



Academy of Peer Services
Virtual Community News Digest
September 25, 2017

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

www.aps-community.org

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

For information about the Academy of Peer Services or view the full **Course Catalog** visit:

www.academyofpeerservices.org

Featured Event!

NY PEER SPECIALISTS

The Inaugural New York Peer Specialist Certification Board Conference

Leadership, Values, Integrity
October 26 & 27th, 2017
Crowne Plaza Hotel White Plains, New York
66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601

Join us in celebrating Peer Support in New York State!

Celebration of Peer Support *Thursday, October 26, 2017*
Registration includes food, beverages, entertainment, giveaways and much more!
Celebration Registration is \$69.00 Early Bird Rate until 10/5/17 is \$49.00

Inaugural Conference *Friday, October 27, 2017*
Registration includes conference workshops, snacks, beverages, giveaways and much more!
Lunch, hotel rooms and transportation are not included but limited scholarships are available.
Conference Registration is \$139.00 Early Bird Rate until 10/5/17 is \$119.00

Celebration of Peer Support & Inaugural Conference
Full Registration is \$189.00 Early Bird Rate until 10/5/17 is \$149.00
Early Bird Discount is available until October 5, 2017
Group Discounts available for 10 or more registrations
Visit www.nypsc.org for more info and to complete online registration

Office of Mental Health
The New York Peer Specialist Certification Board is funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health

ACADEMY OF PEER SERVICES
Conference Partner

←
**Click flyer to
enlarge**

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Featured “Live” Webinar

Tuesday, Sept 26, 2017 (2 PM ET)

Certified Peer Specialists in Crisis Services

David Measel, PA Peer Support Coalition



Dave Measel is the lead individual in developing this curriculum with support from partners at OMHSAS and Temple University. Since its creation David has delivered the three-day training with a co-facilitator five times and have received positive reviews in each of the trainings. He has shared information about this training, its creation and the future of CPSs in Crisis Services at a number of forums including the iNAPS Conference in Philadelphia, August 2016. Dave is a CPS and CPS Supervisor and currently works as a Contracted Administrator for the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition.

[Click here to Register](#)

Participation is free, but you need to pre-register to attend.

Featured Article

[Peer Specialists Are Not Clinicians](#) by Patricia Deegan



Peer Specialists are an emerging workforce in behavioral health. Many Peer Specialists work side-by-side with clinicians on ACT teams, psychiatric rehabilitation programs, CommonGround Decision Support Centers, inpatient units, first episode psychosis teams, integrated health/behavioral health teams, etc. There is no doubt that Peer Specialists have many unique skills that enrich the entire team. However, within these traditional clinical settings, it's not unusual for Peer Specialists to begin to adopt the language and practices associated with the clinical worldview. In other words, over time the work of many Peer Specialists begins to resemble the work of other clinicians on the team.

In my opinion, it is imperative that Peer Specialists remain *peer*. We are not junior clinicians. I've been thinking about this issue a lot lately in my work with [Sascha Altman DuBrul](#), [Iruma Bello](#) and others at [OnTrackNY](#).

What are the differences and where is the overlap between the Peer Specialist perspective and the clinical perspective? The chart below offers some thoughts. I'd love to hear your thoughts on this important issue.

Peer Specialist and Clinical Perspectives

Peer Specialist Perspective	Overlap	Clinical Perspective
Work is guided by the Principle of Mutuality defined as a focus on the connection between the Peer Specialist and the peer wherein there is reciprocity.	Unconditional positive regard for the individual being served.	Clinicians are in the role of helping and supporting participants with a focus on diagnosis, identification of strengths and treatment. There is not an expectation of reciprocity in clinician/participant relationships.

