



PeerTAC
Resources
Consultation #2
Hiring and
Onboarding



Last Updated March 9, 2023





Hiring and Onboarding

Consultation #2: Broadcast March 16, 2023

Presenter Bios

Emily Childress



Director of the CORE Peer Navigator Project at the NY Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS).

Emily is proud to be a provisionally certified Peer Specialist in NYS. Emily attended Binghamton University where she completed a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and a Master of Public Administration. It was during her undergraduate studies that Emily first learned of NYAPRS by attending Legislative Day in Albany.

Prior to joining NYAPRS as a staff member, she served for two years on the NYAPRS board of directors as the Southern Tier Regional Coordinator and caucus chair. Emily has 8 years of experience providing and advocating for peer support services, including being the director of the first peer-run crisis respite house, Our House, in the Southern Tier. Emily is a distinguished trainer and finds her passion in empowering peers to advocate for themselves.

Emily looks forward to utilizing her leadership skills at NYAPRS and prides herself in developing a fully peer team to operationalize the CORE Peer Navigator Project.

Rebecca Evansky



Executive Director, Wellness Collaborative of New York, Independent Practice Association (WCNY-IPA)

Rebecca Evansky, Executive Director of the Wellness Collaborative of New York is supporting the growth of peer support services through an Independent Practice Association comprised of twelve peer-led provider organizations, spanning New York State. Advancing the collaborative foundation to ensure quality and authenticity of peer support services and shifting towards sustainable value-based contracting. Prior to this project, she was responsible for overseeing initiatives focused on treatment and prevention of substance use disorders, working to strengthen infrastructure across systems and cultivate strong partnerships across the region as



part of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program at the Adirondack Health Institute. Her professional career has been dedicated to behavioral health and wellness initiatives. Known as a compassionate advocate for special victims, providing direct client services for over 15 years, including legal and medical advocacy and continues dedicated service as a volunteer to her local domestic violence hotline. Rebecca is a skilled presenter in trauma informed practices, health and wellness planning, collaborative partnerships and strategic planning.

Cameron Farash, LMSW



Divisional Director, LRI's Recovery Support Navigator Program

Cameron has been public about his lived experience with mental health recovery for over nine years and has more than twenty years of experience working within various behavioral health and Peer support settings. He has six plus years of experience working in residential settings, over eight years of clinical experience and over five years of supervisory experience. In 2008, Cameron received his master's degree in social work from the Greater Rochester Master of Social Work Program of SUNY Brockport and Nazareth College. He specializes in peer implementation and supervision and has been recognized on a statewide level as a peer expert. Cameron is currently a Divisional Director and oversees LRI's Recovery Support Navigator Program, where he has overseen development and ongoing program evaluation and improvement, as well as administration and day-to-day operation of the Peer Engagement Specialist, Family Support Specialist and Homeless Partnership program, Forensic Intervention Peer program and Liberty's four Peer Run Crisis Respite in Central New York. Cameron has also been on the Board of Directors for NYAPRS and the Finger Lakes Regional Coordinator since 2021. Cameron sees himself as a guardian of the Peer Model and provides technical assistance across the agency around holding to the fidelity of the Peer Model. He previously held a variety of administrative, clinical and peer support roles for several Rochester-area organizations, including East House's Affinity Place, Unity Health System's Evelyn Brandon Health Center, and DePaul Community Residence. Cameron founded the CASAS Recovery Subcommittee and is a co-chair. Cameron is currently on the Board of Directors of NYAPRS as the Finger Lakes Regional Coordinator. Cameron is also a co-founder and facilitator of the Finger Lakes Peer Learning Collaborative. Cameron is on the Rochester City's Person in Crisis Response Team advisory board. Cameron also serves as a member of Liberty Resource's CCBHC advisory board. Cameron is on the incident review committee for the Rochester Regional Health Care System, Cameron also runs a Peer supervisor group within Liberty Resources.



Robbie Lettieri



Director of Youth Training, Families Together in NYS / Youth Power

Robert Lettieri is a national public speaker and advocate who is passionate about creating a more inclusive and supportive society. Growing up in both the health care and mental health system, Robert is dedicated to advocating for others who have endured both similar and abstract hardships. Being a part of multiple boards and committees on state and local levels, he consistently strives to advocate for the larger voice. With years of experience managing a statewide workforce and directing a statewide training program, Robert takes his passion for advocacy to new levels every opportunity he gets.

