



Academy of Peer Services (APS)

For more information about the Academy of Peer Services view the site and **Course Catalog**:

www.academyofpeerservices.org

APS Virtual Community News Digest

February 12, 2018

Welcome to the APS VC News Digest, a regular summary of job openings, events, research opportunities, and announcements for the peer workforce in New York State. This news digest is developed as part of the APS Virtual Community project.

www.aps-community.org

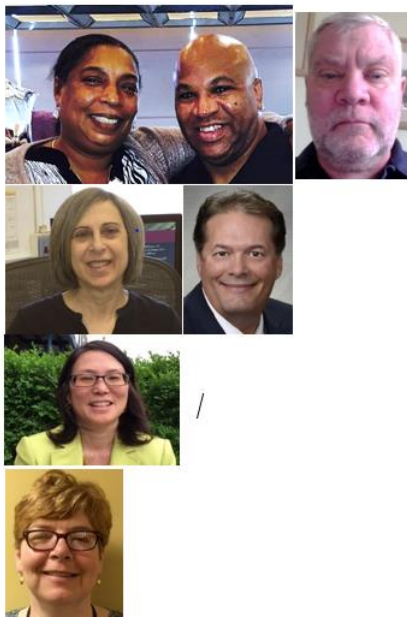
Featured Event

Ask the Supervisors!

February 22, 2018 | 2:00 PM

Join us for the first in a series of online dialogues with peer specialist supervisors. Some of the supervisors who contributed to the Academy courses will be available to talk about supervision and more.

[Register now!](#)



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Connect the Dots: Sense of Community
Take our survey now:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APS_SOC-01

What's New

Wanted: Your Local News!

At a recent Office of Mental Health, Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting, representatives from the regions gave “report outs” on what’s happening in their part of the state. For example, some of the programs and initiatives that were mentioned include:

New York City

[*The Bridge Arts*](#)

[*Bronx Psychiatric Center Pet Therapy*](#)

[*For Like Minds*](#)

[*Venture House*](#)

[*Wellife Network*](#)

[*Hamilton Madison House*](#)

[*LBGTQ Zappalorti Society Self-Help Support Group*](#)

Peer Workforce Coalition

(Western) Buffalo / Rochester

[*The Living Room*](#) – Peer Crisis Diversion (*PEER Connection, HOME, and Restoration Society*)

[*NAMI Buffalo Publication, The Mind Matters*](#)

[*Creative Wellness Opportunities*](#) – Art Gallery in Rochester (*Rochester MHA*)

[*Affinity Place*](#) – Peer Crisis Option (*East House*)

Chacku Mathai – new President/CEO of Rochester MHA

(Central) Syracuse

[*Art as a Healing Tool*](#) - *St. Joe’s PROS*

[*Freedom Commons*](#) – 45 apartments for low income housing

[*We Rise Above the Streets*](#) –a grassroots life enrichment organization

[*SMART Recovery*](#) – prevention network

Peer Support online support groups with Garrett Smith (OMH RAS)

Hudson River

Free [*Peer Specialist Training*](#) (*Mt. Vernon*) *Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)*

Free [*Peer Specialist Training*](#) (*Troy*) *MHEP*

Free [*Trauma Informed Peer Support*](#) - *MHEP*

[*PhotoVoice*](#) (*Boston University*) *peer to peer vocational empowerment project*

[*Regional Planning Consortium*](#) – *Peer advocacy network and learning circle*

Long Island

Restore the Long Island Cemetery (Touro Law School – Advocacy / Civil & Disability Rights)

Report what’s happening in your area! Send news and announcements for the Virtual Community website and Virtual Community News Digest. Send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

OMH Regional Map



[Click map to view the 5 regions](#)

What's New (Continued)

RUTGERS School of Health Professions

Starting on March 13, 2018, Rutgers University will be offering a new 12 credit undergraduate University certificate program accredited through the Rutgers University School of Health Professions (SHP) in collaboration with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (RUBHC). This academic program is designed to provide knowledge and skills as well as a practicum experience for those who wish to become effective peer support providers in a variety of settings.