Peer Specialist and Clinical Perspectives (continued)

Peer Specialist Perspective	Overlap	Clinical Perspective
Focus on learning together rather than assessing or prescribing help.	A desire to support recovery and the person's achievement of their human potential.	Focus on assessing and helping.
Emphasis on sharing and exploring life experiences where both individuals share personal experiences and perspectives.	The importance of connection, finding common ground, and respect.	Emphasis on exploring program participants' experiences, with less expectation for the clinician to share their personal experiences.
There are many ways to understand the experience of what gets diagnosed as mental illness: bio-psycho-social; spiritual; cultural; distress as teacher; altered states; a natural variation of human experience, etc.	A commitment to support the person in making meaning of their experience.	The bio-psycho-social approach is the main framework for diagnosis and treatment while utilizing a cultural competency framework.
Do not participate in the delivery of involuntary interventions such as commitment to a hospital or outpatient commitment.	Both clinicians and Peer Specialists recognize the importance of choice and self-determination in the recovery process.	Involuntary interventions such as commitment to a hospital can be justified as clinicians struggle to balance the Duty to Care with the Dignity of Risk.
Trained to be advocates for and with participants. Advocacy may include speaking up about participant's needs and goals, and/or coaching participants in speaking for themselves. Advocacy may also include advocating for participant's legal rights, civil rights and human rights.	Both clinicians and Peer Specialists strive to listen carefully to the needs, preferences, goals and aspirations of participants.	Many are trained in recovery oriented practice which is strengths based, person-centered and aimed at supporting participants in achieving their unique goals.

Peer Specialist and Clinical Perspectives (continued)

Peer Specialist Perspective	Overlap	Clinical Perspective
<p>Peer Specialists are members of a socially devalued group often referred to as “the mentally ill”. As such they are keenly attuned to stigma, dehumanizing practices, objectifying language, prejudice, discrimination and even offensive or traumatizing practices in mental health, health and social service systems. As advocates, Peer Specialists will speak up if clinicians slip into language or practices that (often unintentionally) devalue participants or reinforce the status of being socially devalued.</p>	<p>Together, clinicians and Peer Specialists strive to create a culture of respect throughout behavioral health systems and in the general public.</p>	<p>Clinicians who have not self-disclosed a personal psychiatric history, are not part of the socially devalued group known as the mentally ill.</p>



This article by Pat Deegan was published on June 21, 2017
and can be found in her blog at:

<https://www.patdeegan.com/blog/posts/peer-specialists-are-not-clinicians>

Click here for Pat’s recent webinar: [Practicing Recovery Leadership](#).

For blogs, articles, videos and more by Pat Deegan, visit her website and her: Recovery Library at: <https://www.patdeegan.com/recoverylibrary>



Share your thoughts about Pat’s article!

The Virtual Community website has a Discussion Forum where you can post your thoughts and connect with others.

- Do you agree with the Peer Specialist view and the Clinician view?
- Do you have personal experience with this in your work as a Peer Specialist?

Visit the [Comment page](#) on the Virtual Community site to share your thoughts!

Upcoming Events (listed chronologically)

Next ThriveAtWork Peer Training class starts October 16, 2017

Register by October 9.



ACT NOW

Free Workforce Training

Community Access is excited to announce [ThriveAtWork](#), a free training program that will support hundreds of peers (people who have used mental health services) to leverage their lived experience into a meaningful career helping others. Modeled after our nationally-recognized [Howie the Harp](#) peer training program, ThriveAtWork will offer new training sessions that support peer certification and career development.

We welcome participants with a broad range of personal and professional backgrounds. Training schedules are free, flexible, and include evening options.

ThriveAtWork offers training for New Yorkers who have:

- Used mental health services or supports and are interested in a meaningful career using their experiences to help others, and/or
- Previously graduated from a peer training program, or have worked/ volunteered as a peer, and want to become a NYS Certified Peer Specialist
- A high school diploma or equivalent and residency in NYC

Join us in this exciting new training opportunity, and transform your mental health experience into a rewarding career!

