



## Academy of Peer Services (APS)

**2 weeks left!**

**Term 1 Closes on March 30, 2018**

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

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

## APS Virtual Community News Digest

**March 18, 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](http://www.aps-community.org)

## Featured Events

### Ask the Supervisors Live!

Thursday

**March 22, 2018**

3:00 - 4:00 PM



Join our panel of experienced supervisors for the second in a series of online dialogues by supervisors for supervisors

**Register Now**

Did you miss last month's online Ask the Supervisor Live?

[View the Recording](#)

### Ask the RAS's Live!

Wednesday

**March 28, 2018**

2:00 - 3:00 PM



Join OMH regional advocacy specialists (RAS's) who will share what they do in each of their regions and how they can be a valuable partner and resource for peer specialists.

**Register Now**

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## What's New

### Academy of Peer Services Virtual Learning Community

By Rita Cronise, Virtual Community Coordinator



Growing a community of practice is a team effort. As the research tells us, a critical factor in the success (or failure) of a community of practice is leadership.

In October 2017, the Academy of Peer Services research team held a series of workshops at the Inaugural Peer Specialist Certification Board Conference in White Plains, New York to assess the needs of peer specialists and supervisors for Academy of Peer Services course improvement and future development. In one of those workshops participants brainstormed attributes of a good leader, in relation to developing and maintaining a thriving community of practice.

The brainstorm led to a series of word cloud images, which help to illustrate what participants thought a community of practice might look like and what people are looking for in a leader.

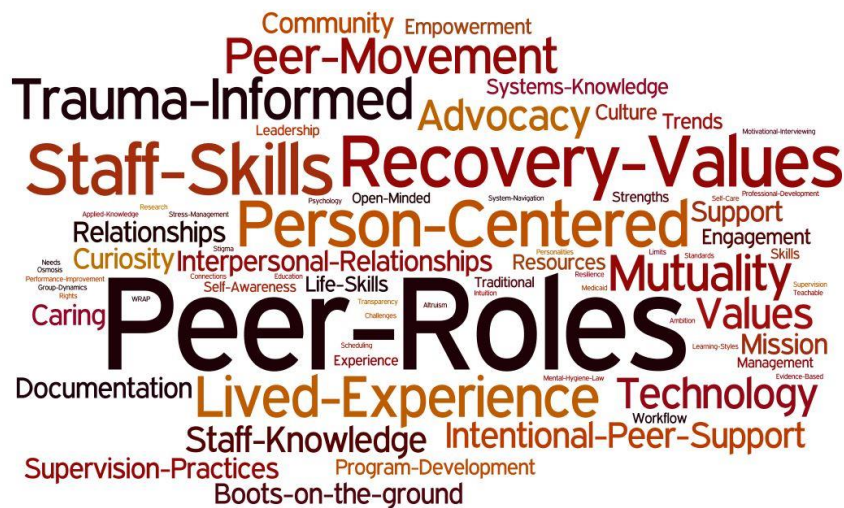
Click here to view the [report](#).

Since December, people who participated at the conference or read about the Virtual Community in this newsletter have been meeting to define “community of practice” and its priorities. In the most recent meeting, the idea of changing the name to reflect what we are trying to accomplish was brought up and the group decided *Virtual Learning Community (VLC)*, which reflects the core values of learning together and the educational mission of the Academy. Click here to view the [notes](#).

Recognition for contributions to the efforts so far go to: Amber Decker, Gita Enders, Bill Gamble, Kate Hewitt, Jim Livi, Scott MacDonald, LaVerne Miller, Valerie Momney, Kirsten Muckstadt, Antonio Munoz, Noelle Pollet, Katherine Ponte, Denise Ranaghan, Ariel Rowland, Regina Schoen, Garrett Smith, and Kathy Surline, All have been involved in some (or all) of the discussions and decisions about the future direction for the VLC.

## What's New (continued)

On a parallel path, supervisors who participated in focus groups at the October conference have continued to meet. At the October conference supervisor participants brainstormed the most essential attitudes, skills, and knowledge required by supervisors. The word cloud illustrates responses to the core (essential) knowledge that is needed by those who supervise peer specialists.



Click here to view the [report](#).

Last month, we launched **Ask the Supervisor!** a monthly online video panel presentation and Q&A that is supported by Joseph Swinford and the OMH Office of Consumer Affairs. These live and lively video conference discussions with experienced supervisors will be recorded for future viewing. A recording of last month's session is available [here](#).

This month **Ask the Supervisor Live!** features Celia Brown, Gita Enders, and Scott MacDonald on March 22, at 3:00 p.m. Click here to [register](#).

At the end of this month we launch a (parallel) monthly **Ask the...** Live event. On March 28, at 2:00 p.m. OMH Regional Advocacy Specialists (RASs) will talk about what they do, how they support peer specialists and then answer any questions. Click here to [register](#).