Credits completed in this academic Certificate program can be applied toward undergraduate course requirements for an Associate in Science (A.S.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. The program can be completed in one year over three semesters (March, May, September).

Those enrolled in the Academy of Peer Services or other state certification programs may apply for admission to the RU Certificate. If accepted, they will be required to complete all assignments and elements of the program. No prior learning experiences or work experiences will be accepted as a substitute for the Certificate's required coursework.

To learn more, see the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) for program prerequisites and costs.

ForLikeMinds

Coming May 2018.

Connect with others like you living with or supporting someone with a mental health and/or substance use condition.

Call us a weed. We proliferate in the most surprising of places. Do not cast us aside nor revile us, for we shall not wither nor die. Take a closer look and see the will to survive and thrive radiating from deep within. This light shines through the shadow cast by stark stigma.

ForLikeMinds.com

Connect with others like you, living with or supporting someone with a mental health and/or substance use condition. You can connect based on your conditions and demographic attributes, including age, location, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity and race, language, religion, education, profession, and student and military status. Launching spring 2018. Please sign up for our [newsletter](#).

For more information contact hello@forlikeminds.com. Developed by Katherine Ponte, BA, JD, MBA, NYCPS-P, CPRP, living with bipolar disorder, and recently elected to the NAMI-NYC Board.

Deadlines



March 2, 2018
Deadline to Apply for the next Free ThriveAtWork Training
(Class starts March 12)
[Info & Application](#)



March 16, 2018
Deadline to submit a proposal
ALTERNATIVES 2018
Conference will be held in Washington, DC July 29-Aug 3.
[Learn More.](#)
[Call for Proposals](#)

Upcoming Events



Dialogue
February 13, 2018
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern
Starry Nights: Arts & Spirituality Dialogues
Dr. Brad Lewis, Dr. Montana Queler and Annie Robinson
East Village Access
[More Information](#)



International Association of
Peer Supporters and [Optum](#)

Webinar
February 16, 2018
12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. Eastern
Redefining Risk in Peer Support Relationships
Chris Hansen, Director, Intentional Peer Support
[More Information](#)

Upcoming Events (Continued)



Ask the Supervisors

February 22, 2018

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Jonathan Edwards, Gita Enders, Joe Woodward and others

[Register \(Eventbrite\)](#)

Using the Arts as a Tool for Healing

February 24, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Eastern

Free the Arts Jam - hosted by Nikomeh Anderson

East Village Access

[More Information](#)



Webinar

February 27, 2018

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Building Community Support Groups for Improved

Mental Health with Jane Winterling

Doors to Wellbeing – Last Tuesday Webinar

[Learn More](#)



New York Association of
Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

Recovery, Rehabilitation, Rights

Albany

February 27, 2018

21st Annual Legislative Day (NYAPRS)

The Egg, Albany

For updates, visit the NYAPRS website

[More Information](#)

Upcoming Events (Continued)



The Mental Health Empowerment Project Presents:

Mt. Vernon, New York

March 13-May 2, 2018

Tues-Wed each week

– 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Graduation May 2, 2018

[Free Peer Specialist Training](#)

Pre-registration is required



The Mental Health Empowerment Project Presents:

Troy, New York

Spring 2018

Wed-Thurs each week

– 9:00 am-4:00 pm

(Lunch is on your own)

[Free Peer Specialist Training](#)

Pre-registration is required

Herkimer

March 26, 2018

Supervisor Focus Group ([flyer](#))

12:00 Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Academy of Peer Services Research Team

(Space is limited to 12 people)

[Learn more](#)

[Register](#)



Focus Groups for Supervisors

Batavia

March 29, 2018

Supervisor Focus Group ([flyer](#))

11:30 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

Academy of Peer Services Research Team

(Space is limited to 12 people)

[Learn more](#)

[Register](#)

Upcoming Events (Continued)



SAVE THE DATE
14TH ANNUAL EXECUTIVE SEMINAR
New Strategies and Partnerships to Support
the Most Challenged New Yorkers:
THE WAY FORWARD
April 19 & 20, 2018 Albany Hilton, Albany, NY

Elinore McCance-Katz
First HHS Assistant Secretary for
Mental Health and Substance Use

Elena Kravitz
NYAPRS New Director for Policy
and Public Engagement

Pete Earley
Follower, Advocate and Author

Program Details
and Registration
Coming Soon!

