



**The Alliance
for Rights
and Recovery**
formerly NYAPRS

Leading the Charge for Recovery, Rights and Justice!

Alliance for Rights and Recovery 42nd Annual Conference
September 25-27, 2024 Villa Roma Resort Callicoon, NY

Continuing Education credits are available for LMSW, LCSW, LMHC and CPRP. We have requested CEs for NYS Certified Peer Specialists.

Wednesday September 25, 2024

10:00 am

Conference and Hotel Registration
Multicultural Exhibition
Health, Healing & Arts Fair Open

- Acupuncture: Susan Batkin
- T'ai Chi: Bryon Abrams (invited)
- Shiatsu: Annette Kulawiak, Graziella Androne
- Reiki: Susan Sleasman
- Arts making: Gayle Bluebird:

11:30 am

Lunch and Welcome Remarks
Tracie Plouff and Luis Lopez, Conference Co-Chairs
Harvey Rosenthal CEO and Len Statham COO

1:00 pm

The Ecology of Equity: A Healing Pathway to Inclusive Environments

Forum

Dr. Ashley Stewart, Director of Health and Racial Equity,
C4 Innovations

In today's world, creating truly inclusive spaces requires more than just good intentions—it demands a deep commitment to equity and healing. Join us for this keynote, that will inspire you to see the powerful connection between equity and inclusion. Together, we'll explore how fostering equity can transform environments into thriving, supportive spaces where everyone feels valued. Join us on this journey to create a future where equity isn't just a principle—it's a pathway to a better, more inclusive world.

2:00 pm

Break

2:15 pm
Forum

ROUND 1

Peer Support as Social Change

[Shery Mead](#), Founder, and [Chris Hansen](#), Co-Director, Intentional Peer Support

This workshop will explore what fidelity to the principles of peer support involves. It will define peer support, and what makes it unique, discuss some of the historical roots and intentions behind the evolution of peer support, outline the shortcomings dangers, harms and paradoxes and possibilities lurking in the growth and evolution of peer support within clinical mental health settings. Through the lens of Intentional Peer Support, the presenters will provide a brief overview of Intentional Peer Support and offer some possibilities and conversations about what we might do differently.

East 2

Self-Direction in New York: Envisioning the Future

[Ana Schick](#), Self-Direction Resource Consultant, Community Access; [Jennifer Sutton](#), Director of Employment and Family Services, Independent Living; [Jody Gnant](#), Community Access

Self Direction is all about self-determined utilization of community resources to drive unique wellness plans that would be otherwise inaccessible. This workshop aims to introduce mental health Self Direction and its outcomes in New York and describe current efforts to expand the model across New York state. Attendees will learn about how Self Direction functions, and how it supports wellness through increasing self-determination and addressing the social determinants of health directly. Attendees will also learn about advocacy in NY state to expand the program statewide, and how they can get involved

West

Transforming Lived Experiences to Lived Expertise

[Helen Skip Skipper](#), Executive Director, NYC Justice Peer Initiative

Building from the successes of the JPI and its quest to build out the justice peer community through capacity building - this presentation explores the transformative journey of harnessing one's lived experiences and transforming them into lived expertise. It delves into the intricate process of how individuals navigate through their personal stories of challenges and resilience, to develop a deep, intuitive understanding/expertise in the field of peer support. It also acknowledges the forward-facing movement peer support has made from invalidation to being highly validated. While the concept of lived experiences has accomplished its own "breakthrough" processes, this presentation will thoroughly workshop the next level of "lived expertise" and what this concept defines using a blend of personal narratives, theoretical insights, and real-world examples. The session will ask and answer, "What does moving lived experiences to lived expertise look like for certified peer support?" In other words, "where can we go from here, and how do we get there?"

Marty's

Taking Action for Whole Health and Wellbeing

[Matthew Federici](#), CEO, Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery
Doors To Wellbeing, a program of the Copeland Center in partnership with SAMHSA

is sparking the movement with Taking Action for Whole Health & Wellbeing! This peer-led initiative combines curriculum topics and group facilitation rooted in evidence-based and experiential-based peer-to-peer strategies. Taking Action for Whole Health & Wellbeing course is a co-facilitated group process that supports individuals in creating a personalized system for recovering, sustaining, and/or improving their whole health outcomes and enhancing their lifestyle. The curriculum is based on the SAMHSA's Taking Action curriculum and other recovery publications developed with input from individuals with lived experience of recovery from mental health, addictions, and co-occurring challenges. Learn about how the topics, practices, and approaches in this program have demonstrated effectiveness through various research studies and are rolling out internationally across recovery communities including addictions, older adults, youth, inside prisons, and for organizational wellness.

East 3

Compassionate Crisis Care: Person Centered Approaches to Improve Crisis Response

[Christina Sparrock](#), Daniel's Law Task Force; [Ruth Lowenkron](#), Director of Disability Justice, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest; [Billy Gamble](#), Director of Statewide Services, Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP); [Chacku Mathai](#), Director of Crisis Systems Training Initiative at Center for Practice Innovations

This workshop will explore transformative changes needed in crisis response to better support individuals experiencing mental health and substance use crises. The presenters will discuss the integration of peer support specialists into mental health first responder teams, emphasizing the value of lived experience in providing compassionate care. Participants will also learn about the application of first aid techniques for emotional trauma, strategies to transform the way local emergency services respond to crises, and the development of non-clinical, community-based responses. This session is designed for advocates, first responders, and mental health professionals who are committed to creating more humane and effective crisis response systems.

