



Academy of Peer Services

## Virtual Community News Digest

May 12, 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.

### Academy of Peer Services

#### 2017 Term 2 Now Open!

Here's the new and revised, and coming soon courses!

Whole Family Health and Wellness **(New)**

An Introduction to Supervising Peer Specialists (Key Concepts) **(New)**

Historical Roots of the Peer Movement (Revised)

Trauma-Informed Peer Support (Revised)

An Introduction to Supervising Peer Specialists (Situations and Solutions) (Coming Soon)

Talking About Suicide (Coming Soon)

For more information, view the full **Course Catalog** at:

[www.academyofpeerservices.org](http://www.academyofpeerservices.org)

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## Deadlines

(Don't Miss These Great Opportunities!)

**May 12 - Deadline to Nominate**



### **SAMHSA - Voice Awards Program**

The Voice Awards program honors consumer/peer/family leaders and television and film professionals who educate the public about behavioral health.

Through their work and personal stories of resilience, both groups of leaders demonstrate that people with mental health conditions and/or addictions can and do recover, lead meaningful lives, and contribute to their communities.

[Submit nominations](#) now for the 2017 Voice Awards.

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**June 16 – Call for Proposals (Deadline)**

**NYAPRS Annual Conference**

(Sept. 13-15, 2017)



New York Association of  
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc.  
Recovery, Rehabilitation, Rights

## Call for Presentations

September 13-15, 2017  
Hudson Valley Resort & Conference Center  
Kerhonkson, NY

**NYAPRS is seeking proposals  
for our 35th Annual Conference:**

### **Stand Up for Recovery!**

The NYAPRS Annual Conference is widely regarded as one of the nation's finest training opportunities and a unique celebration of advances in personal and professional strategies and public policies that advance the recovery, rehabilitation, rights and full community inclusion of people with psychiatric disabilities and/or diagnoses.

For over 3 decades, NYAPRS has provided timely information, energizing inspiration and critically valued networking opportunities in a celebratory atmosphere and retreat-like environment nestled within New York's Catskill Mountains.

Please make your contribution to the knowledge and skills of others by submitting a proposal today! This year, we're especially interested in presentations that focus on new service designs and choices and pathways to wellness and healing that are available across the diversity of New Yorkers with behavioral health needs.

Below is a fillable Call for Presentations application.



[www.nyaprs.org](http://www.nyaprs.org) ♦ [www.hudsonvalleyresort.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyresort.com)



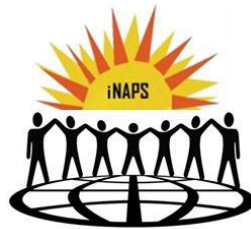
### **Featured Speakers**

**Patrick Corrigan**, CEO,  
National Consortium on  
Sigma & Empowerment  
**Tom Hill**, Vice President of  
Addiction and Recovery,  
National Council for  
Behavioral Health  
**Leah Harris**, Mother,  
Advocate and Storyteller  
**Eva Dech**, Training  
Manager, Intentional Peer  
Support  
**Josh Rubin**, Health  
Management Associates  
**Dr. Kim Griswold**, Buffalo  
General Medical Center  
**Sue Bergeson**, Consultant  
**Jeff McQueen**, Director of  
Peer & Veteran Services,  
MHA of Nassau County  
**Bevin Croft**, Human  
Services Research Institute  
**Gayle Bluebird**, Consultant  
**Eduardo Vega**, International  
BiPolar Foundation  
**Destination Dignity 2018!**  
**Steve Miccio**, PEOPLE, Inc  
**Jonathan Delman**,  
University of Massachusetts

**Stand Up for Mental  
Health!**  
with **David Granirer**

[Submit Proposal](#)

**June 16 – Call for Proposals (deadline extended)**



International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)  
Annual Conference (Arizona, October 16-18).