Visit Our Website:
www.nyaprs.org

Albany
April 19 and 20, 2018
14th Annual Executive Seminar
Albany Hilton
[Learn more](#)

[Sponsor and Vendor Prospectus](#)



National Council for Behavioral Health
NATCON 18
CONFERENCE

Washington, DC
April 23-25, 2018
National Council for Behavioral Health
[Learn More](#)

Washington, DC
June 14-16, 2018
2018 Annual Conference: Fit for the Future
Mental Health America
[Learn more](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Upcoming Events (Continued)

Denver, Colorado

June 15-18, 2018

41st Annual Wellness and Recovery Summit

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association

[Learn more](#)



New Orleans

June 27-30, 2018

2018 NAMI National Convention

National Alliance on Mental Illness

[Learn more](#)



New York City

July 12, 2018

12th Annual Working Peer Specialist Conference

New York University

Kimmel Center

(Details will be provided as they become available)

Upcoming Events (Continued)



National Coalition for
Mental Health Recovery

Washington, DC

July 29-August 3, 2018

The People's Alternatives Conference 2018

Catholic University of America

[Learn More](#)



DOORS TO
WELLBEING

Washington, DC

August 6-8, 2018

Mental Health National Youth Convergence

Doors to Wellbeing – Dream Team

[Learn More](#)



Baltimore

September 26-29, 2018

**National Association for Rights Protection and
Advocacy (NARPA)**

Holiday Inn Inner Harbor

[Learn More](#)



Send your Announcements for the Virtual Community to:

academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

Peer Research

Help us Connect the Dots!



One of the projects of the Academy of Peer Services (APS) is to create a Virtual Community to provide opportunities for Certified Peer Specialists and others in the peer support workforce to connect, communicate, collaborate, educate, and look for new ways to improve the experience of giving and receiving peer support services.

Recently, we (researchers within the Academy of Peer Services) launched a study to investigate the sense of community in different roles and areas of the peer support workforce.

We need your help as we gather information to connect the dots in the peer support workforce, particularly the sense of belonging (locally, regionally, and statewide) of those in different areas of the state and roles within the workforce. Whether you are a Certified Peer Specialist, or a supervisor of peer workers, or someone just getting started in your role, your responses can help.

Please take the 10-15 minutes to [take our survey](#) and share your personal experience. If you are interested, you can also sign up after the survey to get more involved in the development of our Virtual Community.

Investigating the Sense of Community in the Peer Support Workforce

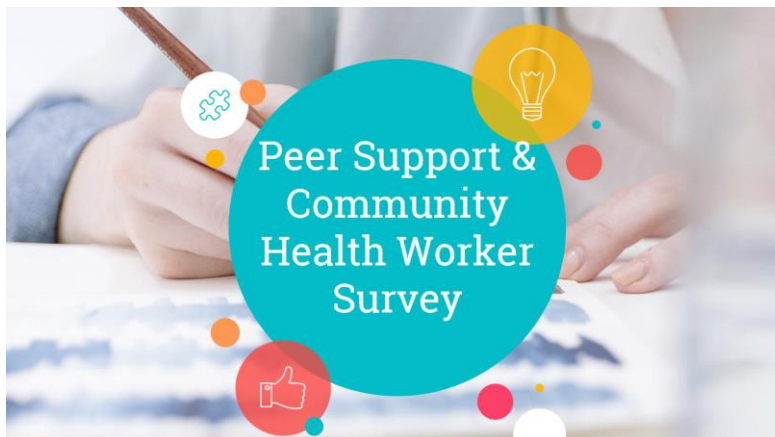
Take the survey now:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APS_SOC-01

To learn more about getting involved, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.