Learn more, download an application, or find dates for upcoming information sessions:

www.thriveatwork.nyc

Talk to a recruitment specialist or schedule a presentation:

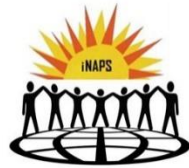
212-780-1400 x7700 or thrive@communityaccess.org

This training is a key component of ThriveNYC, a comprehensive mental health plan for New York City launched by the Mayor's Office, and supported by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



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

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



International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)
11th Annual Conference
October 16-18
Phoenix, Arizona

HOME	REGISTRATION	SPONSORS/EXHIBITORS	HOTEL/TRAVEL	PROGRAM
<i>"Recovering & Sustaining Peer Support: Creating a Path for Our Future"</i>				
				
Pat Deegan Keynote Monday	Chacku Mathai Keynote Tuesday	Sally Zinman Keynote Wednesday		

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

----- Mass PRA Conference-----

October 24 and 25, 2017



15th Annual MassPRA Conference: Harnessing the Power of Relationships
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

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

----- New York State – Statewide Conference -----

October 26 & 27, 2017

Inaugural New York (State) Peer Specialist Conference
Leadership, Values, Integrity...



The poster features a dark blue background with a sunburst pattern in the center. At the top, there is a logo for 'NY PEER SPECIALISTS' in a dark oval. Below this, the main title 'The Inaugural New York Peer Specialist Certification Board Conference' is written in white. The central sunburst area contains the theme 'Leadership, Values, Integrity' in large, bold, blue letters, followed by the dates 'October 26 & 27th, 2017' and the location 'Crowne Plaza Hotel White Plains, New York, 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601'. The bottom section of the poster lists three registration options with their respective costs and early bird rates, along with a group discount note and a website link for registration.

NY PEER SPECIALISTS

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Conference Partner

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

[\(Click here for sponsorship opportunities\)](#)

----- **New Jersey PRA Conference** -----

November 16 and 17, 2017
Edison, New Jersey



37th Annual Conference: Steer Clear of the Hazards – Adapt and Succeed



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

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

4th Annual Behavioral Health Peers Conference
Value Added to the Continuum
December 1, 2017



New York

Call for Proposals Now Available

Deadline to submit proposal: Sept. 29, 2017

[Click here to download](#)

Online Resources/Webinars



Doors to Wellbeing Recorded Webinars

- Can I get the recipe? Research supports the evidence for peer support By: Laysha Ostrow
- Straight Talk About Peer Supervision By: Susan Nyamora
- The Importance of Language By: BJ North
- DBSA* Peer Leadership Center: Online Resource for Peer Workforce & Organizations
- National Accreditation for Peer Specialists: How Canada Makes it Work.
- Community Inclusion and Peer Support Supporting Increased Community Participation By: Matthew Federici
- Art as a Peer Specialist Skill Learn how Peer Specialist can use creativity and the arts to inspire others throughout their recovery journeys: Gayle Bluebird
- How to Ask for a Raise: The Peer Support Compensation Survey By: Allen S. Daniels – Consultant & Peter C. Ashenden
- Creating and Managing a Peer-Run Business By: Diana Fullem
- Peer Support Within the Criminal Justice System By: Liz Woodley
- The spirit of bouncing beyond By: Lori Ashcraft
- Mental Wellness during Unemployment for Peers By: Rachelle Weiss
- Supporting CPS Staff in Direct Advocacy Work By: Elisha Coffey, Fran Hazam & Yvette Pate
- Invasion or Innovation: Peers in the Workforce By: Rita Cronise
- Peer Support with Veterans - Shoulder to Shoulder By: Deanna Brent and Larry Buttell
- Workforce Integration: Why It Matters By: Dawniell A. Zavala
- A Decade of Peer Culture, Support, and Leadership in Philadelphia- By: Crystal Edwards
- Peer Support Works, The Paper Proof- By: Gina Calhoun