The series of monthly online panel presentations and Q&As are still under development. Your input is welcome! Send ideas for topics, presenters, and questions to explore in these live online dialogues to [academy.virtual.community@gmail](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

Finally, a word of thanks to a faithful contributor, Howard Diamond, who has been writing and sharing his life as a peer supporter for many years. Be sure to read this month's installment on page 6 of this newsletter.

Warm wishes to you all, Rita Cronise/VLC Coordinator.

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## Deadlines!



Deadline to submit proposal

**March 21, 2018**

**Alternatives 2018**

(Washington, DC | July 29-Aug 3)

[Submit Proposal](#)



Deadline to participate

**March 30, 2018**

**Academy of Peer Services (APS) Research**

[Sense of Community survey](#)

(Participate for a chance to win a \$100 gift card)

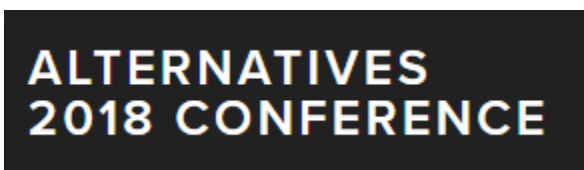


Deadline to submit

**April 13, 2018**

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual LEAF Art & Poetry Contest**  
**Oneonta, New York**

[Learn More](#)



Deadline to submit

**April 30, 2018**

**Alternatives Conference**

(2 new types of submissions)

[Nominate a Keynote](#)

[Logo Design Contest](#)

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## Articles



**Joining the Military to Beat Depression: A vet finds her way back from suicidal depression,** by Denise Ranaghan

*Originally Posted Feb 14, 2018 on Psychology Today*

On the [psychiatric](#) ward I didn't get out of bed for weeks except to pee. The bathroom had two entrances, one from my room and one from the room of the two male veterans on the other side. It stunk of stale urine. I didn't eat the meals served. I didn't attend the community meetings. I didn't respond when the psychiatrist came in and threatened to give me electric shock treatments if I didn't get out of bed. I didn't give a hoot about the female veteran who shared the room with me and was in bed almost as much as I was. I did notice that at least she ate. I didn't talk to Alberta, the nurse's aide who stood by my bedside every morning and told me I would have to get up some time. Alberta was right about that.

The afternoon came when I did raise my frail and weakened body from the hospital bed and trudge down the hall. The floors under my hospital issued foam slippers seemed very hard and cold, the lights in the hallway seemed very bright and the walls along the corridors seemed very white. Sounds of voices in the distance penetrated my eardrums as if they were coming from a loudspeaker above my head. I reached the TV room and with my slow and delayed steps shuffled over the threshold. Some guys with cigarettes hanging off their lips were playing pool and the first few times the pool stick hit the cue ball my body jolted.

Nurses' aides were huddled in a corner chattering about their personal lives: "You can't let that boy get away with that sista he ain't never gonna learn his lesson he need a daddy to whip him into shape and if he ain't got no daddy he ain't gonna know how to be no daddy...." An unshaven veteran sat hunched over on a plastic folding chair, covering his ears with the palms of his hands and tapping his fingertips on the sides of his head. Every once in a while, he would stand up straight, shake his fists in the air over his head, and proudly exclaim, "Oh yes I did. You bet your ass I did!" then sit back down, cover his ears and start tapping again. That visit to the psychiatric ward was the result my third suicide attempt in the one year...

**For the rest of the story, [click here](#).**

***About the author:** Denise Ranaghan is the Director of Peer Services at NYAPRS. She served in the Army from 1986-1989. In 1992, while an inpatient at the NYS Psychiatric Institute, Denise returned to school through the Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Program.*

## Articles (continued)

*Denise earned an Ed.M. in Psychological Counseling at Teachers College, Columbia University. Later, she pursued a license in Mental Health Counseling. From 2008-2012, Denise served as a Peer Specialist on the MHA ACT team. In 2012 she took the position of Director of Wellness Services at the MHA where she served until returning to the ACT team as Team Leader in 2016. She has held multiple positions in the mental health system including Residential Counselor, Residential Manager, Employment Specialist, and Coordinator for an Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation Treatment program. In 2018, NYAPRS welcomed Denise as the new Director of Peer Services. Denise says, "As oppressive and frustrating as organizations and institutions can be, I have personally benefitted from them and want to work to make them better. I have met some phenomenal, loving people who have helped me access resources along the way. I love the bumper sticker that says, 'I don't care what you know 'til I know that you care.'"*

*Thank you, Denise, for your service and for sharing the story of your journey to now.*

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### Changes for a March Afternoon

by Howard Diamond



In a 19th century proverb it is mentioned that, "*March comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb*". Does this mean we are lions and lambs? Of course not. We are human beings with thoughts and emotions. But as Peer Specialists are in an ever-changing cycle about the wind of change. Not, only March winds. Yes, as Bob Dylan wrote, "*The Times They Are A-Changing*".