North

Transitioning Through Peer Roles: Exploring the Peer Specialist Career Path

[Kristin Rivera](#), Systems Youth Engagement Specialist, Youth Power

In this workshop, participants will develop a thorough understanding of the various peer advocate roles including Youth Peer Advocate (YPA), Adult Peer Specialist, and Family Peer Advocate (FPA). This workshop will discuss the responsibilities and dynamics of their role and the differences between them. Discussions will explore the different and similar skills peers use to support the specific populations per the peer role. Participants will understand each role and how the peers have transitioned from working with one population to the others.

3:30 pm

Break

3:45 pm

ROUND 2

Forum

Fighting for Rights, Recovery and Peer Support Across the Nation!

[Vanessa Ramos](#), Community Organizer for Public Policy, Disability Rights California; [Braunwynn Franklin](#), Board President, National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery; Moderator: [Luke Sikinyi](#) Director of Public Policy and Engagement, The Alliance for Rights and Recovery

This empowering workshop will bring together advocates from across the country to share their battles against forced treatment, their successes in creating voluntary, community-based services, and their efforts to expand peer-run services. Attendees will learn about innovative criminal justice reforms and the ongoing fight to protect the rights of people with disabilities. This workshop will not only highlight the transformative work happening in different states but will also provide actionable steps for participants to join these critical advocacy efforts. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or new to the movement, this session will equip you with the knowledge and tools to make a meaningful impact in your community

North

The Role of Peer Support as an Indigenous Practice

[Vesper Moore](#), Chief Operating Officer and [Brenda Vezina](#), Chief Executive Officer, Kiva Centers

This workshop will explore the integration of peer support within mental health and substance use services in Indigenous communities. Presenters will highlight how peer support aligns with traditional Indigenous practices of community care and healing. Presenters will discuss essential cultural considerations necessary to successfully implement peer support services that respect and honor Indigenous traditions and values. Attendees will learn best practices for collaborating with Indigenous communities to ensure that peer support services are culturally relevant, effective, and responsive to the unique needs of these communities. This workshop is vital for anyone involved in developing or delivering mental health and substance use services in Indigenous contexts.

East 2

Assessing Organizational Readiness for Peer Support Implementation in Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

[Shannon Higbee](#), CEO, Recovery Options Made Easy; [Mona Lisa McEachin](#), Assistant Program Director, Best Self Recovery Community Center.

Prepare for successful integration of peer services in your CCBHC with our webinar, "Assessing Organizational Readiness for Peer Support Implementation in Community Mental Health Clinics," where we will guide mental health clinic leaders in evaluating their readiness to integrate peer support programs, offering practical insights and tools to ensure a successful implementation that enhances patient outcomes and clinician collaboration. Gain the knowledge and expertise needed to create a supportive environment for peer support, unlocking the full potential of your clinic's mental health services.

Marty's

Story Circles I: Wellness and Recovery (Resilience) Story Circle

[Debra Wilcox](#), CEO, Confluency Consultants; [Theresa Hall](#), Long Island Regional Coordinator, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

Wellness and Resilience Story Circles opens a space for peers, clinical providers and related community constituents with the opportunity to build community and engage in collaborative partnerships. Story Circles grant opportunities for peers who are recipients of services the freedom to share their living and lived experiences in a safe, supportive and welcoming environment. Come see how the Story Circle will open a space for participants to become actively engaged and involved in sharing their life experiences through the art of storytelling. Participants will share recovery challenges, healing wisdom, wellness journeys and the multiple ways personal goals and challenges can be worked through to heal human hurt, unlearn stigma, foster behavior change and to build sustained multicultural communities of wellness.

West

Embracing Connection: Helping Peers Understand and Overcome Loneliness in a Technology Driven World

[Taina Laing](#), CEO, [Mark Clarke](#), Deputy Director of Programs, [Modupe Mujota](#), Regional Director Adult Home Initiative, Baltic Street Wellness Solution

This workshop is intended to provide peers with the skills to support participants through their recovery while maintaining their coping abilities around loneliness. Workshop attendees will leave with a basic understanding of loneliness, impacts of technology on loneliness, some effective coping strategies, and initial steps toward recovery and community connection. Attendees will learn how to implement these strategies to effectively manage and overcome feelings of loneliness, leading to improved mental, emotional, and physical health.

East 1

Reentry from and WRAP Implementation within Carceral Settings

[Ellen Healion](#), Alliance for Rights and Recovery Director for Peer Bridger Services and Technical Assistance, [Lynn Miller](#), Director, WRAP, Advocates for Human Potential; [Kurt Danysh](#), Executive Director, Tomorrow's Neighbors; [Lee Horton](#), Freedom Horton, WRAP Coordinators, Step By Step, Inc., [Dormen Lisby](#), Program Specialist, Shining Light

The presentation will explore the benefit of peer delivered re-entry services and the benefits of implementing WRAP to prevent a crisis and to maintain wellness for individuals who are incarcerated. The presenters will look at the impact of a forensic peer bridger program and the essential role of peers in the re-entry process. They will also hear examples of how implementing the WRAP training program improves the culture within prisons and offers innovative ways to promote resiliency and self-advocacy and to prepare for reentry. Participants will also learn how implementing WRAP for employees and individuals in recovery strengthens services and improves quality of life, as well as demonstrating how the WRAP training process can be used as a preventive strategy to stay well and a proactive way to address challenges and obstacles that come up.