To view a webinar, visit: <https://www.doorstowellbeing.org/webinar-recordings>

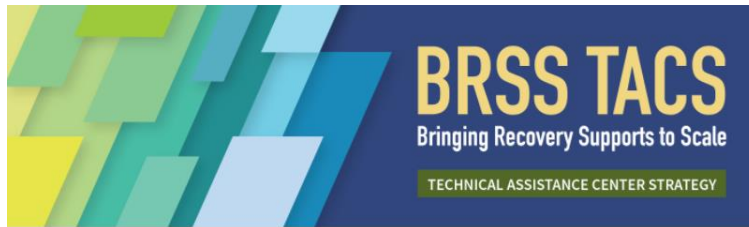


International Association of Peer Supporters
www.inaops.org

International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS) Recorded Webinars

- Webinar 32: Peer Support Around the World with Robyn Priest
- Webinar 31: Practicing Recovery Leadership with Pat Deegan
- Webinar 30: Peer Support Then and Now with Beth Filson
- Webinar 29: Hospital to Community: A Process of Inclusion with Gina Calhoun
- Webinar 28: Peers Educating Peers on the Affordable Care Act – Part 2 with Scott Palluck
- Webinar 27: The Power of Storytelling with Gayathri Ramprasad
- Webinar 26: Peers Educating Peers on the Affordable Care Act - Part 1 with Gene Johnson, Lori Ashcraft, and Scott Palluck
- Webinar 25: Activation: The Secret Sauce with Sue Bergeson
- Webinar 24: A Report on the National Survey of Compensation Among Peer Support Specialists with Allen Daniels and Peter Ashenden
- Webinar 23: Sustainable Resilience with Lori Ashcraft
- Webinar 22: The History of the Movement with Sally Zinman and Gayle Bluebird
- Webinar 21: My Lived Experiences: From Devastation to Bringing Happiness to Work and Life with Mertice “Gitane” Williams
- Webinar 20: WRAP and Peer Support – with Mary Ellen Copeland and Jane Winterling
- Webinar 19: The History of Peer Support with Larry Davidson
- Webinar 18: Dealing with Compassion Fatigue with Ted Thomas
- Webinar 17: Peer Support and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs with Dan O’Brien-Mazza
- Webinar 16: Build Your Resume: Strategies for Getting, Keeping and Advancing Employment with Steve Harrington
- Webinar 15: Emerging Roles in Peer Support – Supporting Employment and Educational Recovery with Lyn Legere
- Webinar 14: The Workplace Bully: Who and You and What to Do with Susan Meekof
- Webinar 13: Stress – The Deadly Plague with Steve Harrington
- Webinar 12: Self-Disclosure for Peer Supporters and Other Disciplines with Andy Bernstein and Denise Camp
- Webinar 11: A Guided Tour of the Recovery to Practice Training for Experienced Peer Support Providers with Steve Harrington, Lisa Goodale, Rita Cronise, Noelle Pollet

To view a webinar, visit: <https://inaops.org/free-webinars-past>
(Members can receive a certificate of attendance.)



Webinars on Peer Support Services

- [The Effectiveness of Peer Support Services: Highlights from the Research \(90 min.\) –2016](#)
- [Recovery After Incarceration: Peer Supports as a Critical Reentry Service \(90 min.\) – 2016](#)
- [Integrating Peers in the Workforce: Supervision and Organizational Culture 2016 \(85 min.\) –2016](#)
- [Involving Peers in Promoting Health and Wellness \(90 min.\) – 2015](#)
- [Integrating Peers in the Workforce: Supervision and Organizational Culture \(88 min.\) – 2015](#)
- [Motivational Interviewing for Peer Support Providers \(Session 2\) \(88 min.\) – 2015](#)
- [Motivational Interviewing for Peer Support Providers \(Session 1\) \(87 min.\) – 2015](#)
- [Why Should You Hire Peer Specialists/Recovery Coaches? \(85 min.\) – 2014](#)
- [Building Collaboration Between the Employment and Behavioral Health Sectors \(70 min.\) – 2014](#)
- [Careers in Behavioral Health: Developing the Peer Workforce \(72 min.\) – 2014](#)
- [Creating Policies and Programs That Reduce Individual Barriers to Employment \(75 min.\) –2014](#)
- [Learning From Experience: Lessons From the 2013 BRSS TACS Awardees \(70 min.\) –2014](#)
- [Ethics and Boundaries for Peer Leaders \(90 min.\) – 2014](#)
- [Strengthening Employment Opportunities for People in Recovery \(88 min.\) –2013](#)
- [Because We Are EQUAL to the Task: The Business Case for Recruiting and Retaining Employees in Recovery \(70 min.\) – 2013](#)
- [Peers in Federally Qualified Health Centers \(90 min.\) – 2013](#)
- [Best Practices in Peer Support and Peer Recovery Coaching \(87 min.\) – 2013](#)
- [Peer Involvement in Integrated Physical and Behavioral Health Services: Promoting Wellness Through Recovery-Oriented Care \(90 min.\) –2013](#)
- [Learning from Experience: Lessons From the 2012 BRSS TACS Awardees \(87 min.\) – 2013](#)