As for our role as Peer Specialists, change is going to happen, but it will take time. Are you ready? I know I am. Most stories begin, "*Once Upon a Time*" and so does mine. Once upon a time in October 1994, I was hired as an Assistant Case Manager (ACM) for what was then called Nassau Case Management under the Department of Mental Health of Nassau County. Starting at ten hours weekly at \$4.95 per hour, I was able to keep my monthly gross income at \$198. Yes, \$198 monthly! By Social Security standards, the most I could make in any given month was \$200. Do the math, I was just under that dreaded \$200.

My job was to help the Case Managers, Intensive Case Managers (ICM) and Supportive Case Managers (SCM) with their case load. Unfortunately, in the beginning we were just gophers. Mostly grunt work. Delivery of tokens, drop this form off at Social Services or Social Security, but no good chance for interaction with the "patients". Boy, was I bored at work! However, things were about to change.

## Articles (continued)



A few months later, a new Supervisor took over and she did not like the way those of us who were Assistant Case Managers (ACMs) were being utilized. Things did change. David Bowie sang the lyrics, "*Ch-Ch-Ch changes, There's gonna have to be a different man*".



Change did happen. We were going to learn how to interact with "patients" because they are people, just like us. Then a new term was used, and people were not called "patients", but either consumers or clients. That did sound better. We are consumers of services, not products, but never the less, the word now is consumer.

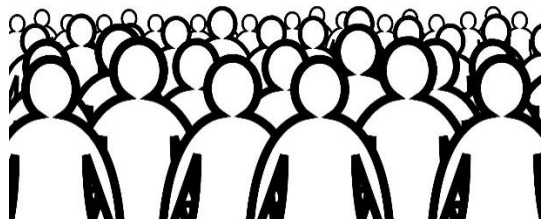
Over time, things continued to change. For me, it was more hours and an increased wage. Of course, more responsibilities. This all meant the ACM saw the same consumers more and more often to work on the same goals that either the ICM or SCM was helping them with. If the consumer needed to go out and socialize, we had funds to take to take them. If the consumer had a goal of obtaining benefits, we assisted in completing the forms necessary and accompany them on the journey. A Chinese proverb states, "*A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step*". This is very true.

What came next is adapted from Neil Armstrong's first words as he stepped on the moon, "*One small step for man and one giant leap for ACM-kind*". Change again was about to happen. About the start of February 1998, I began to work full time.

## Articles (continued)

In short order, I had a case load of my own. Within a couple of years, many of the full time ACM, also had caseloads. Those of us who were consumers ourselves were now helping other consumers be part of society because they are important, too. No, not *we the people*. Golly gee, doesn't this sound like what a Peer Specialist does. A matter of fact, it really does.

In late 2002, an organization called Consumer Link (part of the Mental Health Association of Nassau County) merged with Nassau Case Management and became a bigger Consumer Link. Now, the big change. In the process, we were called **Peer Specialists** and our experiences were considered invaluable. By 2004, Consumer Link employed 50 full and part time Peer Specialists. "*United we stand, divided we fall*" the motto of United States soldiers, was what we all tried to be. Fifty strong, we were the first people in Nassau County with the title, **Peer Specialist**. Chris Knight wrote and sang, "*It ain't easy being me*".



As a soldier, we forward march, one, two, three with one foot in front of the other. No, not the month of March (where we now are), but close. We had a lot to learn to educate ourselves about being better and vital Peer Specialists for the people we about to help. Again, not, "*we the people for the people*", but still closer. More changes were going to occur.

Over the next decade, there were many discussions of credentialing Peer Specialists all around the great New York State. What to do? So, in 2014, there began online, formal education to assist Peer Specialist do their jobs better and to become certified. This morphed into The Academy of Peer Services, which is what I write this article for and want to tell you more about.



Two years later, Provisional Certification was possible and in 2017 the New York State Certified Peer Specialist designation was a reality. As of November 2017, I officially became a full **New York State Certified Peer Specialist!**

Like they said many times at the recent award show, "*I would like to thank the Academy...*" This idea sounds and is wonderful. You too, can be certified!

As I am writing this it is March of 2018 and I think about all the changes I have had in my life. Yes, like in Julius Caesar, "*Beware the ides of March*". Most days I am weary, not only on March 15. On June 12, 2015. my significant other, Maureen died. That changed how I viewed my entire life. I am continually attempting to take it one moment at a time. This isn't always easy, but still I march ahead. Yeah, march ahead. If I can do this, everyone can try. As a vintage commercial once said, "*try it, you'll like it*".



## Articles (continued)

No, pressure, just attempt.

