

Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

April 2014

International Association of Peer Supporters

Staff of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) have established a communication system through which peer supporters can direct their inquiries about the RTP project. DBSA is a project partner of iNAPS and has been very involved in curriculum development from its very inception. Now, DBSA has shifted gears a bit to organize RTP trainings.

This organization is necessary and a particular challenge given the fact peer support trainings are not “institutionalized.” Instead of colleges and universities, core competency trainings are often provided on an *ad hoc* basis and the curricula and formats used vary considerably state to state. For this project, the DBSA and iNAPS RTP team have created an “interest indicator” through which inquirers can respond to basic questions regarding their needs and the manner in which trainings can be provided.

We frequently receive inquiries from individuals seeking training with the RTP curriculum. Unfortunately, these inquiries are scattered throughout the country making logistics a particular challenge. The interest indicator solicits information intended to explore how the curriculum can be delivered to inquirers.

Currently, a training is scheduled for Ohio and discussions continue with interested parties in Michigan, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Illinois and Texas. In some of these states, the issue is one of timing. For example, North Carolina is just now completing a training review and creating its own core curriculum. The iNAPS team has been informed that the RTP curriculum would be a great way to quickly and effectively implement continuing education but attention to that aspect must wait until the core training in that state is finalized. A similar situation exists in Wisconsin.

The RTP curriculum has been completed and the participant workbook is posted on the iNAPS website. Although interested parties are able (and welcomed) to print the workbook by downloading it from the website, a pre-printed version durably bound is also available. This is attractive for some who wish to have the manual bound professionally with attractive, durable materials. The 239-page manual also consumes a significant amount of ink or toner for individuals.

A webinar on the RTP project was performed in late April with Rita Cronise, Noelle Pollet, Steve Harrington and Lisa Goodale. The webinar attracted about 150 participants and resulted in a surge of inquiries about the project.

During the April in-person RTP meeting at SAMHSA headquarters, the issue of self disclosure arose and was the subject of significant discussion. As a result, the iNAPS team has scheduled a May 23 webinar that will focus on self disclosure issues not only for peer supporters but for

other disciplines as well. Promotional support from DSG will be especially helpful in our effort to connect with other disciplines and draw them to the webinar.

The in-person meeting created additional interest in inter-disciplinary collaborations. While details remain to be worked out, conversations have begun and hold the potential for significant, long-term relationships among the RTP disciplines.

Other webinars on RTP-related topics are planned but April became very difficult for scheduling. Other topics are expected to include peer supporters on Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT), peer support in the Veteran's Administration, reducing stress and strategies for dealing with workplace issues (a second part to a previous webinar that drew much interest).

May is also expected to see scheduling of more RTP trainings, including finalization of logistics to offer such a training in conjunction with the 8th Annual National Peer Support Conference to be held in October in Atlanta, Georgia.