



Virtual Community News Digest | **January 16, 2019**

Mark Your Calendar for these featured events!

(View our online calendar for many other events that are happening!)

New York City

Thursday, January 17, 2019

12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Community Access Hiring Event

RSVP Required by January 15.

[Learn More](#)

[View Flyer for Open Positions](#)

New York City

Friday, January 18, 2019

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Job Fair

Baltic Street

[Learn More](#)

New York City

February 9, 2019

Institute for the Development of Healing Arts (IDHA)

[Supporting Those Affected By](#)

[Suicide:](#)

[Myths, Challenges, and](#)

[Collaborative Approaches](#)

Statewide Teleconference

February 11, 2019

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

NYS Office of Mental Health

Office of Consumer Affairs

Recipient Advisory Committee (RAC)

For more, contact your [Regional Advocacy Specialist](#)

Statewide Legislative Day

February 26, 2019

22nd Annual Legislative Day

NYAPRS

[Learn More](#)

Contents

DEADLINES.....	4
ARTICLES.....	5
RESEARCH.....	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	10
RESOURCES.....	15
JOB FAIRS.....	17
JOB LISTINGS.....	17
APS VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY.....	19

A Letter from the Virtual Learning Community Coordinator, Rita Cronise



Dear Participants and Friends,

Welcome to the first News Digest of the new year. This is a summary of upcoming events, articles, research opportunities, resources, job openings and more for the peer workforce in New York State. This monthly newsletter is part of the Virtual Learning Community (VLC) which is a project of the Academy of Peer Services.

Visit our site: www.aps-community.org

For those of you taking courses in the Academy of Peer Services, we are now in the 2nd week of the 12-week Term 1, which will end on March 29, 2019. Among the updates for this term are a new course on Self-Care and a multicultural revision to the History of the Peer Support Movement course, which is due to be re-released in the next week.

Among the planned continuing learning opportunities are:

- Monthly Webinars
- Bi-Weekly Networking Meetings
- Weekly Online Support Groups for Peer Specialists and Supervisors
- Daily Chats on the For Like Minds Social Media Platform

The schedule is still being finalized, so watch for these opportunities to connect and learn in the coming weeks. We look forward to your input and participation in these planned virtual events! To sign up for our Virtual Learning Community mailing list (to get announcements between newsletters), [click here](#).

What's New?

Looking for Answers to APS Course Questions?

The Virtual Learning Community website has a few resources to help you get started or to give you tips if you get stuck.



[Online User Guide](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

There is also now a Q&A Forum in the [For Like Minds](#) connection platform where you can ask questions about APS courses. For more, sign up at [For Like Minds](#).

Looking for In-Person Academy of Peer Services Preparation Classes?



Contact your OMH Regional Advocacy Specialist (RAS) to see if there is a class near you.

- Central Office, Albany Regina.Shoen@omh.ny.gov
- Western Region Robert.Dempsey@omh.ny.gov
- Central Region Garrett.Smith@omh.ny.gov
- Mid-Hudson Region Leila.Clark@omh.ny.gov
- New York City Celia.Brown@omh.ny.gov
- New York City Digna.Quinones@omh.ny.gov

Do you offer in-person preparation classes for the Academy of Peer Services? Or do you know of an organization that does? If so, let us know. We'll list your program on the Virtual Community site and in our next newsletter.

Deadline for submissions, February 1, 2019.

Deadlines



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**Deadline to apply: January 25, 2019**

Rochester Peer Academy (Live)  
Winter Term 2019: February 5 – April 4th

**Application**

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Deadline: January 29, 2019

Register to attend the Jan 31 Open Policy Session of the National Advisory
Mental Health Council (NAMHC)

Application

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**Deadline: January 31, 2019**