## iNAPS 2017 Conference Call for Proposals



Recovering & Sustaining Peer Support  
Creating a Path for Our Future

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

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## News and Special Announcements

### **NYS OASAS Announces \$250,000 in Funding to Support New York Certified Recovery Peer Advocates**

**GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO**

**COMMISSIONER ARLENE GONZÁLEZ-SÁNCHEZ**

**For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

**CONTACT:** Jonah Bruno, Communications, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

[communications@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:communications@oasas.ny.gov), 518-457-8299

**THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE SERVICES ANNOUNCES \$250,000 IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT NEW  
YORK CERTIFIED RECOVERY PEER ADVOCATES**

*Funding Will Help Retain and Support 500 Certified Peer Advocates  
Statewide in 2017*

**The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services**

**(OASAS)** today announced \$250,000 in funding to support 500 certified recovery peer advocates across New York. This funding will help offset costs associated with

becoming a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate, including the cost of renewing the certification for current advocates, to increase peer support services for individuals recovering from substance abuse.

"Peer support services are essential to our system of care and are a vital part of the treatment and life-long recovery process," **said OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez**. "This initiative further strengthens our efforts to develop a coordinated network of community-based services and recovery supports that build upon the strengths and resiliency of individuals, families and communities."

As part of the Governor's ongoing efforts to increase support for New Yorkers recovering from substance abuse, this investment will help combat addiction and promote recovery in communities throughout the State. Funding will be available to offset costs associated with the certification application, examination fees, educational coursework, and internship opportunities.

Certified peer advocates are either in recovery themselves, or have a close family member in recovery, and work in limited settings that are approved by OASAS, while under the supervision of a credentialed or licensed clinical staff member. They provide support services based on clinical need and help patients develop recovery plans and learn effective coping habits. Certified peers can also provide support in official settings, like court hearings.

Administered by OASAS, funds will be distributed through an application process overseen by OASAS-approved Certified Recovery Peer Advocate Certification Boards. Current certified recovery peer advocates will be eligible to apply for renewal fee reimbursements, and new applicants will be eligible to apply for support to complete required training to become certified.

New Yorkers struggling with an addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can find help and hope by calling the state's toll-free, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369). Available addiction treatment including crisis/detox, inpatient, community residence, or outpatient care can be found using this new and improved NYS OASAS Treatment Availability Dashboard at [FindAddictionTreatment.ny.gov](https://www.oasas.ny.gov/FindAddictionTreatment) or through the [Access Treatment page](#) on the [NYS OASAS website](#). Visit the #CombatAddiction website at [oasas.ny.gov/CombatAddiction](https://www.oasas.ny.gov/CombatAddiction) to learn more about how you can help to #CombatAddiction in your community.

Visit [www.combatheroin.ny.gov](https://www.combatheroin.ny.gov) for more information on addressing heroin and prescription opioid abuse, including a Kitchen Table Tool Kit to help start the conversation about the warning signs of addiction and where to get help.

For tools to use in talking to a young person about preventing alcohol or drug use, visit the State's [Talk2Prevent website](#).

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## **Upcoming Events**

(listed chronologically)

----- **New York City** -----

**May 12, 2017**

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

NYC Regional Planning Consortium Community Town Hall

**Location: Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse**

**Registration:**

**<https://nycrpctownhall.eventbrite.com>**

This event is free and open to the public.  
Individuals currently receiving Medicaid are encouraged to attend!  
Refreshments will be served.

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----- **National Webinar** -----

**May 16, 2017**

**Get to know what your SAMHSA National Consumer  
Technical Assistance Center  
can do for you**

There is still time to register for the May 16th Webinar.



Free Webinar  
May 16, 2017  
2:00PM ET/ 1:00 PM CT/ 12:00PM MT/11:00AM PT  
90-Minute Certificate of Attendance

Get to Know Your **SAMHSA**-Supported  
National Consumer &  
Consumer-Supporter  
Technical Assistance Centers (NTAC).

What are they? What do they do?  
What can they do for you?

Supporting, strengthening & enhancing  
the lives and work of  
Mental Health Consumers/Survivors and Peer-Operated  
Initiatives

[Register](#)

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----- Statewide -----

May 22, 2017



Office of  
Mental Health

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)  
Office of Mental Health (video conference)

Contact your Regional Advocacy Specialist for details.

