

# Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

## August 2014

### International Association of Peer Supporters

As the RTP project begins winding down, the iNAPS team has focused primarily on marketing. As in the previous several months, the team is responding to inquiries—primarily from individuals seeking the training locally. The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) is proving to be a valuable partner in exploring training options, managing inquiries, handling logistics and related issues.

Marketing of the RTP recovery curriculum is taking many forms. In-person presentations to groups of people with lived experience and peer supporters continues to be an important and productive method of disseminating information about the curriculum to our best target audiences. Again, the result has been a continuation of inquiries about training opportunities. Until a larger corps of facilitators has been trained, the geographic diversity of willing participants may remain a challenge to comprehensive implementation.

The iNAPS RTP team continues to be validated in its efforts to bring continuing education to peer supporters. We continue to experience great enthusiasm among the field for additional and new knowledge and skills. The participatory nature of the curriculum is also well received and the team is relieved that many months of hard work and listening to the field appears to have resulted in a meaningful curriculum that will be delivered in a meaningful way.

The iNAPS team, in close collaboration with DBSA, has offered a complete RTP training in conjunction with the annual national peer support conference (Oct. 13 & 14 in Atlanta, GA). The course has been filled and inquiries continue to be received. The team is exploring the possibility of offering two courses to respond to this apparent demand.

Lisa Goodale of DBSA and Steve Harrington of iNAPS prepared to present a workshop on the RTP project and curriculum at the annual Texas recovery conference in Austin, Sept. 8 & 9. The two will meet with Hogg Foundation officials to explore an opportunity to bring the curriculum to Texas in a comprehensive manner. Such an endeavor, if it occurs and is successful, could be a model for implementation in other locales.

The peer support field continues to change rapidly as it grows. As it changes, states and certifying entities continue to adapt parts of the RTP curriculum for training or standards development purposes. It is apparent that the iNAPS RTP recovery curriculum is being carefully scrutinized with favorable results. The inclusive process with which the curriculum was developed appears to be a significant consideration.

Part of implementation is development of a process by which logistics can be managed. The RTP team continues to modify processes to ensure that 1) inquiries result in meaningful responses, 2) courses are organized in practical and reasonable manners, 3) printed materials are readily

available and 4) training venues are identified in the context of suitability for course activities and convenience for participants.

Final preparations for completion of the Cincinnati course were made in a manner to foster involvement by as many as possible and, at the same time, benefit the curriculum (primarily its delivery and facilitator training) as much as possible.

Brochures describing the iNAPS RTP project have been distributed and the original supply of 500 was depleted and replenished with another 500 copies. The brochures are now in short supply and that supply will be replenished with a new order of 1,000. Updates to the brochure will be made as necessary but it was designed, for the most part, to be “timeless.”

In order to foster collaboration with other disciplines, the iNAPS conference planning group has included other disciplines (social work, psychiatry, psychology and occupational therapy) in conference offerings. The decision to do so was a direct result of the RTP project and desire to foster understanding among all disciplines.

In August, iNAPS offered another in its series of free webinars. The August webinar was entitled “Surviving Workplace Bullying” and was presented by a peer trained to be an RTP facilitator. The webinar was introduced as related to the RTP curriculum module “Strengthening Workplace Relationships.” Although the number of participants was rather low (estimated to be about 50), this was probably due to two considerations: 1) the webinar was performed the Friday before the Labor Day weekend and 2) participants have discovered that the webinars are archived and readily available through a link found on the iNAPS website ([www.inaops.org](http://www.inaops.org)). In mid September, certificates of participation will be sent to participants and at that time, we will have a better idea of the number of total participants in the webinar (live or via archived presentation).

The September iNAPS webinar (note that all webinars have been made possible through the generous donation of technical expertise and services of Optum) will continue the organization’s interest in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. The webinar will feature Steve Nawotniak, an occupational therapist, who will focus on the role of occupational therapy in recovery.

The iNAPS RTP team has begun the early steps of preparing its final report due at the end of September. This report will be comprehensive and likely long as so much has occurred through the RTP project. Indeed, the RTP project has helped the peer support profession develop and expand in very positive ways. It is important to note that Deidra Dain, deputy director of the RTP project, has gone well beyond her required duties to provide valuable advice and connection to resources that have contributed to the positive outcomes for the profession.