East 3	<p><i>Empowering Change: Youth Justice Reform and Advocacy in New York</i> Patrick Stephens, Leadership Fellow/Youth Services, Center for Community Alternatives (CCA); Precious Lugo, Statewide Youth Engagement Specialist, Youth Power; Jessi Davis, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH)</p>
	<p><i>This dynamic workshop is dedicated to the ongoing efforts to transform youth justice in New York and across the United States. This session will provide an in-depth look at current initiatives aimed at advancing youth justice reform, highlighting both successes and ongoing challenges. Participants will also explore strategies to engage more young people in advocacy, empowering the next generation to take an active role in shaping their future. Additionally, the workshop will address the unique challenges that youth face within the justice system, offering insights into how these obstacles can be overcome through collective action and informed advocacy. Whether you're a youth, advocate, or ally, this workshop will inspire and equip you to make a meaningful impact on youth justice reform.</i></p>
5:00 pm	Break
5:15 pm	DIVERSITY BASH AND FASHION SHOW
6:00 pm	DINNER
6:45 pm	Break
7:00 pm	<p><i>KEYNOTE 2: Healing Through Hip Hop</i> Luis Lopez, Director of Care Management Institute and Chacku Mathai, Director of Crisis Systems Training Initiative at Center for Practice Innovations; Christopher “Mic Handz” Rogers, Baltic Street Wellness Solutions; DJ Kareem Abdul-Nur; Alex Frisina</p> <p><i>Join us to hear the passion, personal stories, insight, and thought-provoking ideas about hip hop, its history, and how it relates to recovery, lived experience, and social justice. Workshop participants will learn from, and engage with, presenters whose lives are directly influenced by Hip Hop culture. Additionally, the presentation will discuss how Hip Hop has already been used to support healing and raise consciousness about the impact of discrimination, stigma, and inequality in our communities.</i></p>
8:00 pm	<p>PEER SUPPORT MEETINGS Veterans, LGBTQA+, Double Trouble, Mental Health, NA Zumba!</p>
9:00 pm	OPEN MIC with Michael Skinner; Board Games
9:30 pm	DANCING with DJ Jenkins

Thursday September 26, 2024

7:30 am **BREAKFAST Zumba!**

8:30 am **Round 3**

Forum ***From Stress to Strategy: Mental Health and Your Voting Power!***

[Jordyn Rosenthal](#), Director of Advocacy, Community Access; [Phyllis Vine](#), PhD, Author

Join activists Phyllis Vine and Jordyn Rosenthal for a workshop preparing people and organizations for the 2024 General Election. This workshop will cover a brief history of voting rights in the US, a discussion of how voting supports one's mental health, and examples of ways in which individuals and organizations can participate in voter mobilization efforts. Attendees will learn about voting as a social determinant of health and how to utilize tools like voting plans and hosting community conversations to prepare people for election day. The session will conclude with a Q&A and available resources.

East 2 ***Racial (In)justice and Employment***

[Paul Margolies](#), [Karen Broadway-Wilson](#), [Raymond Gregory](#), [Tomas Jewell](#), [Norman Kim](#), and [Gary Scannevin](#), Center for Practice Innovations (CPI)

This workshop is designed to examine current realities and explore ways in which we all can work towards equity and inclusion in employment. Focused discussion will examine the impact of injustice on employment focusing on the experiences of the workshop leaders and participants. Specially designed scenarios and related discussion will bring these issues to life. Beyond identifying the issues and validating experiences, we will spend time examining the path forward and ways in which each of us can play a role in improving the employment landscape for minoritized and marginalized individuals served by our mental health system.

Marty's ***Introduction to Breath-Body-Mind***

[Richard Brown](#), Co-Founder, [Dr. Patricia Gerbarg](#), Co-Founder, [Linda Lentini](#), Executive Director, Breath-Body-Mind Foundation; [Barbara Tedesco](#), United Health

Join us for an opportunity to explore evidence-based practices that enhance physical and mental health. This workshop combines didactic learning with experiential exercises, including coherent breathing, gentle movement, and imagery. Participants will gain insight into the science behind BBM, learn practical techniques for stress resilience and emotional management, and discover how to incorporate BBM practices into daily life. This session is supported by expert BBM teachers and provides

resources for continuing your BBM journey, including free sessions and advanced training opportunities.

West

The 25th Anniversary of Medicaid Billable Peer Support: Considering the Policy Impact of Implementation

[Wendy White Tiegreen](#), Director of Office of Medicaid Coordination & Health System Innovation, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health

This workshop will delve into the innovative use of Medicaid to fund peer support services for individuals with mental health and substance use challenges. Led by an experienced presenter who successfully established a Medicaid-funded peer support program in Georgia, the session will offer a detailed exploration of how state funding streams can be leveraged to create similar programs in other states. Participants will gain practical insights into the strategies and steps required to implement these services, as well as the challenges and obstacles that may arise, such as maintaining the fidelity of peer support in clinical settings. This workshop is ideal for advocates, providers, and policymakers seeking to expand peer support services through sustainable funding mechanisms.