Carrie Ann Rollier, FPA-C



Director of Workforce Development and Training at Families Together

Carrie Ann has been a Family Peer Advocate for 8 years, first working at a community-based organization and currently with Families Together in New York State since 2022. Her passion for peer support and supporting its workforce is what led to her position as Director of Workforce Development and Training at Families Together, leading a team that oversees the credentialing process and training of Family Peer Advocates and Youth Peer Advocates across the state. As a mother of three young adults with Autism, she struggled navigating the complicated children's systems without support and watched as her children struggled during their childhood without the support and services they deserve. Carrie Ann is dedicated to building an abundant, strong, highly trained Family and Youth Peer workforce throughout the state to support as many families and youth as possible who are experiencing similar challenges.

David Ruiz, NYCPS-P, CMAA, CBCS



Director of Advocacy Services/Director of Quality Assurance

David has been Program Manager of Staten Island Advocacy Services since 2016.



Em Wasserman (They/Them/Theirs)



OMH Trainer, Certification Board Coordinator, Mental Health Empowerment Project (MHEP)

Em is a queer psychiatric survivor, New York Certified Peer Specialist, and an OMH Trainer and NYPSCB Coordinator at the Mental Health Empowerment Project in Albany, New York. Em has worked in various Peer roles since 2014, providing direct support, technical assistance and training, certification guidance for aspiring and working peer specialists in New York State, leading working groups, and speaking publicly about their experiences. Em is also a student at SUNY Empire State University, where they access their passion for mutual support through research, academic conference presentations, policy change, and more. Their intention with work and life is to hold space for multiple perspectives, foster safe and equitable spaces, and advocate for the rights of our survivor community.

Jeremy Reuling



Program Coordinator, Mobile Crisis Response Team, People USA

Jeremy has more than 20 years of experience working to support and empower people facing societal and systemic injustice, including those diagnosed with mental health conditions and/or facing challenges due to social determinants of health. An advocate of peer-informed services, Jeremy approaches his work from a peer-professional viewpoint; he is currently the Program Coordinator for the Yonkers Mobile Crisis Response Team at People USA. Additionally, he currently serves as the Co-President of the Board of Directors for the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS), as a member of the Advisory Committee for Peer Support Services Technical Assistance Center (PeerTAC), and as a member of the Advisory Board for the Master of Social Work program at Utica University. Jeremy presents regularly at conferences and training events regionally and nationally and earned his MSW from the Hunter College School of Social Work; he holds a New York State license as a Clinical Social Worker and is a New York Certified Peer Specialist.

Presenter Contact Information



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References Cited

New York State Office of Mental Health (November 23, 2022). Peer Support Services Guidance: Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitative Services Guidance on Youth, Family, Adult, and Older Adult Peer Support Services https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/clinic_restructuring/part599

Philadelphia Peer Support Toolkit (2017). Philadelphia Dept. of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Services and Achara Consulting Inc. PA: DBHIDS. https://dbhids.org/wp-content/uploads/1970/01/PCCI_Peer-Support-Toolkit.pdf

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2012). Working Definition of Recovery. Retrieved from <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/pep12-recdef.pdf>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2011). *Consumer-Operated Services: How to Use the Evidence-Based Practices KITs*, HHS Pub. No. SMA-11-4633, Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma11-4633-howtouseebpkits-cosp.pdf>

Resources

Youth Peer Advocate

- About Youth Peer Support | [Brochure](#)
- YPA Training: <https://www.ftnys.org/yp-ypa-training/>



- YPA Credentialing: <https://www.ftnys.org/yp-ypa-credential/>
- Youth Peer Advocate Hiring and Support Toolkit: [https://rise.articulate.com/share/dKDob-umrtJHKQTqPI0mrXkMH6pM0n1e#/
Self-Learning Center, Course Catalog, My Courses \(after enrollment\)](https://rise.articulate.com/share/dKDob-umrtJHKQTqPI0mrXkMH6pM0n1e#/)

