

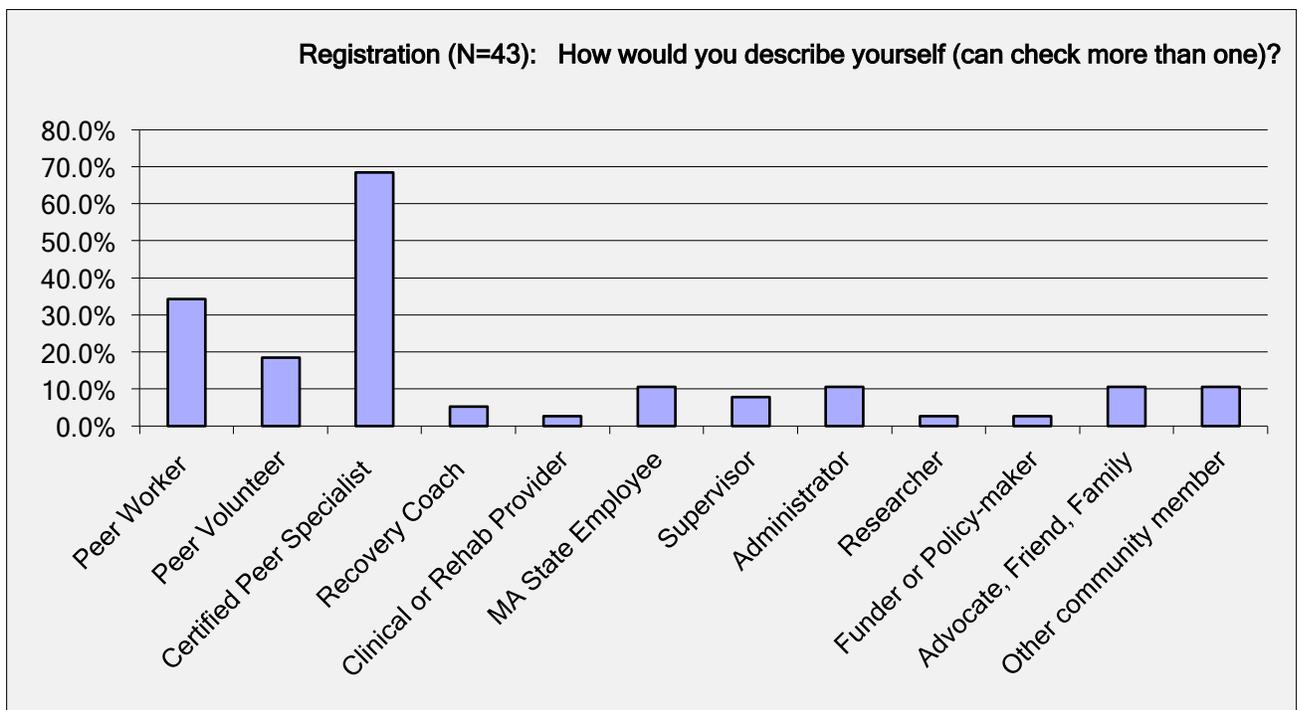


Northeast Community Voice Gathering  
 May 6, 2016  
 Haverhill Public Library

### 2016 Recruitment and Retention Report

#### Who Registered

43 people registered and 34 participants attended the Northeast Community Voice Gathering. They included peer specialists from various mental health providers, the NERLC, Tewksbury State Hospital, MA Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.



People were invited to add “Details?” about their role and many did:

- Northeast\_RLC
- CPS at State Hospital medically enhanced unit
- Currently looking at the next step in my life reclamation with an eye on how to support others
- I am striving to be a certified peer specialist . I want to encourage others through narrative telling how being homeless and dealing with mental health issues did not keep me from my appointed destiny and neither will their struggles keep them from being who they are to be
- Substance use and mental illness advocate.
- Certified Peer Specialist and HUB Coordinator, NERLC. Also involved in volunteer peer work and peer advocacy, particularly around young adults and suicide prevention
- Currently serve on board of NAMI Cape Ann. Also do volunteer peer mentoring and community building with young women undergoing or who have been through breast cancer treatment, where I've seen the value of peer support, recovery principles and mental wellness at work outside of traditional MH setting;
- Lynn PACT