North

Unpacking the Power of Psychiatric Advance Directives

[Matthew Federici](#), Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery; [Rayshell Chambers](#), Painted Brain; [Kiran Sahotak](#), Concepts Forward, [Pablo Sadler](#), Mental Health Medical Director, Bureau of Mental Health at New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Moderator, [Luke Sikinyi](#),

Director for Public Policy and Engagement, Alliance for Rights and Recovery
This presentation will provide a comprehensive exploration of Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs), focusing on their legal standing and the ongoing efforts to enhance their usability and legal enforceability. The session will explore how to create more support for peers to assist other people with completing PADs. Additionally, panelists will discuss the creation of a mechanism to ensure PADs are accessible across various critical settings, including emergency rooms, hospitals, jails, and prisons. Join us to learn about these pivotal initiatives and how they can improve the lives of individuals navigating the mental health system.

East 1

Advancing the Crisis Care Continuum: Innovative Models for Support and Recovery

[Raquelle Kolodny](#), Coordinator of Integrated Services, Greater Mental Health of New York; [Shannon Higbee](#), CEO, Recovery Options; [Ellen Healion](#), Director of Peer Bridger Services, Alliance for Rights and Recovery; TBA Fountain House; [Steve Miccio](#), CEO, People USA; Moderator, [Harvey Rosenthal](#), CEO, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

This expert panel includes leaders in our field with several decades of experience in crafting one of the nation's most innovative and effective crisis mental health systems. Come learn about a continuum consisting of peer led engagement, Peer Bridger services to achieve community integration, crisis drop-in centers, mobile response teams, stabilization centers, 8 and 28-day respite houses, Clubhouse programs and

New York's groundbreaking amalgamation of these services within one location, the Kirsten Vincent Respite and Recovery Center.

East 3

Building a Grassroots Demand for Trauma Informed Services

[Billy Gamble](#), Director of Statewide Services, Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

When trauma is not considered, is misunderstood or ignored, survivors may be "punished" for what staff see as being uncooperative or non-compliant. Survivors and staff are most often unaware that trauma is part of the picture. When you understand that trauma responses are involuntary, it allows for re-consideration of assumptions made about people and their behavior. It allows for an opportunity to consider people in light of their suffering or distress and then think again about what might actually be helpful. This workshop will Strategize on how to educate providers and Survivors on Trauma Informed Approaches and how to create the demand for Trauma Informed Services

9:45 am

Break

10:00 am

Keynote 3 Wellness and Peer Support Pioneers Panel

[Mary Ellen Copeland](#) creator of the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP), [Shery Mead](#), founder and Co-Director [Chris Hansen](#) of Intentional Peer Support and [Peggy Swarbrick](#), creator of the 8 Dimensions of Health and Peer Wellness Coaching; Moderator: [Harvey Rosenthal](#), CEO, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

Come learn from legendary leaders of our recovery and peer support movements as to how their own lived experience led them to create the innovative approaches for which they're known around the world, about what they felt was needed to help people improve their lives and the vision they've had to create the changes they've made that have inspired people, systems and policymakers to adopt.

11:00 am

Break

11:15 am

Round 4

Forum

Unapologetic Black Unicorns!

[Keris Jän Myrick](#), Vice President of Partnerships and Innovation, Inseparable; [Dr Felecia Pullen](#), Founder and CEO, Pillars NYC; [Dr Chyrell Bellamy](#), Director of Peer Support Services & Research and Director of the Yale Lived Experience Transformational Leadership Academy and [Dr Rupi Legha](#), Psychiatrist/Scholar/Activist

Ready to move beyond the buzzwords and dive into what it truly means to be antiracist? This dynamic workshop is not just about asking tough questions—it's about answering them in ways that inspire real change! What does it mean to be an antiracist? What does an antiracist organization look like? And most importantly, how can we implement antiracist practices in our field right now? Join us for a live recording

of the *Unapologetically Black Unicorns* podcast, where our special guests will break it all down. Expect a lively, engaging, and yes—fun—session filled with actionable insights and strategies to transform antiracist theory into tangible practice at individual, organizational, and programmatic levels. This is more than a workshop; it's a powerful call to action. Get ready to be energized, inspired, and equipped to make a meaningful impact. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of the conversation and the solution!

West

Peer Supporters and Community Health Workers: Where is the Nexus?

[Dr. Peggy Swarbrick](#), Associate Director, Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies; [Sarina Master](#), Director, Bureau of Special Populations; [Jeff McQueen](#), CEO, MHA of Nassau County; [Luke Sikinyi](#), Alliance for Rights & Reovery
In today's healthcare landscape, integrating mental health services into primary care is essential for comprehensive wellness. Peers and community health workers are key players in this integration, bridging the gap between physical and behavioral health. Peers Supporters offer empathy and understanding, fostering trust and engagement. Community health workers, rooted in local communities, provide access to resources and support, addressing social determinants of health. Marrying the two is essential to promote holistic well-being, transforming healthcare delivery and fostering resilience in both individuals and their communities.