BRSS TACS Capacity Building Opportunity

**Application**

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Deadline: February 22, 2019

SAMHSA GAINS Center Trauma-Informed Responses Train-the-Trainer

Application

~~~~~

**Deadline: March 11, 2019**

Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
Crisis Center

**Follow-Up Expansion Grant Program**



**Howie The Harp Peer Training Program  
Application deadline for Fall 2019**

**May 10, 2019**

[Download application packet](#)

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## Articles

### **One Person Can See Positive, Can You?**

By Howard Diamond

As 2018 became 2019, we reflect on a year like most years, has had some good and some bad. When this occurs, what is our gaze going to be? Being a realist, I aim to focus on mostly positive things that have happened and not dwell on the extreme (and not so extreme) negative events that shaped our lives. Yes, I know that it is not always easy, but I do what I can to be and feel that way the majority of the time.

Of course, I am just one person that writes from Long Island in the State of New York one of the fifty states located in the United States of America that is part of three countries from North America... and so on and so forth. One gets the picture. At least, I hope so. Each person sees and observes what it wants to look at and in their own style. Different strokes for different folks!

**Hey, what color is your parachute?**

Before the end of the past year, many people made resolutions. Has anyone kept theirs? Personally, I did not make any. Take it from me, or maybe not. It is better to strive for the overall betterment of

oneself and for person kind. Remember, last month many of us sung about good will to all. If you don't remember, shame on you. Forge ahead and do this every day, in every week in every month in every year, not only around a particular holiday (however you observe them).

If every individual cares a little more about someone else, peace and good will can be achieved. Yes, I realize that I am being extremely optimistic about this. Slow down and neutralize that optimism. It might be contagious. We cannot have that spreading to the entire world. This is the "realist" thinking.

Seriously, it does start with just one person. Possibly, peace and good will is just a thought. Yeah, and what a good thought to use on everyone. Smile, it is OKAY to be this way. Try it out and see what transpires. Comments anyone, please submit!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019.** See you in the Newsletter.

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

Send personal articles or blogs about your life as a Peer Specialist or Supervisor of Peer Specialists to: [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next publication is Feb 1, 2019.

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## Research



### Participate in Research!

#### **New Virtual Group Is Launched to Advance Peer Research Capacity, Leadership, and Involvement**

Nev Jones, Ph.D., and Emily Cutler, a doctoral candidate, have launched a new listserv dedicated to building research capacity, leadership, and involvement among peers, survivors, and service users. Dr. Jones, assistant professor, Department of Mental Health Law & Policy, University of South Florida, was part of the team that developed “User/Survivor Leadership & Capacity Building in Research: White Paper on Promoting Engagement Practices in Peer Evaluation/Research (PEPPER),” published by the Lived Experience Research Network.

For the white paper, [click here](#).

Anyone interested in joining the virtual group can email Nev at [nev.inbox@gmail.com](mailto:nev.inbox@gmail.com).

## UK Researcher, Together with World Dignity Project, Seeks Your Input on “Patient Experience”

If you “have ever consulted a medical professional about a mental health or psychological issue,” you are invited to participate in “a study about the patient experience relating to mental health.” The researcher, Claire Brooks, writes: “The results of this study will be used to open up important discussions with Mental Health Professionals about how to create dignity in patient experience, relating to mental health. The study asks you to tell me about two patient experiences relating to mental health. You can tell your story in writing online or by posting a 2-3 minute video from your mobile phone. We will also ask for your own opinions on how the patient experience can ensure dignity...”

For more information and/or to participate, [click here.](#)

*Thanks, to Susan Rogers and The Key Update; Global Mental Health Peer Network Newsletter, via Elizabeth R. Stone*

### Digest of Articles on Criminal Justice and Mental Health

Each issue of the Key Update; Mental Health Consumers’ Self-Help Clearinghouse publishes a digest.



Thank you to Susan Rogers for compiling a digest of articles related to Criminal Justice and People with Mental Health Conditions.  