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

May 26, 2017

SAMHSA BRSS TACS

Recovery LIVE! - Be a Part of the Conversation!

# Recovery Housing 101

2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

(1:00 pm CT / 12:00 pm MT / 11:00 am PT)

**Recovery LIVE!** participants engage directly with presenters and each other through live chatting, polls, and other interactive features.

Be part of the conversation—register today!

[REGISTER](#)

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----- New York City -----

May 28, 2017

ThriveAtWork | Next Class Starts

*Join a three-week training in May or June, 2017, to help you jump-start or complete the Academy of Peer Services Certification. Courses cover all relevant materials and offer a supportive, interactive classroom environment to facilitate your certification process!*



*Join a three-week training in May or June, 2017, to help you jump-start or complete the Academy of Peer Services Certification. Courses cover all relevant materials and offer a supportive, interactive classroom environment to facilitate your certification process!*

## Free Peer Specialist Training

Prepare for State Certification

[Click here for more information](#)



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---- National Conference ----  
June 5-7, 2017

WRAP AROUND THE WORLD  
Sacramento, CA



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

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---- National Conference ----  
June 24-26, 2017

40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wellness and Recovery Summit  
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association | Atlanta, GA



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

----- Statewide Webinar -----

**June 30, 2017**

10:30–12:00 p.m. EDT



**New York Peer Specialist Certification Board**

**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

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----- Philadelphia -----  
July 24 & 25, 2017



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

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----- National Conference -----  
August 18-21, 2017

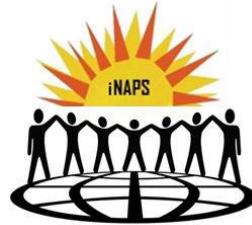


[\*\*\(Click here to learn more\)\*\*](#)

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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

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

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----- White Plains, New York -----  
October 26 & 27, 2017

**NY PEER SPECIALISTS**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The New York Peer Specialist Certification Board  
**Inaugural New York Peer Specialist Conference**  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains

**Leadership, Values, Integrity...**  
October 26 & 27, 2017

**October 26<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Peer Support @ 5 pm-10 pm**  
**October 27<sup>th</sup> Full Day Conference @ 9 am-5:30 pm**

**Registration, Agenda and Hotel Accommodation Info coming soon**  
Early Bird Discounted Registration and Scholarship application will be available in May, 2017  
**Sponsorship and Exhibit opportunities are available!**  
Please visit [www.NYPSCB.org](http://www.NYPSCB.org)  
or email [info@nypeerspecialist.org](mailto:info@nypeerspecialist.org)

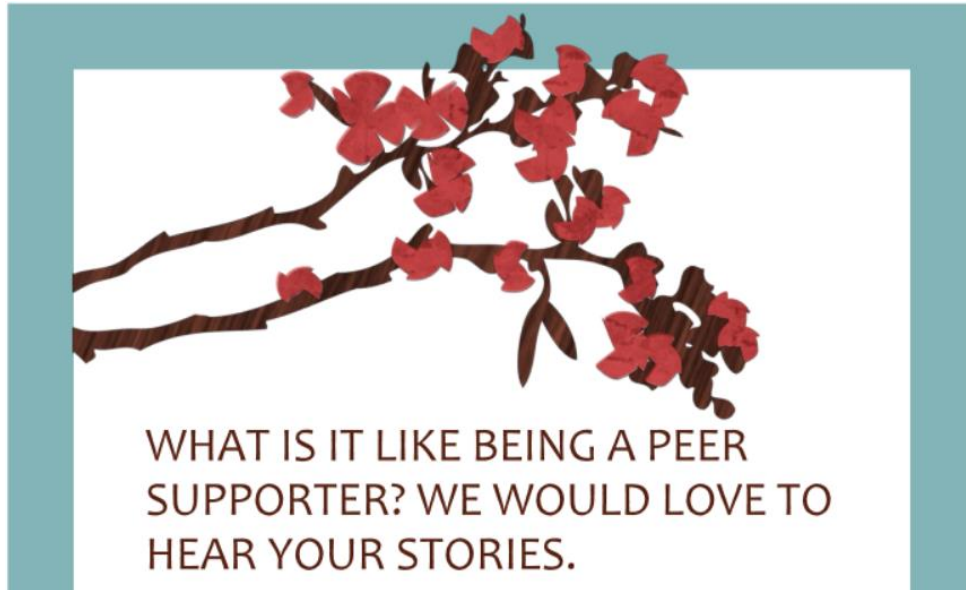
[\(Click here for more\)](#)

