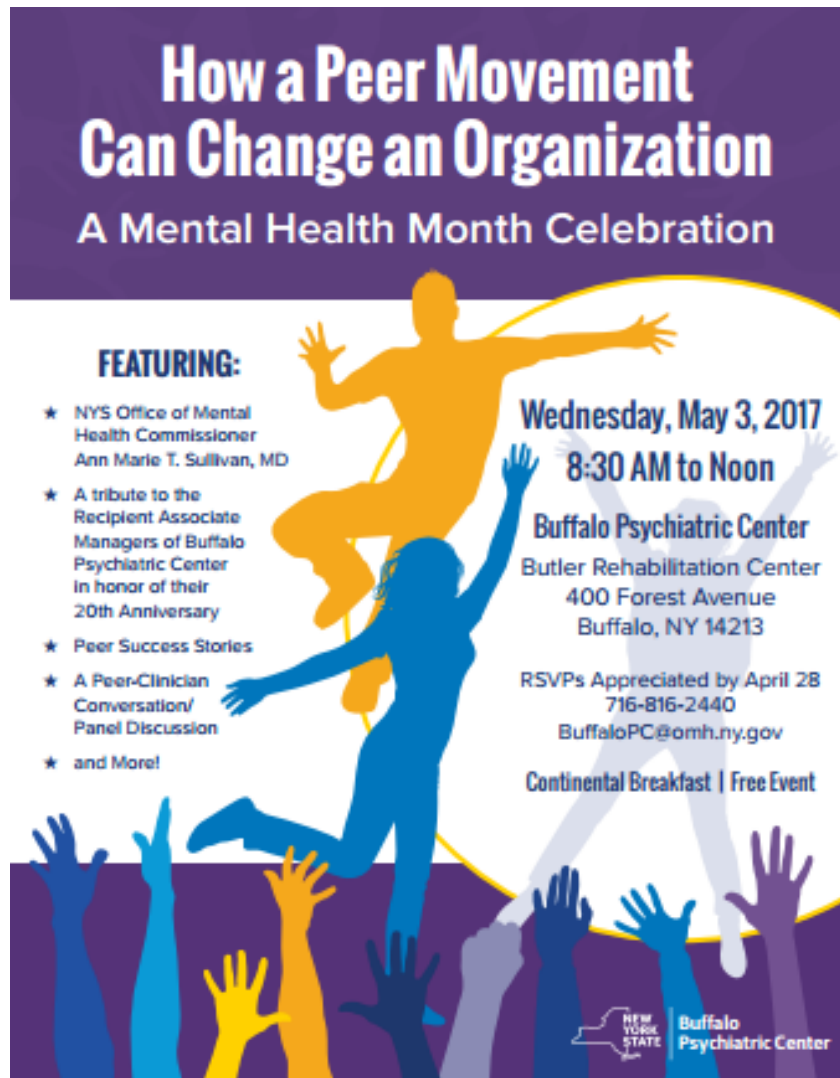
Smiling can reduce stress even if you don't feel like smiling.

Take time to smile when stressed. ([click for more](#))

[Register](#)

----- Buffalo -----

May 3, 2017 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



**How a Peer Movement  
Can Change an Organization**  
A Mental Health Month Celebration

**FEATURING:**

- ★ NYS Office of Mental Health Commissioner Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD
- ★ A tribute to the Recipient Associate Managers of Buffalo Psychiatric Center in honor of their 20th Anniversary
- ★ Peer Success Stories
- ★ A Peer-Clinician Conversation/ Panel Discussion
- ★ and More!

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017  
8:30 AM to Noon**  
**Buffalo Psychiatric Center**  
Butler Rehabilitation Center  
400 Forest Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14213

RSVPs Appreciated by April 28  
716-816-2440  
BuffaloPC@omh.ny.gov

Continental Breakfast | Free Event

NEW YORK STATE | Buffalo Psychiatric Center

How a Peer Movement Can Change an Organization  
20 year Celebration of the RAMS  
(Buffalo Psychiatric Center)

[Click to learn more](#)



----- Statewide -----

**May 22, 2017**

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Office of Mental Health (video conference)

Contact your Regional Advocacy Specialist for details.

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---- National Conference ----

**June 5-7, 2017**

WRAP AROUND THE WORLD



[\(Click here for details\)](#)

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---- National Conference ----

**June 24-26, 2017**

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wellness and Recovery Summit**

**Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association**

**Atlanta, GA**



[\(Click here for details\)](#)

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### ----- Statewide Webinar -----

**Friday, June 30, 2017 | 10:30–12:00 p.m. EDT**

**Webinar: Updates on the Peer Specialist Certification in New York State**

**Presenters:**

- Tara Davis, Certification Coordinator, The New York Peer Specialist Certification Board
- Joseph Swinford, Office of Consumer Affairs, NYS Office of Mental Health.
- Amy Colesante, Executive Director, Mental Health Empowerment Project

There are many advantages of becoming a certified peer specialist. Such peers are recognized as being qualified to work with individuals based on “The Shared Personal Experience” paradigm. This recognized qualification is acknowledged by professional affiliations, state, and national legislation.