Peer Research (continued)

Results of the New York City Peer Support and Community Health Worker Survey



The results are available from the New York City Peer Support and Community Health Worker Survey. If you contributed to this survey, thank you!

[Learn More](#)

Calling all Directors, Managers, and Program Coordinators in New York City



To better understand the current condition of the New York City workforce, we request that directors, managers or program coordinators in NYC complete this survey for their programs.

[Learn More](#)

Peer Research (continued)

Do you currently work as a peer support provider?
If so, your perspective on work-related stress is needed!



Peer Supporter Survey

[Learn More](#)

LAST CALL

Please share this survey with your supervisor!

Magellan Health



Dear peer specialist. We know that you thrive on giving and receiving support. And we know that there are challenges in doing this work, regardless of where you do it. Supervisors face challenges too. This is your opportunity to 'pay it forward' by helping your supervisor and others in similar roles. This 16-question survey is intended for supervisors, to learn who they are and what they most need support in. Please ask your supervisor to complete (and share) this important survey with other supervisors.

Learn More

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/supervisionpeer>

Articles

Love, Sweet Love

by Howard Diamond



"Everything's coming up roses", is not only a song by Ethel Merman, but for some a great Valentine Day's song. For me, Valentine's Day is a day just another day, February 14. In *Damn Yankees*, the title of one song was, "You gotta have heart". It was not aimed for the lovelorn, but to give luck for a sad sack baseball team. Hearts and music go together like peanut butter and jelly or mashed potatoes and gravy.

Enough about food. Through movies and television, there were many star-crossed lovers. How about Romeo and Juliet or the more modern-day Tony and Maria from *West Side Story*. Each had their own long song. In the original 1968 Romeo and Juliet, there was, "A Time For Us," and in *West Side Story* it is, "Somewhere". Both lyrics talk about another place and time. In my way of thinking, love is now and we are to love people each and every day.

In most cases, people get one and only one true love. From 2003 until 2015, my true love was Maureen, my significant other. Yes, I know the Christmas Classic lyric states, "On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...". Sounds impressive, but once again I hear what Maureen always said, "Valentine's Day is just like any other day and you are supposed to love each other **every**day. Unfortunately, on June 12, 2015 she died, and my true and everlasting love died with her. Maybe I will find true love again, but who knows what the future will bring.

Enough of my pity party. What I do for myself is do my best to focus on one day at a time. Alcohol Anonymous has many affirmative statements. They focus on today as the thing that is promised and strive for success. My bar is set low. I only try to do one thing each day. It may not be completely new, but a different way to do something, so it is new to me. A slogan from the United States Army is, "be all you can be". Boy, is that true. To know one's limitations and do what is OK and what you **can** achieve, each and every day.

It is not all about love, but about dealing each day as it comes. Trying to be realistic works in my book. Positive thoughts get me through tough times. Another popular song goes, "Love is all around us," and if I am ready and if it is out there for me, I will find this again. Hey, it happened once! For now, it is enough to love myself. Maureen, My Sweetie, "I love you, I miss you and I still wish you were here. See you in the Newsletter.

Howard, A New York State Certified Peer Specialist from Long Island



Send your articles about life as a Peer Specialist or as a Supervisor to:

academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

New Resources



Recent Webinars (Archived)

- [Peer Support: A Critical Component in Supported Housing](#), Tom Hill and Lyn Legere (Broadcast on 1/26/2018)
- [PAX Tools: For Parent Peer Specialists](#) (Broadcast on 1/30/2018)
- [Self-Care for the Peer Specialist](#), Denise Camp (Broadcast on 1/30/2018)
- [Successfully Employing Peer Specialists: Framework and Tools](#), Jon Delman (Broadcast on 2/6/2018)
- [Best Practices in Peer Support Training](#), Guyton Colantuono and Clarise Bailey (Broadcast on 2/5/2018)

Job Listings

Click the job title for a description of the job.