By the end of March, spring will (hopefully) be upon us and in New York the daylight will be getting longer and the weather (hopefully) will be warmer. March 13 would have been Maureen's birthday. Happy birthday, Sweetie. Sometimes, change can be good, but difficult. As I close today, I focus on and remember all the good times we had together. 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

*PS: I would like opinions or comments about my writings. Also, I'm looking for future suggestions to write about. You can write to me at [hdiamond15@gmail.com](mailto:hdiamond15@gmail.com).*

Send personal articles or blogs about  
your life as a Peer Specialist or Supervisor for inclusion in the VLC to:  
[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next publication is March 30, 2018.

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## Upcoming Events



### Webinar

March 20, 2018

2:00 p.m. Eastern

Diversion & Access to MH Services in Prisons and Jails  
SAMHSA and the National Disability Rights Network

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events (Continued)



### Westport, NY

March 21, 2018

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Central New York Regional Communication Meeting

Topic: Social Security Benefits/Family Advocacy

Hosted by Elizabeth Patience

[Learn More](#)



### Bring it Home | Albany

March 21, 2018

11:00 a.m. Eastern

NAMI Legislative Day in Albany and Campaign

[Learn More](#)



**This Mind of Mine Peer Support Group**  
"Life is Never Linear"



### Syracuse

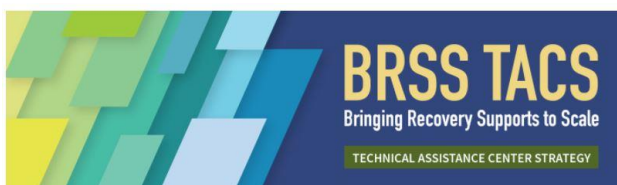
March 21, 2018

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Eastern

NAMI | This Mind of Mine Peer Support Group

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month

[Learn More](#)



**Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy**

### Recovery Live

March 22, 2018

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Shared Decision Making in the Treatment of Mental Illness and Opioid/Substance Use

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events (Continued)

### Ask the Supervisor - Live

March 22, 2018

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Academy of Peer Services | Virtual Learning Community  
Live Dialogue with Experienced Supervisors of Peer Specialist

[Learn More](#)

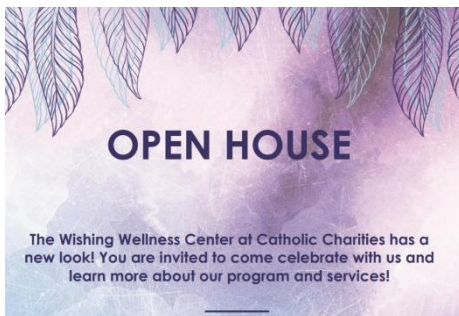
### Westport, NY

March 22, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Best Practices in Effectively Integrating Peer Staff  
into the Workforce with Elizabeth Patience

[Learn More](#)



### Cortland, NY

March 22, 2018

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Eastern

Wishing Wellness Center Open House

[Learn More](#)

### Optum-Sponsored Webinar

March 23, 2018

12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Culture, Inclusion and Micro-aggressions in Peer Support

with Cathy Cave

[Learn More](#)



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

## Upcoming Events (Continued)



### Roxbury, NY | Film Screening

March 25, 2018

2:00 p.m. Eastern

Roxbury Arts Group | Feature Film: **CRAZY**

[Learn More](#)



### Herkimer

March 26, 2018

12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Focus Group for Supervisors of Peer Specialists

Academy of Peer Services research team

[Learn More](#)



### Webinar

March 27, 2018

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Building a Strong Mental Health Peer Specialist Workforce

with Sheila Hall-Prioleau and Sheryl Newton

Doors to Wellbeing – Last Tuesday Webinar

[Learn More](#)



### Ask the RAS's

March 28, 2018

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Live Dialogue with OMH Regional Advocacy Specialist

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events (Continued)



### Oneonta

March 27 and 28, 2018

9:30 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Free 2-Day WRAP Seminar

Mt. View Wellness Center

[Learn More](#)



### Batavia

March 29, 2018

12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Focus Group for Supervisors of Peer Specialists

Academy of Peer Services research team

[Learn More](#)



### Mt. Vernon

March-May 2, 2018

Tues-Wed each week

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Graduation May 2, 2018



The Mental Health Empowerment Project Presents:

[Free Peer Specialist Training](#)

*Pre-registration is required*



Discover Your Power

[Check out the new NEC website here.](#)

### Webinar

March 30, 2018

2:00 p.m. Eastern

National Empowerment Center

Healing from Crisis (indigenous peoples)

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events (Continued)

Dual Recovery  
Project



### Binghamton

**April / May Calendar of Free Events**

Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) Dual  
Recovery

[Learn More](#)



### Geneva, NY

**April 5-6, 2018**

**Two Day Free Seminar on How to Get SSI, SSDI,  
Medicaid and other Benefits Approved**

Presented by John Allen

The seminar will also be broadcast by WebEx

[Learn More](#)



### New York City

**April 4, 2018**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern**

Community Health Worker Collective

Learning Group Meetup

[Learn More](#)



