

Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

October 2012

National Association of Peer Specialists

The NAPS RTP team primarily focused on three areas: 1) preparing for the first curriculum pilot, 2) developing a process and forming collaborations for the national standards endeavor and 3) informing peer specialists about the recovery curriculum and its status.

Preparation for the pilot was led by Rita Cronise who developed PowerPoint presentations to complement the already developed modules. Modifications were made to time frames as well as appendices. Materials were sent ahead of the scheduled pilot session for pre-session work by participants. Logistical concerns were expertly handled by the Recovery Center of Hamilton County (Cincinnati). In addition to members of the NAPS RTP team (Steve Harrington, Rita Cronise and Lisa Goodale), arrangements were made for two “outside” individuals. Patrick Hayes, a regional Recovery Support Specialist for the state of Illinois and Heidi Levy of Howie the Harp in New York City, were to attend the pilot to facilitate implementation of the recovery curriculum in Illinois and the pilot at Howie the Harp. Those two individuals were privately funded to attend.

The development of national standards for peer support is a “sub-project” directly resulting from the RTP initiative. Progress on this was made in terms of making connections with key stakeholders (such as representatives from the National Empowerment Center, the National Mental Health Consumers’ Self-Help Clearinghouse, the Copeland Center and the National Recovery Coalition). Input was also sought and provided by Wilma Townsend of SAMHSA and Deidra Dain of DSG. Mentoring continues to be provided by Anthony Stratford of Mind Australia.

At the Alternatives Conference in Portland, OR, a special session was held to gather input not only from conference attendees but from others who joined the session via teleconference. The session was primarily an information-sharing event but much input was obtained from attendees.

A draft process and timeline were developed and distributed among key stakeholders for review and, with the assistance of SAMHSA, a meeting of consumer and key organizations was set for Dec. 14 at SAMSHA headquarters in Rockville, MD. E-mails continue to pour in from individuals seeking to be informed and/or involved in practice standard development. Ways to management involvement and input were explored and the use of electronic media to create workgroups and perform their functions were determined to be the most reasonable.

Information about the RTP project was shared with peers and peer supporters at the Alternatives Conference in Portland, OR. During this session, an overview of the RTP project was presented and updates regarding the NAPS part of the project was shared by Steve Harrington, Lisa

Goodale and Rita Cronise. Susan Rogers, who is an advisor to the Council on Social Work Education, shared information about the social work profession's part of the RTP project. It appeared as though attendees (almost exclusively persons in recovery) were equally interested in the status of both professions.

Much input regarding the RTP project (through information-sharing endeavors and preparation for the first pilot) was received. Input regarding the development of national practice standards has released a "flood" of input, primarily regarding the process to be used. There is a strong feeling among those interested that the process must be both inclusive (and seriously and meaningfully consider input from diverse participants) and that the process produces results in a timely manner.

Key advisors for the national standards initiative have emerged. They include, but are not limited to: Deidra Dain of DSG, Anthony Stratford of Mind Australia, Nicole Darr and Dan Fisher of the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse, Dan Fisher of the National Empowerment Center, Lauren Spiro of the National Recovery Coalition, Chacku Mathei of the New York Association of Psycho-Social Rehabilitation. Steve continues to expand the collaborative network including individuals from the Ministry of Mental Health in the United Kingdom, which has just started a similar process.

Next month is expected to yield much valuable input to "polish" the recovery curriculum. The NAPS RTP team is heartened by the enthusiasm of pilot site hosts. Using debriefings after each module and at the end of each day, the team expects to capture meaningful information regarding curriculum content and presentation.

November is also expected to see continued collaboration building among stakeholders for the national practice standards development endeavor. In addition to stakeholders in both mental health and substance abuse fields, Steve will be working with Dan Fisher of the National Empowerment Center to connect with key legislators in Congress to make them aware of the endeavor and, hopefully, help pave the way for implementation by key federal agencies.