New York City

(4 Part-Time Positions)

[Peer Community Mental Health Worker](#)

Friendship Benches NYC Department of Health
(Posted 2/11/2018)

Onondaga County

(2 Positions)

[Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite](#) [Overnight Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite](#)

(Full and Part-Time Positions Available)
Liberty Resources
(Posted 2/6/2018)

Job Listings (Continued)

Oswego County

(2 Positions)

Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite
Overnight Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite

(Full and Part-Time Positions Available)
Liberty Resources
(Posted 2/6/2018)

Statewide Position

Network Manager for a Statewide
Peer Services Independent Practice Association
Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

(Posted 1/31/2018)

Troy (2 positions)

Program Manager
Peer Support Mentor
Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

(Posted 1/31/2018)

New York

Peer Counselor (full and part-time)
ACMH, Inc.
(Posted 1/18/2018)

Rockland County

Youth Peer Advocate
Family Peer Advocate
MHA of Rockland County
(Posted 1/16/2018)

Job Openings (continued)

Oswego County

Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite
Crisis Respite Counselor – Short Term Crisis Respite

Liberty Resources
(Posted 1/16/2018)

Onondaga County

Peer Specialist – Short Term Crisis Respite – Per Diem

Liberty Resources
([Click here for Other Openings](#))
(Posted 1/16/2018)

Employers – are you seeking qualified candidates?

If you have not already done so, register your business with the New York State Department of Labor and submit your job opening to the [Dept. of Labor Job Bank](#) before submitting it to the Academy of Peer Services Virtual Community. The Governor’s [Employment First](#) initiative is tracking the number of people with disabilities who are being hired, and openings for Peer Support positions should be counted in this initiative. Once you have created a business account and submitted the job to the Dept. of Labor Job Bank, you can send the job description to us to be posted.



Submit your job openings for peer specialists or other roles in the peer workforce to:
academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

We will post your openings in the Virtual Community Job Bank (website) and in this newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunities



Community of Practice - Planning Group

Join us! We are a network of peer specialists working together to plan ways to provide support, education, and advocacy for the peer workforce in New York State.

Learn more: [Developing Communities of Practice](#)

Join the moderated Virtual Community listserv:

<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/aps-virtual-community-e/join>

(The moderator will approve your request to join.)



Supervisor Support Network

Are you a supervisor of peer specialists looking for a network of supervisors? Join us! We are supervisors who are supporting each other and learning together what it means to be a supervisor in the peer workforce.

Join the moderated Supervision listserv:

https://groups.google.com/d/forum/aps-ps_supervision_list/join

(The moderator will approve your request to join.)

Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

Alternatives 2018

Are you good at organizing events?

Join the committee that is planning this year's People's Alternatives Conference.



[Planning Committee](#)

New Choices in Recovery

**NEW CHOICES
IN RECOVERY**

STATEWIDE
PEER-TO-PEER
EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

GOOD NEWS
for Eligible Medicaid Enrollees!

ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA!

NYAPRS Statewide Peer-to-Peer Education Forum Presentations
(Ongoing Opportunities)

[More Information](#)

Directors and Program Coordinators: Do you have volunteer opportunities?
Peers with a provisional peer specialist certification are looking for a chance to gain experience
and volunteering with a peer program is a great way to get started!

Let us know if you have volunteer opportunities you are recruiting.

academy.virtual.community@gmail.com

Spread the News!

If you have job openings, resources, or announcements of events to share, send email to academy.virtual.community@gmail.com.



Visit the [Academy Virtual Community](#) to learn more.



Remember!
Save the Date!
Feb. 22 at 3:00 p.m.
Ask the Supervisors
Live Online
[Register Now](#)



Supervisors who provided subject matter expertise for the courses in the APS Supervision Track (top to bottom, left to right) Celia Brown, Jonathan Edwards, Michael Johnan, Gita Enders, Joe Woodward, Yumiko Ikuta, Maura Kelley

Some of these supervisors will join the first event... others will join future events in the series.