### Syracuse, NY

**April 10, 2018**

**1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Trauma-Informed Care Training**

Co-facilitated by Tony Trahan and Garrett Smith

[Learn More](#)



## Oneonta, NY

April 11, 2018

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Central New York Regional Communication Meeting

Topic: Social Security Benefits/Family Advocacy

Hosted by Garrett Smith

[Learn More](#)



Temple University Collaborative on  
Community Inclusion

## Webinar

April 12, 2018

1:00 p.m. Eastern

Temple University Collaborative

Promoting Participation in Community Life - Richard Baron

[Learn More](#)



The Mental Health Empowerment Project Presents:

## Troy

April 25-June 14, 2018

Wed-Thurs each week

9:00 am-4:00 pm

**Free Peer Specialist Training**

Pre-registration is required.

Call 518-434-1393 or email: [tstevens@mhepinc.org](mailto:tstevens@mhepinc.org)



## Albany

April 19 and 20, 2018

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Executive Seminar

Albany Hilton

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events (Continued)



**Washington, DC**

**April 23-25, 2018**

**National Council for Behavioral Health**

[Learn More](#)

**HA-HA**  
**Healthy Alternatives through**  
**Healing Arts**

**Buffalo**

**April 27, 2018**

**8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthy Alternatives through**  
**Healing Arts (HAHA) Conference**

[Learn More](#)



**Oneonta**

**April 27, 2018**

*Opening Gala / Cano Gallery*

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual LEAF Art & Poetry Contest**  
**Oneonta, New York**

[Learn More](#)

**Date: 05/3/2018**

**Time: 10:00a-1:00p**

**Mental Health Awareness**  
**★ Informational Fair & ★**  
**6th Annual Flash Mob**

**Buffalo**

**May 3, 2018**

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness Fair &**  
**Flash Mob**

[Learn More](#)



## Upcoming Events (Continued)



### Calgary, Alberta

May 7-8, 2018

**National Conference on Peer Support**  
Peer Support Canada

[Learn More](#)



### Syracuse, NY

May 8, 2018

**Northeast Behavioral Health Conference**

[Learn More](#)



### Oneonta

June 8, 2018

*Artwork Displayed at 5-Star Subaru*

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual LEAF Art & Poetry Contest**  
Oneonta, New York

[Learn More](#)



### Washington, DC

June 14-16, 2018

**2018 Conference: Fit for the Future**  
Mental Health America

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events (Continued)

### Denver, Colorado

June 15-18, 2018

### 41<sup>st</sup> 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

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Working Peer Specialist Conference

New York University

Kimmel Center

(Details will be provided as they become available)



### Washington, DC

July 29-August 3, 2018

### The People's Alternatives Conference 2018

Catholic University of America

[Learn More](#)



## Upcoming Events (Continued)



### Washington, DC

August 6-8, 2018

**Mental Health National Youth Convergence**

Doors to Wellbeing TAC – Dream Team

[Learn More](#)



### Ellenville

September 12-14, 2018

**NYAPRS Annual Conference**

Honor's Haven (new location)

[Learn More](#)



### Albany

September 20-21, 2018

**New York State Suicide Prevention Conference**

The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center

[Learn More](#)



### Baltimore

September 26-29, 2018

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

*Holiday Inn Inner Harbor*

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events (Continued)



### Houston

November 28-30, 2018

World Federation for Mental Health  
International Trauma Summit

[Learn More](#)



### Orlando

December 3-5, 2018

International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)  
**Reinforcing our Roots: Designing our Future**  
DoubleTree (Hilton) at the Entrance of Universal Studios

Details coming soon

What's new in your region?  
Is there an event that should be listed but isn't?



Send your Announcements for the Virtual Learning Community to:

[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

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## Research

### Help Connect the Dots! (Deadline is March 30)



One of the projects of the Academy of Peer Services (APS) is to create a Virtual Community of Practice to provide 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.

In January of 2018, we (researchers within the Academy of Peer Services) launched an online study to investigate the sense of community in different roles and areas of the peer support workforce.

We need your help to connect the dots of community in the peer support workforce, particularly the sense of belonging (locally, regionally, and statewide) of those who work in different areas of the state and fill different roles within the workforce.

**Please share this survey with those— in any role – in the peer workforce.** In addition to those providing direct peer support services, we'd like to hear from supervisors, program coordinators, administrators, directors and anyone else who has a role to play in peer-delivered support and services.

### Help Spread the Word! Share this Survey with Others!

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APS\\_SOC-01](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APS_SOC-01)

*(There is a drawing for a \$100 gift card for one lucky participant. It might even be you!)*

To learn more about getting involved, with the Virtual Learning Community and Peer Research, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

## Research (continued)

The Opening Doors Program and Research Study is looking for participants!



