



# PeerTAC Resources

What are Peer  
Support Services  
Across the  
Lifespan?



Last Updated February 23, 2023





## What are Peer Support Across the Lifespan?

Webinar #1: Broadcast February 23, 2023

### Presenter Bios

#### Yvette Kelly, LMHC, PeerTAC Co-Director



*Director, Children Services and Healthcare Innovation,  
NYU McSilver Institute*

Yvette Kelly, LMHC, is the Director of Children Services and Healthcare Innovation at the NYU McSilver Institute. Yvette has over 25 years of experience working with children and families and has been a licensed mental health counselor for 17 years. In addition to her clinical expertise, she has experience developing effective business strategies to contain costs while ensuring the provision of quality services. Her areas of expertise include clinical services for youth and families, mental health documentation, strategies for effective supervision, quality improvement, revenue cycle management and managed care. Yvette received a Master of Science in Education degree from The College of Saint Rose.

#### Rita Cronise, MS, ALWF, PeerTAC Co-Director



*Instructional Designer and Coordinator Academy of Peer Services Virtual Learning Community, Rutgers University*

Rita is an instructional designer with lived experience of a major mental health diagnosis and over 20 years of offering mutual support and recovery education. Rita was the acting director of operations for the National Association of Peer Services (N.A.P.S.) for two years and continues to serve on a national workgroup on the supervision of peer specialists and other workforce issues. She is a frequent lecturer on peer support values, practice, and supervision.



## Matthew McDonald, NYCPS, CRPA



*Academy of Peer Services, Specialization Tracks, PeerTAC, Rutgers University*

Matthew McDonald is a New York Certified Peer Specialist (NYCPS) and a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA). Navigating a decade-long path toward recovery himself, Matthew's lived experience provides him necessary and profound insights into myriad systems of care, as they exist in New York State. He previously worked as a Certification Coordinator for

the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board (NYPSCB), interacting with hundreds of Certified and prospective Peer Specialists across New York.

## Ambar Martinez, NYCPS-P



*Youth Peer Support Training Specialist, PeerTAC, NYU McSilver Institute*

Ambar is the Youth Peer Support Training Specialist at PeerTAC and NYU's McSilver program. Her role is to create programming for the site that will be up in the next coming months. Programming can include webinar topics, or any additions that could better prepare clinics and peers provide the necessary services in their spaces. Her background in

peer support services comes after a few years of living with her own coming of age journey with the added layers of a schizophrenic diagnosis and a suicide attempt along with everything else that happens to young people as they grow into themselves. As a person living with a diagnosis and as a person working in peer recovery services, she wants to aid people in finding their voice and the storytelling prowess they can nurture to help another through a situation they feel they cannot navigate around on their own. As peers, we are navigators into self-acceptance and show that dealing with mental health and wellness is not something that happens as an aside from everything within the human experience, instead as naturally complementing that which happens along the human experience.

## 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.



## Nancy (Craig) Pierce



*Director of Community and System Engagement  
Families Together in New York State*

Nancy has been working as a family peer advocate for over 27 years, first at a community-based family support program and with Families Together for the last 24 years. Starting as a Regional Parent Advisor in partnership with NY State Office of Mental Health to infuse and ensure family driven / youth guided voice and choice is front and center in all service programs. Currently she is the Director of Community and System Engagement, leading a team of 10 Regional Parent Advisors engaging and advising the child serving systems on the value of family driven and youth guided practices, data collection and especially meaningful and successful outcomes for family and their youth! She developed and trains and yearly recertifies over 400 Family Peer Advocates in delivering the Family Needs & Strengths (FANS) assessment & outcome measure for Family Peer Support to use to quantify their excellent work with parents and caregivers. She is also passionate about residential experiences for families and their youth. She works closely with the National Building Bridges Initiative to support organizational transformation within the residential framework leading to family driven, youth directed services and best practices for successful outcome and community transitions for families and their youth. In her spare time, and in true advocacy fashion, seeing a need for families to have recreational opportunities she partnered with other family peers to create a very low-cost summer camp experience for the whole family to come together in a safe supported environment to build those positive memories as a family, not an illness, or disability!

## 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.



## 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.

## Taina Laing, (She/Her/Hers), MSW, NYCPS



*CEO Baltic Street, AEH (Peer-Run Organization)*

Taina has worked at Baltic Street Advocacy Employment Housing (New York's largest mental health peer organization) since 2002 and became their first Afro-Latina Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2020. A passionate advocate for seeking equality and addressing disparities, she often states "Peer advocacy supports are integral to all social determinants of health! We cannot allow social or health policies to be written without the inclusion of the peer perspective and insight." In 2022, Taina was elected the Co-President of the New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS). Additionally, she sits on the Boards of the New York State Peer Certification program, and the Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA). In 2022, the Office of Mental Health recognized Baltic Street with the Commissioner's Community Care Award. The award served to recognize the organization Taina oversees for its extraordinary achievements and positive impact on the mental health system.



## Presenter Contact Information

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Rebecca Evansky - [revansky@mhepinc.org](mailto:revansky@mhepinc.org)

## References Cited

- National Association of Peer Supporters (2019). National Practice Guidelines for Peer Supporters and Supervisors. <https://www.peersupportworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/National-Practice-Guidelines-for-Peer-Specialists-and-Supervisors-1.pdf>
- 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. [https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/110920\\_CCBHC\\_Peer\\_Services\\_Mtg\\_Toolkit-2.pdf](https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/110920_CCBHC_Peer_Services_Mtg_Toolkit-2.pdf)
- 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](https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/clinic_restructuring/part599)
- PeerTAC Launch (January 18, 2023) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). <https://peertac.org>  
PeerTAC Launch (January 18, 2023) Glossary. <https://peertac.org>
- 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/product/Consumer-Operated-Services-Evidence-Based-PracticesEBP-KIT/SMA11-4633>.
- 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>



## Resources Provided

### 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/>

### 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](http://www.fredla.org)
- Parent Peer Support Activities | [Infographic](#)  
[www.fredla.org](http://www.fredla.org)
- 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

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](mailto:info@nypeerspecialist.org)  
[www.nypeerspecialist.org](http://www.nypeerspecialist.org)

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

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](#)

### **Videos on Peer Support Services**

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

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.

## Peer Run Organizations

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

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

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 \(CCBHC\)](#)

[New York State Adult Peer Run Organizations \(from OMH Directory of Programs by Region\)](#)

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

## Family Run Organizations

Family Run Organizations in New York State ([Directory by Region](#))

## PeerTAC Contact Information

Website: <https://peertac.org>

Reach us by Email: [info@peertac.org](mailto: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>