

Training programs

Do not work on me. Work with me.

- Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Klift

Like you, we believe that the support of peers is essential to wellness and recovery for people with mental illness. The Peer-to-Peer Resource Center is working to bring peer support the recognition it deserves, and to ensure that peers are an integral part of recovery-oriented mental health service delivery systems nationwide.

Following is a list of programs and initiatives that train mental health consumers to offer specialized assistance to their peers in their recovery and provide peer support. These initiatives include training programs for peer specialists, coaches or mentors, and other training by and for peers.

[Please note: all information is self-reported by representatives of these programs. The Peer-to-Peer Resource Center does not vouch for the quality of listed programs, nor do we recommend or endorse these programs. The Center reserves the right to add or delete program listings.]

Want to let us know about a peer training program? Click [here](#).

Training programs for peer specialists/coaches/mentors

CAP (Consumers as Providers)

Program description Consumers are trained to provide support and education to other consumers in the community, taking the experience of one consumer and sharing it with someone else in need.

Training outcomes Participants receive a certificate of completion and are tested on knowledge acquired.

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Complete an interview process

Length of training 16 weeks **Training location** Topeka, KS

Fee? Yes

Sponsoring organization Valeo

Address 2401 S.W. 16th St., Topeka, KS 66606

Contact person Dennis Tenpenny

Phone (785) 357-0580

CASCAP

Program description Individuals with psychiatric disabilities are trained to enter and pursue careers in the fields of mental health and human services

Training outcomes Participants are awarded a Certificate of Mental Health and Human Services and receive 24 college credits from Bunker Hill Community College

Who can participate? Mental health consumers over 18 years of age; U.S. citizens or documented to work in the U.S.; high school diploma or GED; must be DMH-eligible with priority given to individuals from the metro Boston area

How people apply and are selected to participate Contact CASCAP

Length of training 6 months **Training location** Cambridge, MA

Fee? Contact CASCAP

Sponsoring organizations CASCAP, Inc. and Bunker Hill Community College

Contact person Lori Rose

E-mail lrose@CASCAP.org

Community Connections Peer Specialist Training

Program description Participants are trained to work as Peer Specialists to help fellow consumers set goals, solve problems, make decisions, and deal with conflicts; and to help people access community resources. The program also offers specialized training for Young Adult Peer Specialists (YAPS).

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Contact Community

Connections

Length of training Twice a week for four months **Training location**
Aurora, CO

Fee? Unknown

Sponsoring organization Community Connections and Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Address 1564 Elmira Street, Aurora, CO 80010

Contact person Nate Rockitter

Phone (303) 739-2557

Consumer Connections

Program description The program is designed to recruit, train, and support mental health consumers to provide services to other consumers in a variety of settings, including volunteer, part-time and full-time positions within the mental health substance abuse, and human service systems.

Training outcomes Participants receive a certificate of completion. Upon completion of all coursework, graduates also eligible for the Certified Case Manager credential from the Addiction Professionals Certification Board of New Jersey (APCBNJ).

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Complete application

Length of training 66 hours (11 days) **Training location** New Jersey (3 sites)

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization Mental Health Association of New Jersey

Address 88 Pompton Ave., Verona, NJ 07044

Contact person Gina McGovern

Phone (973) 571-4100 **E-mail** gmcgovern@mhanj.org

Link to web site <http://www.mhanj.org>

Consumer to Provider Training Program

Program description People with psychiatric disabilities are trained to work in the human services field, particularly mental health

Training outcomes Training participants receive 29 college credits and are hired in a half-time position or receive job search assistance

Who can participate? Mental health consumers 18 years of age or older; must have high school diploma or GED; must be residents of Washington and U.S. citizens or documented to work in the U.S.; must be in a PIC or DVR plan or may continue current PELL grants

How people apply and are selected to participate Contact program

Length of training 10 weeks classroom instruction (4 days/week) and 15 weeks field placement

Training location Fircrest, WA

Fee? Contact program

Sponsoring organization Washington State DSHW/Mental Health Division and Tacoma Community College

Contact phone (866) 564-6400

CONTAC Recovery Education Center

Program description Consumers are trained to work as Peer Specialists in a variety of settings

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Contact the Center

Training location West Virginia

Sponsoring organization Consumer Organization and Networking Technical Assistance Center (CONTAC)

Address 910 Quarrier Street, #414, Charleston, WV 25301

Contact person Kathy Muscari

Phone (888) 825-8324 or (304) 345-7312

Link to web site <http://www.contac.org>

Georgia Certified Peer Specialist Training

Program description Participants are trained to assist fellow consumers in skills building, goal setting, problem solving, conducting Recovery Dialogues, and helping consumers build their own self-directed recovery tools.

Training outcomes Participants receive a certificate of completion, take an oral and written examination on knowledge acquired, and are certified based on results of the examination.

