

# Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

## January 2013

### National Association of Peer Specialists

The NAPS RTP team continues to revise the recovery curriculum and is responding to what was learned at the November pilot in Cincinnati by adopting a more participatory approach. Using a model developed by the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), the team has been reviewing new drafts of modules and learning more about how the AVP approach can be adapted not only for RTP but for all peer trainings.

The team has had the benefit of consultations with Noelle Pollet who has helped developed AVP approaches and is directly involved in refining the recovery curriculum. This approach is consistent with the NAPS RTP situational analysis where respondents to questions and participants in listening sessions made it clear that a highly participatory approach was most desired. And although the curriculum as delivered in Cincinnati contained many participatory elements, those elements were insufficient. That has driven adoption of the AVP infusion into curriculum delivery.

To facilitate proper adoption of the AVP model, Rita Cronise, NAPS' curriculum designer, attended two intense AVP training sessions. Efforts are being made to have other key team members attend these free trainings.

The next pilot training is set for March 18-22 in New York with logistics handled by Community Access. Community Access oversees the Howie the Harp program and the pilot is expected to be conducted at that site.

Another pilot is being scheduled for late April in Hawaii. State mental health department officials are handling logistics for that pilot and although a firm date has not yet been set, it appears as though it will be set soon.

On January 30, NAPS' RTP team leader, Steve Harrington, met with DSG staff in Bethesda to review progress on the curriculum, particularly pilot implementation. Steve informed DSG staff that inquiries are increasing in frequency regarding the availability of the recovery curriculum. Training entities from across the country wish to use the curriculum for continuing education purposes. Steve has informed these inquirers that the curriculum is not yet ready for distribution but, when it is, they will be informed and the curriculum will be sent to them.

The issue of quality control (fidelity) continues to evolve. Endorsement of trainers for the RTP recovery curriculum will be especially important as the team adopts the AVP approach. Traditional training methods are unlikely to produce the best results so training of the AVP approach as it relates to the recovery curriculum will be especially important. The NAPS RTP team is developing a corps of facilitator trainers to implement this quality control measure. It is

expected that the team will take advantage of events (such as mental health/substance abuse conferences) to train facilitators and facilitator trainers.

In February, the NAPS RTP team will continue revisions and reviews and begin to prepare workbooks and handouts for the New York pilot. The team will also continue its planning with Hawaii officials. Other, second-phase, pilot sites will be contacted to identify logistical issues. Selection of second-phase pilot sites will be primarily drawn from the pilot site applications. But it is likely that one or more sites will involve organizations that did not apply but offer convenience necessary to offer the curriculum on a weekly session basis. As a result of the Cincinnati pilot experience, weekly sessions (as opposed to a one-week session) are likely to offer a better learning experience and be more accommodating for participants.