Family Peer Advocate

- What is Family Peer Support? [Brochure](#)
- Family Peer Support Definition by Families Together in NYS | [Definition](#)
- Family Engagement in Systems | [Infographic - www.fredla.org](#)
- Parent Peer Support Activities | [Infographic - www.fredla.org](#)
- Family Peer Advocate Hiring Toolkit: [https://rise.articulate.com/share/dKDob-umrtJHKQTqPI0mrXkMH6pM0n1e#/
Self-Learning Center, Course Catalog, My Courses \(after enrollment\)](https://rise.articulate.com/share/dKDob-umrtJHKQTqPI0mrXkMH6pM0n1e#/)
- Family Run Organizations in New York State (Directory by Region) [Draft Directory dated 1/18/23 by Region](#)
- Small Family Run Organizations | [List](#)
- SAMHSA (2017). Value of Peers Infographic: [Family, Parent and Caregiver Peer Support in Behavioral Health](#)
- Families Together in [NYS Parent Advisors and Regional Youth Partners](#)

Adult Peer Specialist (NYCPS) Resources

The Value of Peers - SAMHSA Infographics

- Infographic 1: [General Peer Support](#).
- Infographic 2: [Peers Supporting Recovery from Mental Health Conditions](#).

[SAMHSA Peer Worker Core Competencies](#)

[National Association of Peer Supporters \(N.A.P.S.\) Practice Guidelines for Peer Specialists and Supervisors](#).

Peer Specialist (Adult) Certification in New York State

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board (NYCPS certification) website:
3 Atrium Drive, Suite 205, Albany, NY, 12205
Phone: (518) 426-0945
Email: info@nypeerspecialist.org
www.nypeerspecialist.org



[National Council Toolkit for CCBHC working with Peer Run Organizations](#)
[Organizational Self-Assessment](#) for Integrating Peer-delivered services in CCBHC

Peer Run Organizations

Adult Peer Run Organizations (from OMH Directory of Programs by Region)
[Draft Directory dated 2/21/23](#)

Mental Health Empowerment Online Directory of Peer Run Organizations
[Peer Run Programs](#)

Sampling of Peer-Run Organizations

Wellness Collaborative of New York, Independent Practice Association (WCNY-IPA) <https://wcnypa.com/>

NYC: Baltic Street AEH - <https://balticstreet.org/>

Long Island: Hands Across Long Island – <https://hali88.org/>

Hudson Valley: People USA - <https://people-usa.org/>

MHA Westchester - <https://www.mhawestchester.org/>

Western NY: Recovery Options Made Easy - <https://recoveryoptionsny.org/>

Buffalo: Mental Health PEER Connection – <https://wnyil.org/Mental-Health-PEER-Connection>

Rochester: MHA of Monroe County - <https://www.mharochester.org/>

Capital: Mental Health Empowerment (MHEP) - <https://mhempinc.org/>

MHEP [Online Directory of Peer Run Organizations](#)

North: Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL) <https://nrcil.net/>

Additional Resources for Learning About Peer Support Services

National Council for Behavioral Health (2019). Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, Peer-Delivered Services and Peer Operated Agencies - Opportunities for Collaboration and Expansion: [Meeting Report](#).



National Council for Behavioral Health (2019). [Organizational Self-Assessment \(OCA\) for Integrating Peer-Delivered Services in Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics \(CCBHC\)](#)

Videos on Peer Support Services

Center for Practice Innovations (2016). An Introduction to Peer Support Services with Celia Brown. | <https://youtu.be/5-ijWP-BhjI>

Center for Practice Innovations (2016). Peer Services in New York State with Carlton Whitmore. | <https://youtu.be/CKTPO1TO6VU>

Academy of Peer Services Courses (online and available free of charge)

<https://www.academyofpeerservices.org/>

- Peer Credentialing and Training 101 for OMH Providers
- The New York Peer Specialist Certification Board
- Peer Workforce Integration Series
- About the Peer Model Series
- An Introduction to Supervising Peer Specialists
- The Goal is Recovery
- The Historical Roots of Peer Support Services
- Documentation for Peer Support Services



Academy of Peer Services Virtual Learning Community (recorded webinars)

<https://aps-community.org/webinars-recorded/>

- [NYAPRS CORE Peer Navigator Program](#)
- [Peer Credentialing and Training 101 for OMH Providers](#)

Podcasts on Peer Support Services in Clinical Teams

MHTTC Northwest (2022) [Putting it Together: The Role of the Peer within a Clinical Team. \[Podcast\]](#) Maria Monroe-DeVita, PhD speaks with Patricia Deegan PhD.

PeerTAC Contact

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Reach us by Email: info@peertac.org

Join our Listserv: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/CFD10914D119AAF1>

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://peertac.org>

Glossary: <https://peertac.org>

Kickoff Webinar: <https://peertac.org>