This discipline enables the opportunity for peer networking, in addition to involvement and impact through NYPSCB sponsored education opportunities and committee work enhancing professionalism in the field and becomes strong basis for employment hiring and professional advancement. Programs utilizing certified professionals to provide peer support services may be qualified to bill Medicaid.

The clients and the family members served become beneficiaries of continuously improved services brought about through standards of training and competency that

will meet standards required for licensing, accreditation, and third-party payers. These marketable credentials not only enhance the range of services delivered by the treatment process; they also provide opportunity to establish, maintain, and update the delivery of higher professional standards.

This presentation will provide up to date information on Peer Certification.

**Registration is required:**

**[Register:](#)**

Event number: 644 498 663 | Event password: nysomh123

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Audio conference information  
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Provide your number when you join the event to receive a call back.

Alternative to call back: You can call one of the following numbers:

Local: 1-518-549-0500

Toll Free: 1-844-633-8697

Toll Free: 1-866-776-3553

If you use one of the alternate numbers, follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

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## ---- New York City Conference ----

**July 13, 2017**

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Peer Specialist Conference  
Life & the Art of Wellness**



Kimmel Center, NYU | More details coming soon

----- Philadelphia -----

July 24 & 25, 2017



## 2017 Summer Institute on Community Inclusion

THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE: WHAT DO WE KNOW? WHERE DO WE GO?

[Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion Summer Institute](#)

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---- National Conference ----

August 18-21, 2017

## Alternatives Conference 2017



*Building Healing Communities Together*  
*Boston · August 18-21*

([Click here to learn more](#))

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----- National Conference -----

October 16-18

Phoenix, Arizona

**iNAPS 2017 Conference**



Recovering & Sustaining Peer Support  
Creating a Path for Our Future

**International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)**

Annual Conference

*& Special event planned for Global Peer Support Celebration Day*

([Click here to learn more](#))

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----- White Plains, New York -----

October 26 & 27, 2017



([Click here for more](#))

### ***Inaugural New York (State) Peer Specialist Conference***

#### **Leadership, Values, Integrity...**

Hosted by the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board  
(Crown Plaza Hotel, White Plains)

----- **Statewide** -----

**Nov. 13, 2017 - video conference**

Recipient Advisory Council (RAC)

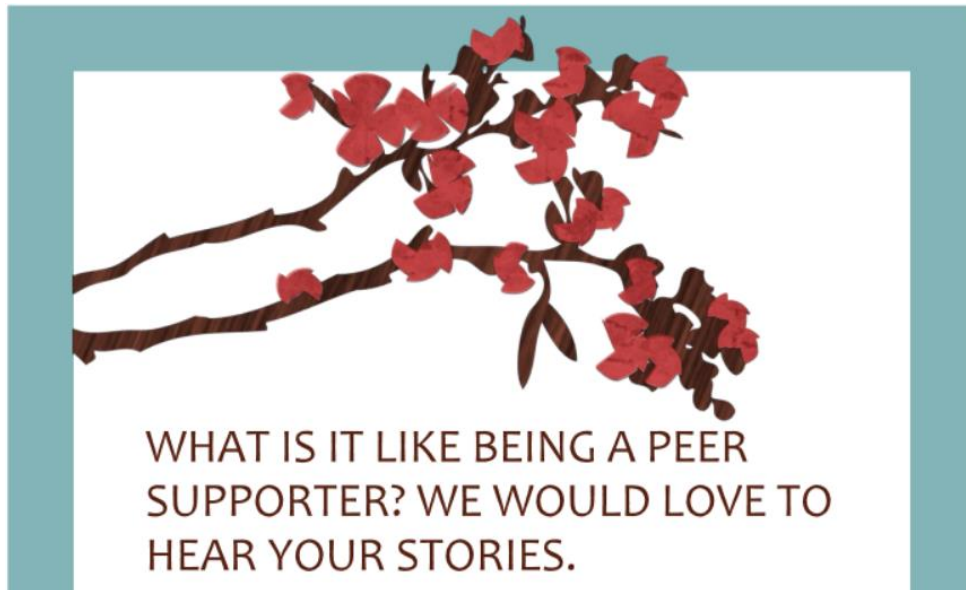
(Office of Mental Health)

Contact your Regional Advocacy Specialist for details.