Marty's

Changing Conversation: Improving News Reporting and Public Discussion of Civil Commitment

[Rob Wipond](#), Author of "Your Consent is Not Required"
People who are knowledgeable about civil psychiatric commitment are often shocked by the relative dearth of news media reporting that's truly sympathetic to patients' perspectives or civil rights issues. This, in turn, negatively affects public discussion. What's the block? In this talk, investigative journalist Rob Wipond explains how news media often choose stories they'll cover based on various forms of "pitching," and how common beliefs and prejudices that many news producers have then prevent better reporting. After discussing some possible avenues for improving news media reporting and public discussion, participants will develop their own brief news pitches in break-out groups and test these out.

North

Listening to the Peer Workforce: What We Heard...and What You Can Do

[Jeremy Reuling](#), Senior Director of Special Projects, Hands Across Long Island (HALI), [Rita Cronise](#), Co-Director, PeerTAC, [Jessica Wolf](#), Principal, Decision Solutions Consulting
Building on last year's "Listening to the Peer Support Workforce..." This interactive workshop will share what we've learned. Participants will identify what they can do as a working peer specialist to advance their careers and to help improve working conditions for the peer workforce. Workshop facilitators will summarize the Top Ten Peer Workforce Priorities developed during the past five years with a focus on Action Recommendations suggested by numerous audiences. Participants will explore these in relation to their current work goals and work life.

- East 1 ***Peer Support Throughout the Lifespan***
[Laura Callen](#), Director of Peer Workforce Development, Hands Across Long Island (HALI)
Peer support is more than just a service that can be provided to those in need. In its simplest form peer support is human connection through shared experience. Peer support naturally starts as young as childhood and lasts throughout someone's life. As a person ages, the style of peer support needed to evolve too. This workshop aims to delve into the different types of peer support that exist during different stages of life i.e; Youth Peer, Family Peer, Certified Peers etc..., and how these peers support folks in these stages. There are some specialties we will go into within these peer roles, such as the CRPA-Y/F. This presentation's goal is to showcase the importance and versatility of Peers throughout their lifespan.
- 12:30 pm **Break**
- 12:45 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm ***Keynote 4 Office of Mental Health Town Hall***
[Ann Sullivan](#), Commissioner; [Janine Perazzo](#), Assistant Commissioner; [Erica van De Wal](#), Director of Planning; [Ian Rodgers](#), Director, Patient and Client Feedback Initiatives, NYS Office of Mental Health
Join New York State Office of Mental Health Commissioner Ann Sullivan for an informative town hall session focused on the latest mental health policy updates and service initiatives. Commissioner Sullivan will provide an overview of new initiatives and share progress on the implementation of programs proposed over the past year. Attendees will also gain insights into what to expect from the Office of Mental Health in the coming year, including future plans and priorities. This town hall will offer a unique opportunity for participants to engage directly with high-ranking officials, providing valuable feedback and sharing their perspectives on the state's mental health services. This is an essential event for anyone invested in the future of mental health care in New York.
- 2:15 pm **Break**
- 2:30 pm **Annual Alliance Award Ceremony**
- 3:30 pm **Break**
- 3:45 pm **Round 5**
- East 2 ***Informing New York's Study on Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program:*** [Nev Jones](#), Assistant Professor School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh and [Bevin Croft](#), Senior Research Associate and Director of Behavioral Health, Human Services Research Institute; [Helen Skip](#)

[Skipper](#), Executive Director, NYC Justice Peer Initiative; [Ebony Flint](#), Policy Analyst, Human Services Research Institute

The 2022 state budget agreement called for a new OMH formal, independent evaluation of New York's assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) program associated with Kendra's Law that is to "directly compare treatment outcomes for people who receive court-ordered, community-based services to outcomes for individuals who received a comprehensive package of voluntary services." We also hope that the study will gather data that will tell us where court ordered services were offered as a last resort and in the least restrictive setting. Come ensure that the researchers are hearing from those who are most impacted by outpatient commitment treatment orders!

East 1

Ending the School to Trans-Institutionalization Pipeline

[Dawn Yuster](#), Staff Attorney, Education Advocacy Project in Juvenile Rights Practice, Legal Aid Society; Other Representatives from Legal Aid Society

This presentation will explore the critical issue of the school-to-trans-institutionalization pipeline—a systemic pathway that funnels marginalized youth from schools into various forms of institutional care, including juvenile detention centers, psychiatric facilities, and adult prisons. This cycle disproportionately affects students of color, those with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ youth, perpetuating a cycle of exclusion and marginalization. Panelists will examine the underlying causes, such as zero-tolerance policies, inadequate mental health support, and implicit biases, and discuss actionable strategies to disrupt this pipeline. Participants would leave with a renewed understanding of the need to advocate for educational equity, restorative justice practices, and comprehensive support systems to create a more inclusive and just future for all students.