SAMHSA Recovery to Practice - From Re-Entry to Recovery: Peer Support for Transition to the Community

Presenters: Elissa Nulton; Christy DeFeo

- [From Re-Entry to Recovery: Peer Support for Transition to the Community recording](#)
- [From Re-Entry to Recovery: Peer Support for Transition to the Community presentation – 2016 \(PDF | 1.6 MB\)](#)
- [From Re-Entry to Recovery: Peer Support for Transition to the Community transcript – 2017 \(PDF | 125 KB\)](#)

Click a title to access the recorded webinar on the SAMHSA site.

Participate in Research



The New York City Peer Support and Community Health Workforce Consortium is committed to enhancing and expanding the peer support and community health workforce. As a part of our efforts to better understand the current conditions of the New York City workforce, we ask that New York City peer support and community health workers complete our survey.

This survey is for all current NYC peer support and community health workers who provide direct service in which they share their own lived experience and/or Community Health Workers who demonstrate strong affiliation with the community they serve.

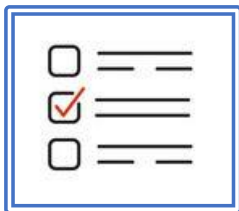
At the end of the survey, you will be able to enter a raffle for a 1 in 40 chance to win a \$40 Visa gift card in exchange for your time.

NOTE: *If you win the raffle, you will have to come to Long Island City in Queens, NY to collect the gift card.*

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and there are 30 questions. Your responses are voluntary. All responses will be kept confidential and will only be reported in the aggregate. No identifying information will be shared with employers or any other parties outside of the Consortium staff.

The Consortium will use survey responses to develop resources for workers, employers, and advocacy groups in order to further support the growth of the peer support and community health workforce. Additionally, as compared to findings from previously conducted surveys, responses to this survey will be used to assess possible changes in workforce conditions.

If you have any questions, please call (347) 396-4996 or send email to PeerConsortium@health.nyc.gov.



[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)

Job Listings

Click the job title for a description of the job.

Syracuse (3 positions)

[Peer Specialist](#)

[Assistant Manager](#)

[Program Manager](#)

AccessCNY

(Posted on September 23, 2017)

New York City

[Mentor](#) (part time)

Fortune Society | Rikers' Correctional Facility

(Posted on September 22, 2017)

Bronx (multiple positions)

(View these positions on the [Coalition Peer Specialist Job Board](#))

Care Navigator, Care Manager, Outreach Worker, and Recovery Peer Specialist

Fortune Society

(Posted on September 22, 2017)

Albion

[Drop-in Center Program Coordinator](#) (part-time)

Mental Health Association of Genesee and Orleans Counties

(Posted on September 22, 2017)

New York City

[Respite Worker](#)

[Peer Recovery Specialist](#) (part-time)

Community Access

(Posted on September 22, 2017)