To view the latest list, visit [The Key Update.](#)



## What is the Evidence for Peer Support?

The DBSA Peer Leadership Center has a list of research studies and a video that describe the evidence for peer support. Visit this page on the site.

### [The Evidence for Peer Support](#)



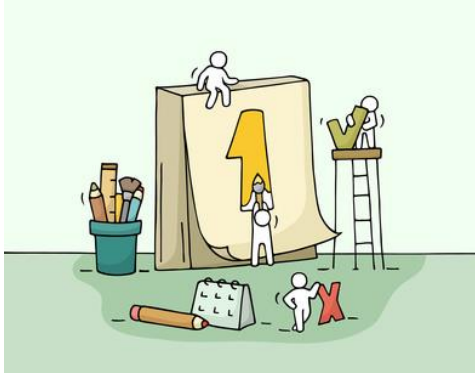
For more research posted in the Virtual Learning Community, [click here](#).

Do you have research or articles to share with the peer support workforce?  
Send them to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

The deadline for the next publication is February 1, 2019.

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## Calendar of Events



The Virtual Learning Community online calendar is regularly updated to include upcoming events.

<https://aps-community.org/calendar/>

If you have (or know of) an event to share with the peer support workforce community, send an email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

### Words of Wellness – Calendar for January 2019

The following excerpt is from a monthly newsletter from Collaborative Support Programs of NJ – Co-Editors: Peggy Swarbrick and Pat Nemec.

The New Year is a time to reflect on what has been and what the future may bring. We reminisce, make plans, and start fresh with our New Year's Resolutions. We hope during 2019 we can continue to provide you useful information and resources to enhance your wellness and for you to use to support others in becoming their best selves.

Not every culture or tradition celebrates the New Year on January 1. We love holidays, so add these additional New Year's Days to your 2019 calendar:


- January 14: Orthodox New Year (Russia)
- February 5: Lunar New Year
- March 7: Nyepi, Day of Silence (Bali)
- March 21: Nowruz (Iran)
- April 6: Ugadhi (Southern India)
- April 14: Aluth Avurudda (Sri Lanka)
- April 14: Puthandu (Tamil Nadu, India)
- September 1: Awal Muharram (Islam)
- September 30: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- October 27: Diwali (Hindu)

Create your own calendar for this year! We heard from some readers about some calendars with some daily suggestions that we think can boost wellness. For more, [Click Here](#).

**Featured Events**  
**– MARK YOUR CALENDAR / SAVE THE DATES**

|                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>White Plains</i></b></p>                                     | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 16, 2019</b><br/>5:30-8:30 pm<br/><b>Alternatives to Suicide Groups:<br/>An Overview</b><br/>White Plains Public Library Auditorium<br/>100 Main Street, White Plains, NY<br/><a href="#"><u>Learn More</u></a></p>                                                                 |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Schenectady</i></b></p>                                      | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 16, 2019</b><br/>1:00 – 4:00 pm<br/><b>Regional New Hire Orientation<br/>NYAPRS</b><br/><a href="#"><u>Learn More</u></a></p>                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Putnam/Westchester</i></b></p>                               | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 16, 2019</b><br/>1:30 – 3:30 pm<br/><b>NYAPRS Regional Forum to Prep for<br/>Legislative Day</b><br/>Registration Required<br/>email: <a href="mailto:acarroll@covecarecenter.org"><u>acarroll@covecarecenter.org</u></a></p>                                                       |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>National Online Dialogue<br/>(Boston University)</i></b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 16, 2019</b><br/>2:00-3:00 pm<br/>National Resource Center on<br/>Employment (Boston University)<br/><b>Ask Me Anything about Employment with<br/>Debbie Nicolellis</b><br/>This is a free interactive<br/>question &amp; answer webinar.<br/><a href="#"><u>Learn More</u></a></p> |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><i>New York City</i></b><br/><b><i>(Community Access)</i></b></p>          | <p><b>Thursday, January 17th</b><br/>12:00 pm to 3:30 pm<br/><b>Community Access Hiring Event</b><br/>Peer Bridgers and Senior Peer Bridgers<br/><a href="#">Learn more</a><br/><a href="#">Click for flyer</a></p>       |
| <p><b><i>New York City</i></b><br/><b><i>(CUCS Academy)</i></b></p>              | <p><b>Friday, January 18, 2019</b><br/>9:30 am – 12:30 pm<br/>Education, Wellness and Justice:<br/>A Framework for Understanding Supported<br/>Education<br/>CUCS Academy<br/><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>              |
| <p><b><i>New York City</i></b><br/><b><i>(Baltic Street)</i></b></p>             | <p><b>Friday, January 18, 2019</b><br/>10:00 am – 3:30 pm<br/>Job Fair<br/>Baltic Street<br/><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>                                                                                               |