North

The Real WRAP

[Mary Ellen Copeland](#), Founder, Author and Educator, and [Ed Anthes](#), Wellness Recovery Action Plan

Back in 1997, I was honored to be part of the group that took my recovery work and developed it into a program that they thought would work for them and for others—WRAP. It worked so well for me that I wrote a book on it and built it into all of my work. Soon WRAP was all people wanted to hear about. Continuing to work with peers, I developed it into a curriculum which included the Key Concepts and the Values and Ethics, sharing it with many people over time. Eventually, that original model developed by that group of peers was studied, proven to work and disseminated widely. As happens, over time, some people who were teaching WRAP left out, changed or added information that was not included in the development of WRAP or in the WRAP studies that proved the evidence base. WRAP was "corrupted". In this workshop I will share WRAP as it should be shared, and as it is now being taught and shared by WRAP facilitators trained through Advocates for Human Potential.

Marty's

Navigating New York's 1115 Waiver: Overview, Implementation Updates, and Future Opportunities:

[Sarina Master](#), Director, Bureau of Adult Special Populations, Policy and Programming NYS Department of Health; [Lauren Tobias](#), Senior Advisor, Brown & Weinraub; [Brett Scudder](#), President, CEO, Scudder Intervention

Services Foundation; [Steve Coe](#), Mental Health and Housing Policy Advocate; [Luke Sikinyi](#), Director of Public Policy, The Alliance for Rights and Recovery
Join us to hear the latest updates on the implementation progress for the recently approved 1115 New York Health Equity Reform (NYHER) Medicaid Demonstration Waiver and other expected changes to the NYS Medicaid plan. This will include a conversation on the role of the statewide Health Equity Reform Organization (SHERO), Social Care Networks (SCNs) and how they plan to improve access to mental health services and supports, including the support of peers. Panelists will discuss the current timing of waiver implementation and other changes as well as offer updates on avenues for community providers to get funding for services provided to Medicaid members through the waiver.

West

Not for Nothing: A Continuing Dialogue on Answers to Three Critical Questions about Supervision of Peer Support Workers

[Joanne Forbes](#), Consultant, Peer TAC and Rutgers University, [Gita Enders](#), Director of Peer Services, Office of Behavioral Health, NYC Health and Hospitals, [Jonathan Edwards](#), Program Consultant, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Effective supervision is critical to peer support services. This workshop is a continuation of "No! Nothing! None!", a conversation about how supervisors of peer support workers are identified, supported, and trained without consideration of other factors such as organizational support and training specific to the supervisor's role. This workshop explores the workforce landscape as peer support workers move into supervisory positions. Interactive discussion will further explicate supervision in the context of peer support services. This workshop provides a broader understanding of the background and process of providing effective supervision as well as the ways peer specialists can influence the provision of effective supervision.

East 3

The Challenges of Peer Services Inclusion

[Lyn Legere](#), M.S, Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation; [Rita Cronise](#), M.S, ALWF, Co-Director, PeerTAC

The behavioral healthcare sector is increasingly recognizing the value of lived experience. The inclusion of peer workers into clinical and support teams has become a crucial step toward providing trauma-responsive, holistic, and person-driven care. However, this inclusion effort comes with its own set of challenges. In this workshop, we will delve into the complexities of creating space for peer support workers to practice with integrity to their core values while working in traditional behavioral health settings. Participants will explore common obstacles such as role ambiguity, peer drift, and resistance from existing staff, as well as the need for training and supervision of both clinical staff and peer support staff. Through interactive discussions and real-life stories, attendees will gain insights into effective strategies for overcoming these challenges and fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment where peer workers can thrive as team members with unique perspectives who can share their expertise to support people on their recovery journey.

Forum

Taking Back Our Power, Bringing the Pain

[Jihoon Kim](#), CEO, InUnity Alliance; [Jerome Wright](#), Co-Director, HALT Solitary Campaign; [Chacku Mathai](#), Director of Crisis Systems Training Initiative at Center for Practice Innovations; [Glenn Liebman](#), CEO, Mental Health Association in New York State; [Harvey Rosenthal](#), CEO, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

This workshop is a call to action for passionate advocacy in the fight to improve services and protect the rights of individuals across the disability spectrum. Panelists will delve into the urgency of injecting more passion and intensity into advocacy efforts focused on cross-disability services, including mental health and substance use, criminal justice reform, crisis response, and strategies to prevent institutionalization of people with disabilities. Participants will explore strategies to amplify their voices, confront systemic barriers, and build momentum for transformative change. Whether you're an advocate, a peer, a service provider, or someone directly impacted by these issues, this workshop will empower you to channel your passion into impactful advocacy that drives real progress.

Outside

Rhythms for Community Wellness: The Power of Drumming

[Chrys Ballerano](#), Founder/Owner, Chrys Ballerano Consulting Services

This interactive workshop offers participants an opportunity to connect with their own innate sense of play and the healing and gentle power of rhythm. Participants are invited to bring their own drum or percussive instrument if they'd like though instruments will be provided by the presenter (enough for 30- 40 people to share). An atmosphere of gentle safety will be maintained and modeled. Participants will be invited to connect with their own heartbeats, develop their abilities to play in community, and find ways to respond to the rhythms of the natural world. We'll explore some basic drumming techniques and enjoy a circle of rhythm that is fun for people of all levels of drumming experience.

5:00 pm

Break

5:15 pm

Annual Meeting

6:00 pm

BBQ Under the Stars

7:00 pm

Stand Up for Mental Health

[David Granirer](#), Founder, Stand Up for Mental Health

Each year, Stand Up for Mental Health's David Granirer guides aspiring comics to show their stuff at our Annual Comedy Show. We'll publish their names later this week.