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## Participate in Research!

---- Yale University ----



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WE ARE CONDUCTING A CONFIDENTIAL ONLINE SURVEY TO LEARN ABOUT THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE ON THE JOB AND WAYS YOU HAVE LEARNED TO DEAL WITH THEM.

YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL BUT SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES (BOTH GOOD AND BAD) WILL BENEFIT THE FIELD.

THE SURVEY WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME. PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW:

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**[CLICK HERE TO TAKE OUR SURVEY](#)**

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**  
**LARRY DAVIDSON, PH.D.**

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## ---- Yale University / Study #2 ----

### **Recovery Oriented Services Evaluation (ROSE)**

We are part of an advisory council for a national study of recovery-oriented practices in community mental health agencies and wanted to tell you about it. Maria O’Connell, Ph.D. and colleagues from the Yale University Program for Recovery and Community Health are conducting the first nationally representative survey of agencies such as yours and I thought you may be interested in participating.

We are looking for agencies to participate in this very important study that examine the links between recovery-oriented practices, organizational climate, and consumer outcomes.

This study focuses on community mental health agencies with the following characteristics:

- 1)** provides outpatient behavioral health services to adults with serious mental illness,
- 2)** offers access to 24-hour crisis services,
- 3)** accepts adults with no insurance or offers a sliding fee, and
- 4)** is state-funded or receives Medicaid reimbursement.

#### **Taking part in the study:**

Participating agencies receive a web link to a brief, anonymous survey for directors/administrators, direct care staff, and supervisors to complete. Each person who completes the survey will receive a \$10.00 Amazon e-gift card for their participation. Agencies with multiple survey responses from directors and staff can also receive a personalized feedback report that summarizes their results, compares their scores to other participating agencies, and provides recommendations for how to promote recovery-oriented care.

The online survey consists of brief demographic questions about your role and work experience in the mental health system, followed by several questions about your perceptions of recovery-oriented care where you work. This confidential survey is completely online, voluntary, and will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. In reporting the data, information you provide will be aggregated at levels of the organization, community, and state and no



information will be included that could identify individuals or responses provided by a specific person.

For more information about the study and to view a sample personalized feedback report, please visit

<http://medicine.yale.edu/psychiatry/prch/research/rose.aspx>

If you would like your agency to participate, or have any questions about this study, please feel free to email Stephanie Lanteri at [stephanie.sangsterlanteri@yale.edu](mailto:stephanie.sangsterlanteri@yale.edu) and we will be happy to answer any questions and provide you with more information. Thank you in advance for your time and support.

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## Online Resources



### [Peer Support Specialists for Mental Health Recovery](#)

Video (1:54 min.)

Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health



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## Job Listings

Click the job title for a description of the job.

**NEW**

**Rochester**

[Peer Support Specialist \(multiple openings\)](#)

**Affinity House**

(Posted April 21, 2017)

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**New York City**

***Health Home Outreach Peer Educator***

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

(Posted April 10, 2017)

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**NYAPRS Position**

**Statewide Trainer**

Organization: New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services

(Posted April 10, 2017)

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**NYAPRS Position**

***Community Outreach Specialist***

Organization: New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services

(Posted April 10, 2017)

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**New York City**

**Youth Coordinator Grade 14**

OnTrackNY

Organization: RFMH-NYSPI  
(Posted April 4, 2017)

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**Syracuse**

**Youth Coordinator Grade 14**

OnTrackNY

Organization: RFMH-NYSPI  
(Posted April 4, 2017)

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**Rockland County**

**Recovery Specialist (Spanish Speaking Preferred)**

MHA Rockland County  
(Posted March 31, 2017)

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**Western New York**

**Regional Advocacy Specialist**

Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc  
(Contract position with the Office of Mental Health)  
(Posted March 30, 2017)

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**Syracuse**

**Peer Specialist (Part-time)**

Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc  
OnTrackNY  
(Posted March 30, 2017)

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**Long Island (Multiple Locations)**  
**Peer Positions (multiple listings, full and part time)**

Federation of Organizations  
(Posted March 30, 2017)

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**New York City**  
**Peer & Consumer Education Specialist**  
Beacon Health Options {Manhattan location}  
(Posted March 27, 2017)

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**THANKS!**

This digest of announcements and reminders of upcoming events/job openings is also available as a PDF on the Virtual Community, a project of the Academy of Peer Services.

Feel free to share this file!

If you have events or opportunities to share on the Virtual Community website or News Digest, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

**Visit the Academy Virtual Community to learn more...**



<https://virtualcommunityblog.wordpress.com/>