- Director of Recovery
- Area Planner for Area Agency on Aging interested in learning more about potential for peer support to help elders with mental health issues
- I am a CPS (Spring 2014), just transitioned from Peer Specialist at North Suffolk Mental Health Association to [another peer role] at North Suffolk. Want to be the Peer liaison for the employment team.
- Coordinate grant focused on peer to peer addiction recovery
- Community Engagement Specialist at Peer Recovery Center

#### How did you find out about job

- Word of mouth through friends (x3)
- Walked into vendor and learned about it when looking for a job.
- Through volunteering
- An ad (x2)

#### What made you want to apply

- RLC Director called me & made it sound so exciting!
- CPS training Aha moment; had floated along in illness for 22 years & learned to advocate for myself
- Wanted to help people; trying to reorganize my life; saw peer roles in agencies... found out about CBFS teams & RLC
- Liked RLC because driven by us; don't have to check in with clinical team (they were nice but didn't use me as CPS all the time)

#### When did you learn about peer support work

- Years ago Riverside had a small peer support group (~15 years)
- Began in advocacy role with MPOWER – TC so it hard to know exactly when heard. ~13 years ago.
- By word of mouth ~2014, heard about it in Wakefield
- Via Rob Walker at DMH a few years ago. TC training wasn't open so trained elsewhere

#### How get the word out you were hiring

- Spread the word among people you now – word of mouth
- Met someone at MLA and wanted to learn/be involved in advocacy
- Volunteer job to get foot wet; facing fears about job (x2)
- FB, Monster, Indeed, RLC (x2)
- People who attend meetings & get involved invite them back to meetings

#### How did you get your job

- Heard about it after CPS training + work in advocacy
- Took CPS class – significant life change: intro to peer community, went back to PAC team + became a change agent by challenging the language used
- Heard Tewksbury Hospital was hiring so went there to inquire – app. + interviews

### Why apply

- Giving back (x3)
- Benefits from job
- Needed a job
- Knew I could do it, passion
- Good fit

### What made you take the job

- \$, thought this could be interesting...
- Really needed a job; driven by peers & had a lot of independence (RLC role)
- Had worked as LICSW but liked that she could use her lived exper. , less time spent on paperwork

## **Evaluation**

All components of the Northeast Community Voice Gathering were rated either “Excellent” or “Good” except for one person who rated the value of the small group breakout session “Workforce Recruitment & Retention” as fair.

### Comments About the Gathering/Specific Things You Valued, Why

- Fantastic Gathering of people; great to make new connections
- Valued MH/Addiction break—out; as a person in dual recovery, I was very happy with this
- Very interesting to have a chance to give feedback and share ideas with others to advance the peer support field, continuing education & rights advocacy
- Valued community camaraderie
- We should do this every three months!
- Amazing; valued networking & common voices
- Great—thank you for having me; great info & questions; valued the morning group at the CVG
- The facilitators were wonderful! I have a super short attention span, and I was never bored today!
- The pace & structure of this event was EXCELLENT! Engaging, interesting, hopeful, positive—I am so glad I was here!
- Pleasant, supportive group. Easy to ask questions
- I really enjoy seeing old friends & making new ones
- Getting together is so valuable. Really glad this is happening; valued the deep conversation
- Very informative; valued the groups

### Specific things you would change; How

- Maybe a larger space with more opportunities to talk with groups quietly. More time for PM Breakout sessions
- Too many wonderful topics—too hard to choose; maybe “TED TALKS” would have been better or Mini Ted Talk priority to choosing which one I wanted to join
- Non noodle food, less carbs, less lactose
- Expanded Code of Ethics to include “WE DO NOT WRITE NOTES”
- The education on NOT promoting forced treatment
- Too cold in the room
- Less time for lunch

### Topics & Suggestions for future Community Voice Gatherings

- Any new element of recovery (groups, MH/addiction, SMART)
- Supervising Peers Training
- Advocacy around forced treatment
- Great place to network—can we have people put their card, emails, flyers, etc. on a table so we can all connect & grab contact info to follow up on? (Like a resource table)
- Maybe get rid of last set of groups—have speakers touch on topics from the front of the room instead of in groups