# **Webinar References**

Peer Support Services: Peer Providers Offer Understanding, Respect, Mutual Empowerment, and Support to Others Through Their Personal Experiences, Martha Barbone and Rita Cronise, March 31, 2020

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### **Prior MHTTC Webinar Series on Peer Support**

- Fortuna, K. (2020). Part 1: The Role of Technology in Peer Support Services. Landscape of Digital Peer Support Services Across the Globe. [Webinar, Broadcast February 13, 2020]. Central East (HHS Region 3) Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC).
- Wolf, J. (2019). Part 1: Is the Past Prologue? From Insane Asylums to Peer Support Workforce. [Webinar, Broadcast June 25, 2019]. Central East (HHS Region 3) Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC).
- Wolf, J. (2019). Part 2: The Logic of Scientific Revolutions: Peer Support Workforce and Mental Health System Transformation [Webinar, Broadcast July 16, 2019]. Central East (HHS Region 3) Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC).

Wolf, J. (2019). Part 3: Chop Wood, Carry Water: Key Elements in Progressive Peer Workforce Practice [Webinar, Broadcast July 16, 2019]. Central East (HHS Region 3) Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC).

For more: Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTTC) (2020). Peer Support Workforce.

#### **Recent Articles**

Harris, L. (2020). "Not Fragile": Survivor-Led Mutual Aid Projects Flourish in a Time of Crisis. Mad in America Blog, March 30, 2020.

Howard, G. (2018). What Makes an Online Peer Support Group Helpful? Psych Central. Blog, July 8, 2018.

Spector, N. (2018). <u>Struggling to cope? An online 'mental health peer' can lend support.</u> NBC News, August 2, 2018.

## **Websites for Online Peer Support**

Academy of Peer Services, Virtual Community of Practice:

Online peer support groups | Online groups for peer support providers and supervisors

Alternatives to Suicide (Sarah Knutson Blog Spot and Support Groups): Peerly Human

Ashville, NC: <u>Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness</u>

Association for Mental Health and Wellness: Healing Connections Peer Support Groups

DBSA: Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

For Like Minds: For Like Minds

NAMI Connection: Find a Support Group

Oregon Peer Support: Peer Galaxy, Oregon's Peer Support Directory

RPLYT: Robyn Priest Live Your Truth – Support for Supporters

SCG: Support Groups Central

Western Mass RLC: Western Mass. Recovery Learning Community

## For Further Study

<u>Academy of Peer Services</u>, free online courses though the state of New York, relevant to the topic of Peer Support Services:

- The Goal is Recovery
- The Historical Roots of Peer Support Services
- Peer Delivered Service Models

- Bassman, R. (2010). The Evolution from Advocacy to Self-Determination in Swarbrick (Ed), *People in Recovery as Providers of Psychiatric Rehabilitation: Building on the Wisdom of Experience*, p 20. Linthicum, MD. United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
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  Peer Support Services for Individuals with Serious Mental Illnesses: Assessing the Evidence.

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  Developing the evidence base for peer-led services: Changes among participants following

  Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) education in two statewide initiatives. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 34(2), 113–120
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#### **Video Resources**

- Mental Health America (2017) From Asylums to Recovery. [Video 23:38 min.]
- Harding, C., Anthony, W., Chamberlin, J., & Farkas, M. (Presenters) (2001). <u>The Recovery Vision: New paradigm, new questions, new answers. An event for World Health Day 2001</u>. [Video 66:24 min.] Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Webinar. April 7, 2001.
- Harris, L. (2010). <u>Judi Chamberlin: Her life, our movement</u>. [Video 5:18 min.] National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Movement.
- The Politics of Memory (2010). Why a Politics of Memory for People with Disabilities? [Video 14:29 min.] Available through Pat Deegan's Recovery Library.



# What is Peer Support?

#### What is Peer Support?

"Peer Support" is a relationship between people with similar experiences. It is a mutually valuable exchange of hope, encouragement, connection, understanding, information and/or assistance. "I've been there" is one of the most validating and useful things a person can say or hear. In recovery movement, peer support relationships are among people who have experienced emotional distress, trauma, substance use, and/or been given a mental health diagnosis.

#### What is a Certified Peer Support Specialist?

Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS) attend a specialized training to prepare for a role in the community or behavioral health service system. Peer relationships change lives and foster recovery anywhere that people seek and give support based on shared experiences.

A CPSS has been trained to share their experiences of recovery, services and supports and to carry the message of recovery to those they support, staff, and the community. In sharing our wisdom, strength and hope with others (including people using services, behavioral health professionals and policy makers) CPSSs can significantly impact peoples' beliefs about their own capacity to recover and the capacity of others to recover.

The term peer supporter is an umbrella for many different peer support titles and roles, such as peer advocate, peer counselor, peer coach, peer mentor, peer educator, peer navigator, peer support group leader, peer wellness coach, recovery coach, recovery support specialist, family partner, and many more...

Those who provide authentic peer support believe in recovery and work to promote the values that:

- Recovery is a choice.
- Recovery is unique to the individual.
- Recovery is a journey, not a destination.
- Self-directed recovery is possible for everyone, with or without professional help (including the help of peer specialists or peer providers).

#### The National Practice Guidelines detail the core values for peer supporters.

International Association of Peer Supporters (2013). National Practice Guidelines for Peer Supporters. https://www.inaops.org/values

National Association of Peer Supporters (Revision in 2019). National Practice Guidelines for Peer Specialists *and Supervisors* <a href="https://www.inaops.org/supervision">https://www.inaops.org/supervision</a>

www.peersupportworks.org