| <p><b><i>Webinar</i></b><br/><b><i>(Social Security Administration)</i></b></p>  | <p><b>Wednesday, January 23, 2019</b><br/>3-4:30 pm Eastern<br/><b>Setting Goals with Ticket to Work</b><br/>(Work Incentive Seminar Event)<br/>To register: <a href="#">Click Here</a></p>                               |
| <p><b><i>Recovery Live Dialogue</i></b><br/><b><i>(SAMHSA BRSS TACS)</i></b></p> | <p><b>Thursday, January 24, 2019</b><br/>2 pm Eastern<br/>What Does the Data Say? Effective Use of<br/>Recovery Supports in Various Treatment<br/>and Healthcare Settings<br/>To register: <a href="#">Click Here</a></p> |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Webinar</b><br/><i>(SAMHSA Doors to Wellbeing<br/>Technical Assistance Center)</i></p>                                                                                 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, January 29, 2019</b><br/>2:00 pm Eastern<br/>Peer-Run Crisis Respite Homes: Tips for<br/>Rural Areas<br/>To register: <a href="#">Click Here</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Webcast</b><br/><b>National Advisory Mental Health<br/>Council (NAMHC)</b></p>                                                                                         | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 31, 2019</b><br/>9:00 am – 12:30 pm Eastern<br/><a href="#">National Advisory Mental Health Council</a><br/><a href="#">Open Policy Session</a><br/><a href="#">Register by noon on January 29</a> to attend<br/>live in Rockville, MD</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>New York City</b><br/><b>(Institute for the Development of<br/>Human Arts)</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 9, 2019</b><br/>10:00am- 4:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supporting Those Affected by Suicide:<br/>Myths, Challenges, and Collaborative<br/>Approaches</b><br/><b><a href="#">REGISTER</a></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statewide Teleconference</b><br/><b>(New York State Office of<br/>Mental Health -<br/>Office of Consumer Affairs)</b></p>                                              | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 11, 2019</b><br/>8:30 am – 4:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recipient Advisory Committee (RAC)</b><br/>Contact your <b>Regional Advocacy<br/>Specialist</b> for the nearest location and<br/>registration information.</p> <p>If you <b>cannot</b> attend in person, there is an<br/>online form you can use to give input.<br/>Click and then scroll down to rank subjects.<br/><a href="#">Click here</a></p> |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Albany</b><br/>(NYAPRS)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>February 26th 2019<br/>22nd Annual Legislative Day<br/>NYAPRS<br/><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>                                                                                           |
| <p><b>New York City</b><br/>(Institute for the Development of Human Arts)</p>  <p><b>IDHA</b><br/>Institute for the Development of Human Arts</p>   | <p>March 9, 2019<br/>10:00am- 4:00 pm</p> <p><b>Applying Drug Positivity and Harm Reduction to Human-Drug Relationships</b></p> <p>New York City   Manhattan<br/><a href="#">REGISTER</a></p> |
| <p><b>New York City</b><br/>(Institute for the Development of Human Arts)</p>  <p><b>IDHA</b><br/>Institute for the Development of Human Arts</p> | <p>April 6, 2019<br/>10:00am- 4:00 pm</p> <p><b>The Future of Our Movement: Communities Coming Together</b></p> <p>New York City   Manhattan<br/><a href="#">REGISTER</a></p>                 |
| <p><b>Binghamton</b><br/>(NYAPRS)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>April 8th 2019<br/>12:00 noon – 3:00 PM</p> <p><b>Regional Orientation for New Staff</b><br/>Broome County Library, Exhibit Room<br/><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>                        |
| <p><b>Albany</b><br/>(NYAPRS)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>April 16-17, 2019<br/>NYAPRS 15th Annual Executive Seminar<br/>Albany Hilton<br/><a href="#">Learn More</a></p>                                                                            |

***New York City***  
*(Howie the Harp)*

**Deadline to apply: May 10, 2019**

Howie the Harp (Fall 2019)  
New York City | Training Starts in July  
[Application](#)

Is there anything else that should be listed?

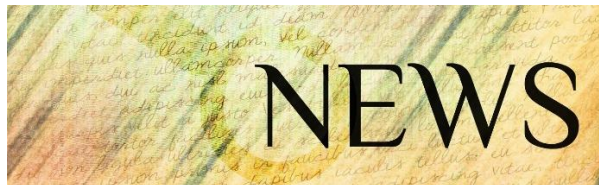
Send events of interest to the peer support workforce to the Virtual Learning Community:  
[academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next publication is February 1, 2019.

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## Resources

### Newsletters (listed in alphabetical order)



[Café TA](#)

[Care for Your Mind](#)

[Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery \(WRAP\)](#)

[Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance \(DBSA\) Peer Leadership Center](#)

[Disability Rights New York](#)

[Icarus Project](#)

[Institute for the Development of Human Arts](#)

[Intentional Peer Support \(IPS\)](#)

[International Association of Peer Supporters \(iNAPS\)](#)

[Live & Learn Services \(employment and more\)](#)

[Mad in America](#)

[MH Mediate \(conflict resolution\)](#)

[National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse](#)

[NYAPRS eNews Bulletins](#)

[Mindfreedom](#)

[This is my reality newsletter](#)

[Wellness Recovery Action Plan](#)

[Words of Wellness \(Swarbrick & Nemec\)](#)

## Resources for Supervisors



## Supervision of Peer Workers

### Introduction

Peer support services have expanded to a wide variety of behavioral health environments and within a range of program models. In addition to providing recovery support services designed to engage, activate, and support people with behavioral health conditions and their family members, peer workers are emerging as important members of treatment teams. Organizations that include peer workers and provide peer support services want to know how to best supervise peer workers and integrate them into their workforce. Because peer support services represent a relatively new service within behavioral health services, there may be too few supervisors who understand the peer role well enough to supervise peer workers. This group of resources helps supervisors understand how to supervise peer workers in behavioral health services.



[This guide and additional resources are available on the SAMHSA BRSS TACS website.](#)

**Do you have other resources to share?**

**Send items for this list to: [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)**

The deadline for the next publication is February 1, 2019.



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## Job Fairs

Each month there are a number of job fairs happening in the state. Here are two that are happening now. Even if you miss a Job Fair, you can still check in with the organizations about possible openings.

### *New York City*

Thursday, January 17, 2019

12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

**Community Access Hiring Event**

RSVP Required by January 15.

[Learn More](#)

[View Flyer for Open Positions](#)

### *New York City*

Friday, January 18, 2019

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Job Fair**

Baltic Street

[Learn More](#)

As we receive information about them, Job Fairs will also be posted in our Job Bank.

## Job Listings



## Recent Job Postings

**There are 97 listings in the job bank.**

Visit our **Job Bank** for a list of recent openings.  
The Job Bank is updated regularly. <https://aps-community.org/job-bank/>

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

## Are You Hiring Peer Support Staff?



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.

## Internships

Are you in or near New York City? The ThriveAtWork Peer Specialist training program in New York City invites your organization to host one or more FREE interns.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



## Volunteer Positions

Do you have volunteer openings that could qualify as “supervised work” experience for people with provisional certification?

Contact us so we can post your volunteer openings in our Job Bank!

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

The deadline for the next newsletter is February 1, 2019.

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## APS Virtual Learning Community

### What is the Virtual Learning Community (VLC)



The Virtual Learning Community is a project of the Academy of Peer Services that is intended to help bridge the gap between online learning and creating interactions that help peers to develop skills they can use in practice.

This newsletter is one element of the Virtual Learning Community. We also hold regular webinars, networking meetings, and will be starting online study groups for those who are taking the APS courses as well as support groups that are designed to support the peer supporters and their supervisors.

Watch next month’s newsletter for a schedule of meetings, webinars and classes.

### Join our Core Group!



If you are an experienced facilitator of peer-led meetings or groups (in person or online) and have an interest in joining our team, click the Join button below to receive an invitation to the APS Virtual Learning Community listserv (google group). You will receive announcements about upcoming meetings and various projects of the Virtual Learning Community.

**Join**

(A moderator will approve your request to join.)

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## Share this Newsletter!

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 Virtual Learning Community website: [www.aps-community.org](http://www.aps-community.org) to learn more.

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