The purpose of this study is to test whether a new career guidance intervention called Opening Doors can improve employment outcomes for individuals diagnosed with psychiatric conditions. Eligible participants for this study are adults with psychiatric conditions, who are currently not in full-time school or full-time jobs and would like to develop a career plan in line with their interests, values and goals. Interested individuals are learn more about us through the [Opening Doors website](#) or email us at: [umillner@bu.edu](mailto:umillner@bu.edu)

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## New Resources

### Recommended Webinars and Videos (Archived)



### Recorded Videos and Webinars

- [Criminal Justice, the ADA & People with Mental Health Conditions](#) With Mark Murphy and Elizabeth Jones (Broadcast 2/26/18)
- SAMHSA Webinar: [Making the Case for the Value of Peers](#) (Broadcast on March 23, 2017) ([Presentation Handout](#))
- [New York State Office of Mental Health Series on Behavioral Health Community Based Managed Care](#) Playlist of brief educational videos (Health Homes, Care Management, HCBS, HARP, and more)
- [Moving Along to Employment](#). 30 Second Trainings by the Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Separate training for Individuals in Recovery, Family Members, Providers of Service, and Employers.

## New Resources (continued)

### Recent Research Publications

- [The Global Need for Lived Experience Leadership](#)  
*Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal (2018)*
- [The Health and Recovery Peer \(HARP\) Program: A Peer-Led Intervention to Improve Medical Self-Management for Persons with Serious Mental Illness](#)  
*Psychiatric Services Online (2018)*
- [Defining Peer Roles and Status Among Community Health Workers and Peer Support Specialists in Integrated Systems of Care](#)  
*Psychiatric Services (2017)*

### Historical Publications

- Discovering, Recovering, and Celebrating Psychiatric Consumer/Survivor History - [Part 3: In Our Own Voice: African-American Stories of Oppression, Survival and Recovery in Mental Health Systems](#) by Vanessa Jackson.

### Creative Arts and Storytelling

- [StoryCorps](#) – the award winning story, the TED Talk, and the app.
- [Memoir Magazine](#) – “flooding the world with stories that need to be told.”
- Disability Rights New York (DRNY)
  - Share your Story ([mystory@drny.org](mailto:mystory@drny.org))
  - Open Call for Artists ([submissions@drny.org](mailto:submissions@drny.org))



## Resources

### National Peer/Recovery/Consumer News

alphabetical order

Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery

[Newsletter](#)

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)

Peer Leadership Center [Newsletter](#) | Take the PLC video [3 minute tour](#)

Intentional Peer Support (IPS)

[Newsletter](#)

International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS)

[Newsletter](#)

Mental Health Recovery (WRAP)

[Webinars](#)

National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse

[The Key Update \(Newsletter\)](#)

What are the trends in peer support and supervision?  
Is there a publication, webinar, website, or national newsletter that  
should be listed here but isn't?

Let us know...



**Send recommended Resources for the Virtual Learning Community to:**

[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

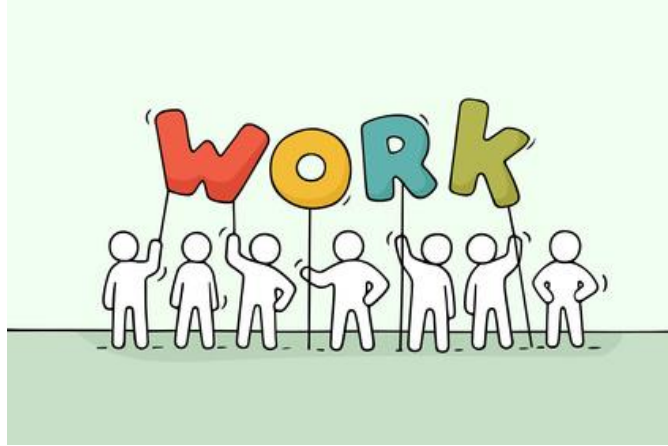
The deadline for the next publication is March 30, 2018.



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## Job Listings

Click the job title for a description of the job.



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**Bronx, NY**

**[Peer Wellness Coach \(Part-Time\)](#)**

Acacia Network  
(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Middletown, NY**

**[Peer Specialist](#)**

ACCESS: Supports for Living  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**New York, NY**

**[Overnight Peer Counselor \(Part-Time\)](#)**

Garden House Respite  
ACMH, Inc.  
(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Riverhead, NY**

**[Peer Specialist](#)** –

Peer Run Recovery Center East  
Association for Mental Health & Wellness  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Syracuse, NY**

**[Peer Specialist](#) Crisis Respite – Relief**

AccessCNY  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

**Buffalo, NY**

**Peer Advocate**

BestSelf Behavioral Health

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Morrisonville, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist**

Behavioral Health Services, North, Inc.