8:15pm

Peer Support Meetings

Veterans, LGBTQA+, Double Trouble, Mental Health, NA Zumba!

9:00 pm

Open Mic with Michael Skinner; Board Games

9:30pm

Dancing with DJ Jenkins

September 26, 2024

7:30 am

Breakfast

Zumba!

8:30 am

Round 6

Forum

Advancing Policy Change: Recent Advocacy Achievements and Future Priorities

[Luke Sikinyi](#), Director for Public Policy and Engagement, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

Join us for an in-depth workshop that will explore the key policy initiatives championed by the Alliance over the past year. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the progress made in advocating for the rights and recovery of individuals with serious mental illnesses, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned. We will also look ahead to the coming year, outlining some of the Alliance's draft policy priorities and strategic goals. Attendees will gain insights into the legislative landscape, upcoming advocacy efforts, and how these initiatives align with broader trends in mental health policy while getting the opportunity to provide input and inform our priority areas. Whether you are a policy professional, advocate, or stakeholder in mental health services, this workshop will equip you with the knowledge and tools to support and engage in the critical work of advancing rights and recovery in the year ahead

West

Moving Arts Forward

[Gayle Bluebird](#), Independent Consultant, Author, Reaching Across with the Arts

We invite you to this workshop to look at the status of the arts now and how we push forward a new national presence standing on its own. Bluebird will share information about the comprehensive website: alteredstatesofthearts.art as we push forward for a national presence on the arts. Please take a look before coming to this workshop: we will take time for you to share your experiences organizing arts programs and activities. Finally, excitedly, we will envision a future, perhaps a new arts organization that you will help organize!

Marty's

Navigating Identity: Exploring the Intersectionality of Racism and the Immigrant Experience

[Yaniel Wynter](#), DEI Youth Engagement Coordinator, Youth Power

This workshop aims to address the complex challenges faced by migrant youths and their families as they navigate issues of identity, belonging, and discrimination. Through interactive discussions, activities, and shared experiences, participants will gain insights into the diverse experiences of migrant youths and their families and develop strategies for effective advocacy and support.

North

Hearing Voices Network

[Caroline Mazel-Carlton](#), Director of Training, Wildflower Alliance

For nearly 40 years, the Hearing Voices Network has represented both a global social justice movement and a new approach for healing. "Hearing Voices" is used as an umbrella term for seeing, sensing and experiencing phenomena that other people do not... what the medical world often labels as "psychosis". This workshop will explore what it is really like to hear voices and see visions. We will also examine how to explore the context of these experiences and discuss new strategies to develop a more empowered relationship when the experience becomes distressing. In addition, we will touch on emerging dialogues around "multiplicity" and "plurality" which describe the experience of being many beings in one body. Come with open minds and hearts!

East 1

The Role of Spirituality and Religion in my Recovery

[Caroline Mazel-Carlton](#), Director of Training, Wildflower Alliance; [Amy Brinkley](#), Senior Recovery and Support Systems, Coordinator, National Association of State Mental Hygiene Directors; [Jeff McQueen](#), MHA of Nassau County; [Ruth Pasillas-Gonzales](#), Crestwood Behavioral Health; Moderator, [Harvey Rosenthal](#), CEO, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

Across our community, religious and spiritual beliefs and practices are fundamental components of our recovery. The presenters will explore the impact of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths in their lives. They will also look at how one agency incorporates spirituality in their program and services.

East 2

Queer Workers' Rights: Intersections of Disability Justice and LGBTQIA+ Rights in Employment

[Elise Diamond](#), Recovery Specialist and Trainer, OnTrackNY, Center for Practice Innovations

We know that employment is strongly correlated with many desirable recovery outcomes. But according to the 2023 New York State Department of Labor Report on Transgender, Gender Non-conforming, and Non-binary Persons in The Workforce, transgender people still face many substantial and often illegal barriers to employment. Trans and nonbinary people are also far more likely than cisgender people to be psychiatrically labeled or to be otherwise disabled, and thus to face discrimination on the basis of disability as well. The picture is somewhat better for LGB people, but still is far from equitable.

East 3

Journaling Your Way to Healing

[Anita Lee](#), Founder, Blooming Creativity

Join us for this empowering workshop designed to guide participants through the healing process using the powerful tool of journaling. In this interactive session, you'll learn how to harness the reflective power of writing to explore your emotions, gain clarity, and cultivate resilience. Whether you're overcoming personal challenges, healing from past experiences, or simply looking to enhance your emotional well-being, this workshop offers practical techniques and insights to help you use journaling as a path to recovery and self-discovery.

East 2

9:45 am Break

10:00 am ***Keynote 5: Advancing the Mental Health of Young People***
Kelly Davis, Vice President, Peer and Youth Advocacy at Mental Health America ***Vesper Moore***, Chief Operating Officer, Kiva Center
Join Kelly Davis and Vesper Moore for a powerful keynote address focused on the critical steps needed to improve the mental health of young people. The speakers will delve into the unique challenges and opportunities faced by today's youth, offering insights on how to better engage young people in advocacy and expand the presence of youth peer supporters. They will also discuss the importance of facilitating self-determination and agency for youth within the mental health field. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies for supporting youth mental health and opportunities to get involved in this vital movement.