Who can participate? Mental health consumers diagnosed primarily with a mental illness (addictive disease may be secondary diagnosis).

How people apply and are selected to participate Complete application and pre-test. Participants are selected based on their employment status and ability to meet training guidelines. Consumers currently employed by a public or private provider of Medicaid-billable services receive highest priority.

Length of training 8 days **Training location** Georgia (various locations)

Fee? Yes, \$75.00

Sponsoring organizations Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network and the Office of Consumer Relations in the Georgia Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases.

Address 246 Sycamore St. , Decatur , GA 30030

Contact person Beth Filson

Phone (404) 657-3383 **E-mail** emfilson@dhr.state.ga.us

Link to web site <http://www.gacps.org>

Hawaii Peer Specialist Training and Certification

Program description Participants are trained in the recovery model to work on various provider teams (ACT, ICM) to help other consumers as full members of the treatment team.

Training outcomes Participants receive a certificate of completion, take an examination, and are certified based on results of the examination.

Who can participate? Mental health consumers from Oahu and neighbor islands

How people apply and are selected to participate Complete application. Consumers currently employed as peer specialists receive highest priority. Participants in refresher course must have missed no more than one day of initial training.

Length of training 8 days + 2-day refresher

Training location Hawaii (various locations)

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization Hawaii Adult Mental Health Division, Office of Consumer Affairs

Address 1250 Punchbowl St., #256 , Honolulu , HI 96813

Contact person Kaanoi Gillette

Phone (808) 586-4688 **E-mail** krkaapan@amhd.health.state.hi.us

Howie the Harp Center Peer Specialist Training

Program description Consumers receive career training and complete a 3-6 month supervised internship leading to full- and part-time employment in the field of human services

Training outcomes Program reports that 80% of graduates have obtained

part-time employment with an average salary of \$23,000

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Contact the Center

Length of training 100 hours (6 mo.) **Training location** New York, NY

Fee? unknown

Sponsoring organization Howie the Harp Advocacy Center

Address 2090 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd., 12th Flr., New York, NY 10027

Contact person Steve Boccia

Phone (212) 865-0775, x109

Link to web site <http://www.howietheharp.org>

META Services Peer Employment Training

Program description Participants are trained for employment as Peer Support Specialists providing recovery education, peer support, and vocational services in community mental health programs, including a wide range of services offered through META Services' Recovery Education Center. The center also collaborates with a local community college to offer an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Behavioral Health-Recovery.

Training outcomes Certificate; A.A.S. degree for college program

Who can participate? People with psychiatric experiences

How people apply and are selected to participate Any interested user of mental health services may attend

Length of training 70 hours/5 weeks (Peer Support Specialist training); 4 credit hours (A.A.S. degree program)

Training location Phoenix, AZ

Fee? \$1,666.00 (contract with Vocational Rehabilitation for qualifying AZ residents)

Sponsoring organization META Services, Inc.

Address 2701 N. 16th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006

Contact person Jim Dunn

Phone (602) 650-1212 **E-mail** jim.dunn@metaservices.com

Link to web site <http://www.metaservices.com>

META Services Recovery Education Center

Program description Individuals can participate in a wide range of recovery-oriented courses, including WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan), WELL (Wellness and Empowerment in Life and Living), Employment as a Means to Recovery, Eliminating Self-Defeating Behavior, Housing for Success, and other courses. Most classes are accredited and apply toward an A.A.S. degree in Behavioral Health-Recovery (see above listing).

Training outcomes Certificate; A.A.S. degree if all class requirements met

Who can participate? People with psychiatric experiences, behavioral health professionals, family members, and other interested individuals

How people apply and are selected to participate Enrollment in ValueOptions of Maricopa County; private students are welcome

Length of training Varies; most classes are set up on a quarter system

Training location Phoenix, AZ

Fee? Contact Recovery Education Center

Sponsoring organization META Services, Inc.

Address 2701 N. 16th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006

Contact person Chris Martin

Phone (602) 636-4601 **E-mail** chris.martin@metaservices.com

Link to web site <http://www.metaservices.com>

MHA of Southeastern PA Certified Peer Specialist Program

Program description Individuals participate in training designed to develop and nurture each person's personal recovery experience. Training focuses on recovery as the core value and includes education, skill-building, and an experiential process.

Who can participate? Current or former mental health consumers; must have high school diploma or GED, reading/writing proficiency, and relevant volunteer or paid work experience, preferably in the mental health field

How people apply and are selected to participate Contact MHA

Length of training 12 days (4 weeks, 3 days/week)

Training location Pennsylvania

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization MHA of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Address 1211 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107

Contact person Sarah Bourne **E-mail** sbourne@mhasp.org

Phone (215) 751-1800

Peer Advocacy Program

Program description Participants are trained in the areas of recovery education and advocacy, and to assist other consumers in accessing services and participating in community activities.

