

**NYAPRS Conference 2023 Program Schedule
E news Version**

Tuesday September 26, 2023

11:30 am Lunch, Opening Remarks

TUESDAY September 26 ROUND 1 12:30-1:45 pm

| | Workshop | Presenters | Track |
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| 1. | Fighting Forced Treatment From Coast to Coast | Andrea Wagner, California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations, Chico, CA; Cherene Caraco, CEO, Promise Resource Network, Charlotte, NC; Monica Luke, Boston, MA, Harvey Rosenthal, NYAPRS, Albany, NY | HUMAN RIGHTS |
| 2. | Tokenism: The Path to Peer Drift | Joanne Forbes, Rutgers University, Morgantown, NJ; Elizabeth “Mya” Haley and Abaigel “Abbe” Duke Center for Practice Innovation, New York City, New York | PEER SERVICES |
| 3. | Creating Cultures of Support & Recovery Across Diverse Chosen Families, Generations & Communities | Shantalee Martinez, Megan Spagnola, Deborah Faust, Mental Health Association of NYS, Albany, NY | RECOVERY ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN |
| 4. | Overshadowed: Stories of Stigma in the Healthcare System | Melissa Wettengel, Hands Across Long Island, Central Islip, NY | HUMAN RIGHTS |
| 5 | PeerTAC Peer Specialist Listening Forum | Rita Cronise, Rutgers University, Academy of Peer Services; Yvette Kelly NYU McSilver Institute for Poverty, Policy and Research, Co-Directors PeerTAC | PEER SERVICES |
| 6. | Racial (In)justice and Employment | Paul Margolies, Karen Broadway-Wilson, Raymond Gregory, Thomas Jewel, Gary Scannevin, Norman Kim; Center for Practice Innovation, New York City, NY | EMPLOYMENT |
| 7. | Healing through Spiritual Practices with a Trauma Informed Lens | Patty Blum, Crestwood Behavioral Health, Sacramento, CA; Lori Ashcraft, Resilience, Inc, Nevada City, CA | TRAUMA |

Break 1:45-2:00 pm

**KEYNOTE: Tiara Springer-Love, Director, Youth Power, Albany, NY
2:00-2:45 pm**

**NYAPRS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY #1
2:45-3:30 pm FORUM**

TUESDAY September 26 ROUND 2 3:45-5:00 pm

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| 8. | Learning from Each Other: Bringing Movement Elders and Young Leaders Together | Speakers TBA | RECOVERY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN |
| 9. | Hospital Discharge Plans that Work | Speakers TBA | PUBLIC POLICY |

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| 10. | Effective Peer Support Supervision in Practice | Dwayne Mayes, Dillon Browne and panel, MHA of Westchester, White Plains, NY | PEER SERVICES |
| 11. | Operationalizing and Contracting Peer Delivered Services with CCBHCs and Managed Care Organizations | Anthony Fox, Tennessee Mental Health Consumers Association, Nashville, TN; Buffalo, NY; Anna Gray, Prosumers International, San Antonio, Texas; Shannon Higbee, Recovery Options, | PEER SERVICES |
| 12. | Employment – Expanding Outcomes, Building Success | Regina Kaiser Ruth Gonzales Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network, Fairfield, CA | EMPLOYMENT |
| 13. | Keeping Pace with New Medicaid Waivers and Funding Opportunities | Lauren Tobias, Brown & Weinraub, Harvey Rosenthal, NYAPRS, Albany, NY | PUBLIC POLICY |
| 14. | Trauma Informed Peer Support for Sexual and Gender Diverse Communities | Elise Diamond, Recovery Specialist & Trainer, Center for Practice Innovations; Em Wasserman, Mental Health Empowerment Project, Albany, NY | DIVERSITY |
| 15. | Rhythms for Resilience & Connection | Chrys Ballerano, E Bjorkman, NYSCASA | HEALING |

Tuesday September 26 Evening Program

5:00 pm Diversity Bash/Fashion Show
6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Keynote: Healing Through Hip Hop

Christopher "Mic Handz"; Jerald "Dj Kareem" Jenkins; Luis "Dj LOL" Lopez; Chacku Mathai; Elizabeth Brier; Amanda Saake

8:30 pm Peer Support Meetings / Zumba!

9:15 pm **Open Mic with Michael Skinner**; Board Games

9:30 pm Dancing with DJ Jenkins

Wednesday September 27, 2023

7:30 am Breakfast

Wednesday September 27 ROUND 3 8:30-9:45 am

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| 16. | Moving Through Times of Personal Crisis | Cherene Caraco, Promise Resource Network, Charlotte, NC; Lori Ashcraft, Resilience, Inc, Nevada City, CA; Jeff McQueen, Hempstead, NY | HEALING |
| 17. | Clubhouses in the Continuum of Care | Nicole Patton, Aquapay Ashley Fountain House; TBA, Venture House, NYC, NY | REHABILITATION |
| 18. | Passing and Protecting Criminal Justice Reforms | Chacku Mathai, Daniel's Law Coalition; Victor Pate, HALT Solitary Confinement; Evelyn Graham-Nyassi, Treatment Not Jails campaign, NYC, New York Moderator: Luke Sikinyi, NYAPRS | CRIMINAL JUSTICE |
| 19. | Intersected: Community Dialogue on Psychiatric Systems, Lived Experience | Ro Speight, Danielle Lopez, Tracy Puglisi, NYS Office of Mental Health, Albany, NY | DIVERSITY |

