

Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

March 2014

International Association of Peer Supporters

RTP Recovery Curriculum Implementation

In March, the iNAPS RTP team continued to receive inquiries regarding available trainings. One challenge is that some inquiries are coming from individuals as opposed to groups or organizations. It is impractical to provide the training to a handful of individuals some distance away.

But inquiries are also coming from organizations and some individuals have said they would travel significant distances to access the training, especially when they are in need of continuing education credits.

The second half of the RTP training has been scheduled in Ohio and Steve Harrington, Rita Cronise and Lisa Goodale continue to sort out the inquiries and decide how logistics can be handled practically.

Steve traveled to Raleigh, NC in early March and informed a group of about 60 peer specialists about the RTP training. His presentation sparked much interest and peer specialists in that state are now organizing so they can create a group for the training. Antonio Lambert has moved back to North Carolina and is committed to helping create groups for RTP instruction.

Other state organizations (state departments of mental health) expressing interest in bringing RTP to their locales include Arizona, Virginia, Wisconsin, Illinois and possibly Texas. The iNAPS RTP team, however, is finding it sometimes difficult to get definitive responses from state officials.

The participant workbook has been finalized and posted on the iNAPS website. Printed copies will be made available for a nominal fee. Some polishing is still required for the facilitator guides but that work is relatively minor and the need is not pressing at this time.

Other Activities

The iNAPS RTP team has made arrangements to attend the RTP in-person meeting, April 21 & 22. Expected attendees are Rita Cronise, Lisa Goodale and Steve Harrington. The team is fully aware that RTP funds cannot be used for travel expenses for this event (none were budgeted anyway).

The iNAPS RTP team continued its webinar series (supported through the use of technology by Optum) with a March 19 webinar entitled "I'm Hired! Now What?" The webinar, presented by Steve Harrington, was very well attended (more than 200) with a lively exchange of questions

and answers. The webinar focused on ways to use the national peer support practice guidelines in practice in a variety of work settings. It was apparent from the response that several webinars could be performed addressing a variety of issues raised, such as boundaries, self-disclosure techniques/approaches and medication monitoring.

The next webinar has been set for April 25 with Rita Cronise and Lisa Goodale covering the RTP project.

Steve is working with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (formerly USpra) to present a plenary session. Although the session is currently in the planning stages, it is extremely likely that the RTP project will be covered to some extent. Brochures about the RTP project will be made available to all participants. It is also likely that Renee Kopache, a member of the American Psychological Association's RTP advisory group will also participate as a presenter.

iNAPS featured Lisa Goodale as its "Peer Support Champion" in its March newsletter. This feature is intended to draw attention to the value of allies from different disciplines in the development of the peer workforce and profession. Due to space limitations, the feature will not appear in the April newsletter but there is no shortage of supporters from other disciplines to feature. Also, Mark Ragins has been contracted to appear as a plenary presenter at the iNAPS conference in October. As a psychiatrist, his involvement will further strengthen the relationship between peer supporters and other disciplines.

Candidates for future champions include Larry Davidson, Peggy Swarbrick, Ken Gill, Mark Ragins, and Allen Daniels.

In April, Steve will be exploring with Peter Ashenden other ways disciplines can build collaborative relationships. He will also meet with an advocate from San Diego interested in bringing the RTP training to that area. Logistic planning will be an important part of all iNAPS RTP team members' contributions in April.