Training outcomes Participants are tested on knowledge acquired.

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Contact MHA for information

Length of training One week **Training location** Kansas City, KS

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization Mental Health Association of the Heartland

Address 739 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101

Contact person James Glenn

Phone (866) 927-6327 or (913) 281-2221 **E-mail** jglenn@mhah.org

Link to web site <http://www.mhah.org>

South Carolina Department of Mental Health Peer Certification Training

Program description Participants are trained and certified to provide Medicaid-billable peer support services to eligible clients of the 17 Community Mental Health Centers in South Carolina's public mental health system.

Training outcomes Participants receive a certificate of completion, take an oral and written examination on knowledge acquired, and are certified based on results of the examination.

Who can participate? Mental health consumers who are hired by local mental health centers and hospitals

How people apply and are selected to participate Selected after meeting position requirements and being hired

Length of training 40 hours (5 days) **Training location** Columbia, SC

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization South Carolina Department of Mental Health, Office of Consumer Affairs

Address 2414 Bull Street, P.O. Box 485 , Columbia , SC 29202

Contact person Victoria Cousins

Phone (803) 898-8621 **E-mail** vcc13@dmh.state.sc.us

Link to web site

http://www.state.sc.us/dmh/consumer_resources/consumer_resources.htm

Strong Peer Connections

Program description Participants gain information about the peer movement and recovery and are trained to lead groups and provide one-to-one support for clients at Strong Ties (the sponsoring agency) and in the community.

Training outcomes Participants are hired as part-time Peer Specialists.

Who can participate? Clients of Strong Ties

How people apply and are selected to participate Individuals are referred by their therapist and participate in an interview

Length of training Ongoing

Training location Rochester, NY

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization Strong Ties

Address 1650 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14620

Contact person Hope Quallo

Phone (505) 275-0300, x2256 **E-mail** hope_quallo@urmc.rochester.edu

University of New Mexico – University Psychiatric Center Peer Bridger Program

Program description Participants are trained as volunteers to assist other consumers in bridging to community services and support groups, and to perform one-on-one bridging and advocacy at the University Psychiatric Center at the University of New Mexico.

Training outcomes Participants receive certification and academic credit/CEUs/CMEs

Who can participate? Anyone with a mental health challenge

How people apply and are selected to participate Complete application and

participate in interview with Coordinator and a qualified bridger.

Length of training 12 hrs. (6 days)

Training location UNM-UPC and PSR South Valley

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization University of New Mexico – University Psychiatric Center

Address 2600 Marble, S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87131

Contact person Jane E. Thompson

Phone (505) 272-5935 **E-mail** jathompson@salud.unm.edu

Virginia Human Services Training Center

Program description Consumers are trained to work in the field of mental health

Training outcomes Participants are placed in permanent employment and receive a Career Studies Certificate in Human Services from Piedmont Virginia Community College

Who can participate? Adults living with serious mental illnesses who are eligible for services from the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; high school diploma or GED; read, write, and do math at 8th grade level or above

How people apply and are selected to participate Complete written screening tests and a personal interview

Length of training 16 weeks of classroom training, plus 12 weeks paid internship

Training location Charlottesville, VA

Fee? Contact program

Sponsoring organizations Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services; and Piedmont Virginia Community College

Address Virginia Human Services Training Center, Region Ten Community

Services Board, 800 Preston Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903-4420

Contact person Cynthia Harrison

E-mail cynthiah@regionten.org

Other training by and for peers

C.E.L.T. Leadership Academy

Program description Participants are empowered to help other consumers establish funded programs; to advocate for other consumers and work for change in the Virginia mental health system; and to encourage other consumers to register and vote.

Training outcomes Participants receive a certificate of achievement.

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Application/selection based on previous efforts on behalf of consumers, ideas about ways to help others; consumer must have some time in recovery

Length of training 4 days **Training location** Virginia (various locations)

Fee? No

Sponsoring organization C.E.L.T. Leadership Academy/MHA of Virginia

Address 530 E. Main St., Suite 707, Richmond, VA 23219

Contact person Deborah Pugh, Director

Phone (804) 225-5591 **E-mail** dpcelt@cs.com

Link to web site <http://www.mhav.org/celt/>

Peer Advocacy Training

Program description Participants are trained to advocate for and with others in the community on all aspects of mental health issues and general life issues

Training outcomes Participants receive certificate of completion

Who can participate? Mental health consumers

How people apply and are selected to participate Complete application form

Length of training unknown **Training location** unknown

Fee? Yes, \$150.00 (sliding scale and scholarships available)

Sponsoring organization PEOPLE, Inc.

Address 378 Violet Ave. , Poughkeepsie , NY 12601

Contact person Larry Cohen

Phone (845) 452-2728

E-mail PEOPLELarry@optonline.net or

PEOPLEHQPK@aol.com