

Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

May 2014

International Association of Peer Supporters

April's webinar presented by Noelle Pollet, Lisa Goodale and Rita Cronise covered the RTP project. Although there were some immediate inquiries that resulted from the webinar, many inquiries came in several weeks later. Inquiries were directed to Lisa and other DBSA staff as that organization is organizing RTP courses.

The May webinar covered self-disclosure. The topic was selected as a direct result of conversations at the last RTP in-person meeting at SAMHSA. The webinar was presented by Denise Camp of On Our Own of Maryland and Andy Bernstein, a clinical psychologist. Approximately 180 people participated in the May webinar (based on anecdotal information, the exact number is difficult to estimate). Using Optum's webinar technology, the webinar saw more interaction than previous webinars and many compliments were posted on the chat box function. Several compliments were received more than a week after the webinar.

The next webinar is set for June 20 and is entitled: Stress—The Deadly Plague. This topic was selected as a result of conversations with other RTP discipline representatives. Stress was identified as a serious problem that leads to staff burn out, compassion fatigue and a variety of physical health issues. The rationale is that workers' abilities to handle stress affects their performance. The better one is able to manage stress, the better they will be able to serve those in need.

The iNAPS RTP team has received several requests for webinars that focus more in-depth on RTP topics covered in previous webinars. For example, the module, "Strengthening Workplace Relationships" is one of considerable interest and more information has been requested.

Implementation of the RTP recovery curriculum is multi-faceted. Several phone calls were received by state officials asking if they could download and use the RTP curriculum modules found on the iNAPS website. One official said the modules would be used to beef up an existing curriculum and the other said a module would be used for continuing education purposes. In addition, an inquiry from Wisconsin resulted in referring to the RTP curriculum module on co-occurring conditions. The iNAPS, RTP team has made it clear to all inquirers that the RTP curriculum is public domain and can be freely downloaded and used.

The second half (finishing up the modules previous presented and training of facilitators) of the Cincinnati training has been scheduled for August. A training is currently being planned in conjunction with the 8th Annual National Peer Support Conference in October in Atlanta, GA. This fall, it is anticipated that a training will occur in Texas with the collaboration of viaHope in that state. Trainings are being explored for Illinois and a consortium of VA medical facilities.

Inquiries regarding the availability of trainings continue to reach iNAPS and DBSA. One difficulty is that many of these inquiries come from individuals and it will require an organization with a greater number of participants to make the trainings cost effective.

Inter-disciplinary collaboration continues to be a regular feature of the iNAPS monthly newsletter. The feature, "Champions of Peer Support," has been well-received by readers and provides an opportunity for mutual understanding among the disciplines. In addition, the May and June webinars have and will feature representatives from other disciplines. There is no apparent shortage of candidates to feature.

June will see a continuation of logistical issues handled by the iNAPS team to implement the curriculum on a broader scale.