New York City

Family Support Specialist

Acacia Network
(Posted on September 22, 2017)
~~~~~

**New York City**

**Peer Program Specialist**

ACMH, Inc. Care Management & Housing

**General Openings**

(Posted on September 11, 2017)  
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Batavia or Albion

Program Aide (part-time)

Peer Recovery Guide (full or part-time)

Mental Health Association of Genesee and Orleans Counties
(Posted on September 11, 2017)
~~~~~

**New York City (multiple positions)**

**Peer Service Corps**

New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene  
(Posted on September 6, 2017)  
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New York City (3 positions)

Program Coordinator/Certified Peer Specialist

Program Coordinator/Staff Generalist

Internship Specialist

FEDCAP Rehabilitation Services
(Posted on August 30, 2017)
~~~~~



## Employers... seeking qualified peer applicants?

Step 1: [Register with the State Dept. of Labor](#) so the job will be included in the Employment First initiative.

Step 2: Submit the job opening to the Academy of Peer Services/ Job Bank at [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

Be sure to include the location, job title, organization, and main contact. Also provide an attached document or link to an online posting with the *job description and responsibilities, minimum requirements, instructions about how to apply*. Be this includes a contact person.

[For more, the Virtual Community Job Bank -- Instructions for Employers](#)



## Job Applicants...

Check our Virtual Community Job Bank for the latest openings in New York State

[Click here to access the Job Bank](#)



## Instructions for applicants:

Click a job title in the [Job Bank](#) to view the Job Description. If you are qualified, follow the application procedure listed in the posting and/or contact the person listed in the posting directly.

### Additional Notes:

- If you're in New York City, you may also want to check for new openings on the [Coalition for Behavioral Health Peer Specialist Job Board](#).
- You can also check for openings with our list of organizations that frequently hire Peer Specialists on the [General Listings](#) page of the Virtual Community.
- If you are an Employer seeking qualified applications, view our [Posting Instructions for Employers](#) or contact us by email at [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

## New York City - Peer Job Listings



## LOOKING FOR WORK?

Visit the Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery's Peer Specialist Job Board to find the latest job opportunities for Peer Specialists in and around NYC.

Employers, find your next employee by posting a job on the Peer Job Board - it's free!

[www.coalitionny.org/the\\_center/jobs/](http://www.coalitionny.org/the_center/jobs/)



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

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# Volunteer Opportunities

## Leadership Development

### Sign up to be a Forum Leader



Starting this fall, the Academy of Peer Services, Virtual Community will begin a series of online discussions - for peer supporters and for supervisors. If you have a topic of interest and would like to lead a discussion, let us know!

Drop a note to: [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

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## Doors to Wellbeing, Technical Assistance Center is looking for WEBINAR PRESENTERS

Share Your Ideas, Programs, Talents: Present a Webinar for the  
Doors to Wellbeing Peer Specialist Monthly Webinar Series!



### Webinar Presenters Wanted:

Doors to Wellbeing conducts monthly webinar series dedicated to bringing ideas, topics and methods to improve the work of peer specialists. We are looking for new, exciting and innovative presenters for our monthly Peer Specialist Webinar Series. This is a great way to reach the peer community.

If you have never presented a webinar - we can provide technical assistance.

Just click here and fill out this short info form.\*

[Click Here](#)



## Save the Dates!

---- White Plains ----

**October 27-28, 2017**

**New York Peer Specialist Conference  
Leadership, Values, Integrity...**



Crown Plaza Hotel, White Plains  
Hosted by the New York Peer Specialists  
Certification Board  
[Click here for the flyer](#)

---- New York City ----

**December 1, 2017**

**4th Annual New York City  
Behavioral Health Peers Conference  
PEER SERVICES: VALUE ADDED TO THE  
CONTINUUM**



Call for Workshop Proposals  
Due: Friday, Sept 29, 2017  
[Download submission form](#)

This digest is available on the [Virtual Community](#), a project of the Academy of Peer Services.

**Feel free to share this file!**

If you have job openings, resources, or announcements of events to share, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

Visit the Academy Virtual Community to learn more  
<https://aps-community.org>