11:00 am Break

11:15am **Round 7**

Forum ***Understanding New York's Social Care Networks Under the New 1115 Waiver***
Lauren Tobias, Senior Advisor, Brown & Weinraub; ***Brett Scudder***, President, CEO, Scudder Intervention Services Foundation; ***Luke Sikinyi***, Director of Public Policy, The Alliance for Rights and Recovery
Join us for an in-depth exploration of New York's Social Care Networks under the newly approved 1115 New York Health Equity Reform Waiver. This workshop will provide a comprehensive understanding of how these networks are being developed to revolutionize the delivery of health-related social needs across the state. Participants will gain insights into the strategies for recruiting providers into these networks and how community-based organizations and stakeholders will be integral to the advisory boards guiding their implementation. Additionally, the session will cover the mechanisms for distributing funds to ensure that services are effectively and equitably delivered and aligned with community needs. This workshop is essential for providers, community organizations, and stakeholders interested in playing a role in the evolving landscape of social care in New York.

West ***Strategies to Enhance our Support for Elders with Mental Health Challenges***
Himali Panda, People USA; ***TBD***, Fountain House; ***Carl Blumenthal***, Academy of Peer Services, and ***Ellen Healion***, Alliance for Rights and Recovery; ***Harvey Rosenthal***, Alliance for Rights and Recovery
Our Alliance has been working with Boston University's new SILVER (Supporting Individuals to Live As Vibrant Elders in Recovery) initiative to advance effective policies and programs for elders with major mental health and related challenges. In doing so, we have highlighted several major initiatives: the Academy of Peer Service's specialized training for NYS Certified Peer Specialists, People-USA's new program to

make "capital improvements and physical site upgrades as well as to offer enhanced programs, and targeted outreach for older adults" and Fountain House's Silver Center that helps to "keep older members supported and connected as they age and to address the ongoing concerns of isolation, physical illness and decline, inadequate housing and poverty." Our Alliance has also been developing a nursing home Peer Bridger model. Come join in the discussion to enhance your efforts to support recovery across the entire lifespan!

Marty's

Employment Matters: Making the Most of Your Employment Journey

Noah Lipton and Gary Scannevin, Center for Practice Innovations

Join us for this dynamic workshop that empowers you to navigate your career path with confidence and support. In this session, you'll discover strategies to maximize your employment opportunities by leveraging the wisdom and experience of peers and providers. Learn how to build a robust support network, tap into available resources, and work collaboratively with others to overcome challenges and achieve your career goals. Whether you're starting a new job, seeking advancement, or transitioning careers, this workshop will equip you with the tools and connections you need to thrive in your employment journey.

East 1

Pathways to Trauma Recovery

Michael Skinner, Surviving Spirit; Sean Brennan, Baltic Street Wellness Solutions

This workshop will benefit people in the professions of social work, mental health counseling, certified peer support and anyone who has been impacted by trauma. Michael and Sean will share what has helped them in their own personal trauma healing, including the use of music and gardening, and what they have learned as advocates and educators of trauma, abuse and mental health. Workshop participants will come away with a better understanding, enhanced knowledge and skills to help others and themselves.

North

Approach Matters: What Is Psych Rehab and Why I Should Want It in My Life? Britt Higgins, Senior Psychiatric Rehabilitation Specialist, Hannah Taber, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Specialist, Steve Nawotniak, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Specialist, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

It is important that people who participate in services receive collaborative care that allows for individualized goals based on what is truly important to the participant. The services offered should respect past experiences, and empower self-determination, personal choices, and voices to ensure that the most effective support is offered. Psychiatric Rehabilitation (PSR) is an evidence-based practice used to support adults living with mental health challenges to obtain the skills, supports, and resources needed to achieve success and satisfaction in their personal recovery goals. It acknowledges that all people are worthy of meaningful and fulfilling lives and provides a process by which this can be achieved through a partnership that appreciates the participant's expertise in themselves. This workshop will share the components of PSR and why this collaborative approach could make a difference in your life.

East 2

Resilience: Bathing in the Light

[Neville Morris](#), Program Manager, Prevention, Access, Self-Empowerment and Support, Coordinated Care Services Inc.

The road through recovery is different for each of us. While we often get help along the way, the role that we play will have the most direct effect on the outcome. It is not enough to sit and wait for the "Joy that comes in the morn", sometimes we just got to go out there and help navigate the course. In this workshop, we will cover some of the resilience preparations needed before the trip, during the ride, and life thereafter. The Recovering Art of Resilience is rightfully ours. Come join us and get a few gems for the journey life presents us.

East 3

Story Circles 2: How to Implement Wellness and Recovery (Resilience) Story Circles Within Your Agency and Organization

[Deborah Wilcox](#), CEO, Confluency Consultants; [Theresa Hall](#), Long Island Regional Coordinator, Alliance for Rights and Recovery

Part 2 of the workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of the needed organization development and implementation strategies for individuals and organizations who have an interest in incorporating Wellness and Recovery (Resilience) Story Circles within their agencies and communities.

12:45 pm

Lunch, Closing Remarks