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

CASES

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Peer Specialist - FACT**

CASES

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Fulton, NY**

**Peer Specialist – Home and Community-Based Services**

Catholic Charities of Oswego County

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Yaphank, NY (Long Island)**

**Peer Specialist**

Catholic Health Services of Long Island

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Rochester, NY**

**Education and Outreach Specialist**

Center for Disability Rights

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Hicksville, NY**

**Certified Peer Specialist (CCBHC)**

Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Saranac Lake, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist**

Citizen Advocates, Inc / Northstar Family of Services

(Posted 2/15/18)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

**Syracuse**

**Integration Team Peer Specialist**

CNY Services, Inc.

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**Newark, NJ**

**Resource Specialist**

Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSP-NJ)

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

Community Access

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Director of Peer Informed Practice**

Community Access

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Forensic Peer Specialist**

Community Access

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Senior Respite Worker**

Community Access

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Support Line Operator**

Community Access

(Posted 3/1/18)

**New York City**

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**Director of Peer-Informed Practice**

(Bilingual Spanish/English Preferred)

Community Access

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Brooklyn, NY**

**Peer Navigator**

Community Healthcare Network

(Posted 3/1/18)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

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**Hauppauge, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

EAC Network

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Rochester, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist**

(Part-time and Full-time)

East House

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Garden City, NY**

**Family Peer Advocate (Nassau Co.)**

Family and Children's Association

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Long Island, NY**

**Peer Specialist/Recovery Coach (Full Time)**

**Peer Specialist/Recovery Coach (Part Time)**

Family and Children's Association

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Holbrook, NY**

**Family Peer Advocate (Suffolk Co.)**

Family and Children's Association

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**North Babylon, NY (Suffolk Co.)**

**Peer Engagement Specialist**

Fedcap Rehabilitation Services

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Nassau & Suffolk Co.**

**Peer Specialists (Full-Time and Part-Time)**

Federation of Organizations

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Long Island**

**Peer Specialist**

Federation of Organizations

(Posted 3/1/18)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

### Massapequa Community Residence

#### Peer Specialists

Federation of Organizations  
(Posted 3/1/18)

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### Long Island

(Mobile Residential Support & Residential Transitional Services Team)

#### Peer Specialists

Federation of Organizations  
(Posted 3/1/18)

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### Clifton Springs, NY, US

#### Peer Specialist

FLACRA  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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### New York City

(4 Part-Time Positions)

#### Peer Community Mental Health Worker

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

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### LeRoy

#### Peer Specialist (Part-Time)

Genesee ACE Employment Services  
(Posted 3/16/18)

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### Astoria, NY

#### Assistant Program Director – Peer Advocacy Leadership (PAL)

Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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### Astoria, NY

#### Peer Advocate

Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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### Astoria, NY

#### Peer Specialist (Home & Community Based Services)

Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ  
(Posted 3/1/18)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

**Brooklyn, NY**

**Certified Peer Specialist**

HeartShare Human Services of New York

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Brooklyn, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

Institute for Community Living

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Young Adult Peer Mentor, Walton House**

Jericho Project

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Veteran Peer Mentor, Walton House**

Jericho Project

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Veteran Service Coordinator, Walton House**

Jericho Project

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Manhattan**

**Peer Specialist**

Jewish Board (JBFCs)

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

Jewish Board

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Geneva, NY**

**Forensic Peer Specialist**

Lakeview Health Services

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Macedon, NY**

**Peer**

Lakeview Health Services

(Posted 2/15/18)

## Job Listings (Continued)

**Oneida, NY**

**Peer Specialist – Overnight (Per Diem)**

Liberty Resources

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**Syracuse, NY**

**Peer Specialist – Overnight (Per Diem)**

Liberty Resources

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist**

Mental Health Association of NYC

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**New York, NY**

**Peer Support Supervisor**

Mental Health Association of NYC

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**Binghamton**

**Recovery Specialist**

Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**Tarrytown, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist (Per Diem)**

Mental Health Association of Westchester

(Posted 3/1/18)

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**White Plains, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist (Part-Time)**

Mental Health Association of Westchester

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**Statewide Position**

**Network Manager for a Statewide**

**Peer Services Independent Practice Association**

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

(Posted 2/11/2018)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

### Troy

(2 positions)

[Program Manager](#)

[Peer Support Mentor](#)

Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

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### Buffalo

[Peer Support Specialist](#)

(Multiple openings)

Mental Health PEER Connection

(Posted March 8, 2018)

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### Schenectady

[Peer Specialist – ACT Team](#)

(Part-Time)

Mohawk Opportunities

(Posted March 16, 2018)

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### Queens, NY

[Peer Specialist](#)

[– Queens Supervised Release Program](#)

NYC Criminal Justice Agency

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### New York, NY

[Managed Care Peer Bridger](#)

NYAPRS

(Posted 3/1/18)

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### Queens and Suffolk Counties

[Managed Care Peer Bridgers \(Part-Time\)](#)

NYAPRS

(Posted 3/1/18)

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### New York, NY

[Program Specialist,](#)

[Office of Rehabilitation/Bureau of Mental Health](#)

NYC Dept of Health/Mental Hygiene

(Posted 3/1/18)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

**New York, NY**

**[Peer Counselor – Level I](#)**

(3 positions available)

NYC Health + Hospitals

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**New York, NY**

**[Peer Counselor – Level II](#)**

NYC Health + Hospitals

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**Long Island**

**[Regional Advocacy Specialist](#)**

New York State Office of Mental Health

(Posted March 1, 2018)

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**Buffalo, NY**

**[Peer Specialist](#)**

Restoration Society, Inc.