***Inaugural New York (State) Peer Specialist Conference***  
**Leadership, Values, Integrity...**  
Hosted by the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board  
(Crown Plaza Hotel, White Plains)

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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.

## ---- 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

<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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## New Online Resources

Find your National Technical Assistance Center



[Click to enlarge and access links](#)

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## Peer-Run Warmline Resource

### **New Resource in English and Spanish!**

**Free Download!**

**So You Want to Start a Peer-run Warmline?  
A Guide to Maintaining a Sustainable Warmline**

This guide, co-authored by the National Empowerment Center and the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse, draws on the advice and experience of existing warmlines and provides tips on fundraising, marketing/outreach, training, supervision, data collection, evaluation, and much, much more! [Click to view/download](#) (PDF, 12.3MB, 29 pages)

**Download [English](#)**

[Guía para el Desarrollo y Mantenimiento de Una Warmline Viable](#)  
[Warmline Manual Spanish (PDF at Google Drive, 11MB, 30 pages)]

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## Job Listings

Click the job title for a description of the job.

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**New York City**

**[Peer Coach](#)**

**[Peer Specialist](#)**

Institute For Community Living  
(Posted May 1, 2017)

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**New York City**

**Health Home Outreach Peer Educator**

New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)  
(Posted May 1, 2017)

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**Northern NJ**

**Hospital diversion | Senior Coach**

Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey  
(Posted May 1, 2017)

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**Smithtown, NY (Long Island)**

**ACT Peer Specialist**

WellLife Network (PSCH)  
(Posted May 1, 2017)

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**Rochester**

**Peer Support Specialist** *(multiple openings)*

**Affinity House**

(Posted April 21, 2017)

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**New York City**

**Health Home Outreach Peer Educator**

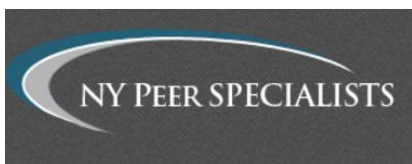
New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)  
(Posted April 10, 2017)

## Reminder – SAVE THE DATES

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**10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. EDT**



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

[\*\*REGISTER\*\*](#)

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Kimmel Center, New York University  
More details coming soon

---- NYAPRS ----

**September 13-15, 2017**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Stand Up for Recovery**  
[Call for Proposals Due: June 16, 2017](#)

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**Featured Speakers**

**Patrick Corrigan**, CEO, National Consortium on Stigma & Empowerment  
**Tom Hill**, Vice President of Addiction and Recovery, National Council for Behavioral Health  
**Leah Harris**, Mother, Advocate and Storyteller  
**Eva Dech**, Training Manager, Incentivized Peer Support  
**Josh Rubin**, Health Management Associates  
**Dr. Kim Grunwald**, Buffalo General Medical Center  
**Sue Bergeson**, Consultant  
**Jeff McQueen**, Director of Peer & Veteran Services, MEA of Nassau County  
**Bevin Croft**, Human Services Research Institute  
**Gayle Bluebird**, Consultant  
**Eduardo Vega**, International Bipolar Foundation  
**Destination Dignity 2018!**  
**Steve Miccio**, PEOPLE, Inc  
**Jonathan Delman**, University of Massachusetts

**Stand Up for Mental Health!**  
with David Granizer

www.nyaprs.org • www.hudsonvalleyresort.com

**Hudson Valley Resort  
& Conference Center  
Kerhonkson, NY**

---- White Plains ----

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or email [info@nyaprspecialist.org](mailto:info@nyaprspecialist.org)

**Crown Plaza Hotel, White Plains**  
Hosted by the New York Peer Specialists  
Certification Board

# 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/>