(Posted 3/118)

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**Brooklyn, NY**

**[Peer Specialist](#)**

Services for the Underserved (SUS)

(Posted 3/16/18)

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**Brooklyn, NY**

**[Peer Specialist \(Part Time\)](#)**

Services for the Underserved (SUS)

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Brooklyn, NY**

**[Peer Specialist – Family Peer Advocate](#)**

Services for the Underserved (SUS)

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Buffalo, NY**

**[Health Home Care Coordinator](#)**

Spectrum Human Services

(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Syracuse, NY**

**[Peer Specialist – Reentry Program](#)**

Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare

(Posted 2/15/18)

## Job Listings (Continued)

### **Syracuse, NY**

#### **Lead Peer Specialist**

Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### **Central, NY**

(Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Madison, and Oswego Counties)

#### **Peer Specialist**

Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### **Harlem, NY**

#### **Recovery Peer Specialist**

The Fortune Society

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### **Utica, NY**

#### **Peer Advocate-Mobile Crisis Assessment Team**

The Neighborhood Center, Inc.

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### **Brooklyn, NY**

#### **Peer Specialist (3 positions)**

The Salvation Army

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### **Brooklyn, NY**

#### **Peer Specialist**

The Salvation Army

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### **Ithaca, NY**

#### **Mental Health Peer Specialist**

Unity House of Cayuga Co.

(Posted 3/16/18)

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### **Troy, NY**

#### **Peer Specialist - PROS**

Unity House of Troy

(Posted 2/15/18)

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### **Jamestown, NY**

#### **Peer Support Specialist**

Venture Forthe

(Posted 2/15/18)

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## Job Listings (Continued)

**Buffalo/Niagara, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist**

Venture Forthe  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Bath, NY**

**Peer Support Specialist**

Venture Forthe  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Jamaica, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

(Women's Shelter)  
Volunteers of America  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Queens, NY (ACT Team)**

**Peer Specialist**

WellLife Network  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Island Park, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

WellLife Network  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Bronx, NY**

**Peer Specialist**

Westhab, Inc.  
(Posted 3/16/18)

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**Buffalo, NY, US**

**Mobile Transition Support Peer**

WNY Independent Living, Inc. (Niagara County)  
(Posted 2/15/18)

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**Buffalo, NY, US**

**Peer Support Specialist**

WNY Independent Living, Inc. (Niagara County)  
(Posted 3/16/18)

## **Job Seekers** – are you still looking for a job?



If you live in or near New York City, look up the Peer Job Board on the Coalition for Behavioral Health site: [http://www.coalitionny.org/the\\_center/jobs/](http://www.coalitionny.org/the_center/jobs/)

## **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](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

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

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# Volunteer Opportunities



## Virtual Learning Community

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 – view this the slides from this presentation: [Developing Communities of Practice](#)

**Join us!**

Sign up for the Virtual Learning Community listserv:

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

(The moderator will approve your request to join.)

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## Supervisor Network

Are you a supervisor of peer specialists looking for a network of supervisors?

**Join us!**

We are a network of those who supervise peer workers who are supporting each other and learning together what it means to be a supervisor in the peer workforce.

Sign up for the Supervision listserv:

[https://groups.google.com/d/forum/aps-ps\\_supervision\\_list/join](https://groups.google.com/d/forum/aps-ps_supervision_list/join)

(The moderator will approve your request to join.)

## Alternatives 2018

Are you good at organizing events?  
Join the committee that is planning this year's People's Alternatives Conference.



### Planning Committee

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#### **Employers / Directors and Program Coordinators:**

Are you in or near New York City?  
Are you considering hosting a peer support intern?

Here's a great example...

The **ThriveAtWork Peer Specialist training program** is supporting students in completing 12-week internships delivering mental health peer support at a human service agency. Each intern will be trained in the essential components of peer support work. The internship portion of the ThriveAtWork training is intended to further the workplace readiness and practical application of learned skills with the support of the internship site.

Learn more about this program here:

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

## **Employers 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!

Send an email with a description if you have volunteer opportunities.

We will post them with your contact information here.

[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

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## Spread the News!

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.

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### Save the Date!

March 22 at 3:00 p.m.



Ask the Supervisors  
Live Online

[Register Now](#)



### Save the Date!

March 28 at 2:00 p.m.



Ask the RASs  
Live Online

[Register Now](#)