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| | and Intersections with Other Contexts of Lived Experience | | |
| 20. | Listening to the Peer Workforce: Top Ten Recommendations | Jeremy Reuling, People USA, Jessica Wolf, Decisions Solutions Consulting, CT; Rita Cronise, Rutgers University, Freehold, NJ | PEER SERVICES |
| 21. | Part 1: Wellness and Recovery (Resilience) Story Circle | Dr. Deborah Wilcox, Confluency Consultants and Associates | PEER SERVICES |
| 22. | Trauma and the Workplace | Clarencetine (Teena) Brooks, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, LaVerne Miller, Transitional Services for NY, Patrice Peterson, Vibrant Emotional Health, Maryam Husamudeen, NYAPRS, Albany, NY; Cathy Cave, Inspired Vision, LLC; Helen "Skip" Skipper, The NYC Justice Peer Initiative. Bronx, New York | TRAUMA |
| Break 9:45-10:00 am | | | |
| <p>KEYNOTE: Cherene Caraco, CEO, Promise Resource Network Harvey Rosenthal, CEO, NYAPRS 10:00 to 10:45 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Register for the Conference Book Hotel </p> | | | |
| Break 10:45 to 11:00 am | | | |
| Wednesday September 27 ROUND 4 11:00 am -12:15 pm | | | |
| 23. | Keeping the Movement Moving | Laura Prescott, Sister Witness International, Cornville, Arizona; Gayle Bluebird, Independent Consultant, Gainesville, FL; Laura Van Tosh, Global Mental Health Peer Network, Washington; Harvey Rosenthal, Albany, NY | HUMAN RIGHTS |
| 24. | Mental Health in the Schools | Kelly Davis, Mental Health America, Washington, DC; Dawn Yuster, NYC; Luke Sikinyi, NYAPRS, Albany, NY | PUBLIC POLICY |
| 25. | Did They Say That? Yes They Did!- Dealing with Microaggressions in Supervision | Jonathan Edwards, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC, New York; Jessica Wolf, Decisions Solutions Consulting, CT | DIVERSITY |
| 26. | Peer Crisis Continuum | Jeremy Reuling, Maria Kavouras, People USA, Poughkeepsie, NY; Shannon Higbee, Recovery Options, Buffalo, NY, Susan Musante, New Mexico | PEER SERVICES |
| 27. | The Power of Our Story | Patty Blum, Mertice Gitane Williams and Greg Parnell, Crestwood Behavioral Health, Sacramento, CA | HEALING |

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| 28. | What Can Your ILC Do For You? | Lindsay Miller, NY Association on Independent Living, Albany, NY; Stephanie Orlando, WNY Independent Living Center, Buffalo, NY; Aileen Martin, Northern Regional Center for Independence, Watertown, NY and Doug Hovey, Independent Living, Newburgh, NY | INNOVATIONS |
| 29. | Strategies for Developing The Justice Peer Workforce | LaVerne Daisy Miller, Transitional Services for NY and Helen "Skip" Skipper, The NYC Justice Peer Initiative. Bronx, New York | CRIMINAL JUSTICE |
| LUNCH 12:15 pm to 1:00 pm | | | |
| Keynote: Paolo del Vecchio, Director, SAMHSA Office of Recovery 1:00-2:00 pm | | | |
| NYAPRS AWARDS CEREMONY #2 2:00-2:45 pm | | | |
| BREAK 2:45-3:00 PM | | | |
| Wednesday September 27 ROUND 5 3:00-4:15 pm | | | |
| 30. | Federal PUBLIC POLICY Panel | Jennifer Mathis, US Department of Justice; Dara Kass, US Department of Health and Human Services; HHS; Paolo del Vecchio, SAMHSA Office of Recovery; Harvey Rosenthal, NYAPRS | PUBLIC POLICY |
| 31. | Strategies for a Successful Re-Entry | Skip Skipper, The NYC Justice Peer Initiative. Bronx, New York; Melissa Wettengel, Hands Across Long Island, Central Islip, NY; Tracie Gardner, Legal Action Center, Luke Sikinyi, NYAPRS, Albany, NY | CRIMINAL JUSTICE |
| 32. | No, Nothing, None! Answers to Three Critical Questions about Supervision of Peer Supporters | Joanne Forbes, Rita Cronise, Amy Spagnolo, Rutgers University, Freehold, NJ; Gita Enders, Health + Hospitals and Jonathan Edwards, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC, New York | PEER SERVICES |
| 33. | MYBody, MYLife: Physical Wellness Matters for Everyone | Kristopher Bly, Hands Across Long Island, Central Islip, NY | HEALING |
| 34. | Multiple Pathways to Employment | Len Statham, COO and Rob Statham, Training Collective, NYAPRS, Albany, NY | EMPLOYMENT |
| 35. | Bathing in the Light | Neville Morris, Coordinated Care Services, Inc, Rochester, NY | HEALING |
| 36. | Creative Recovery | Rebecca Nelson, Ariel Rowland, Mental Health Empowerment Project, Albany, NY; Gayle Bluebird, Jacksonville, Florida | PEER SERVICES |
| Break 4:15 to 4:30 pm | | | |
| NYAPRS Annual Meeting 4:30 to 5:15 pm | | | |
| Wednesday September 27th Evening Program 6:00 pm Annual BBQ Under the Stars | | | |

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| <p>7:30 to 8:45 pm Stand Up for Mental Health David Granirer Vancouver Canada and company Part 2: Implement Story Circles Within Your Agency and Organization Dr. Deborah Wilcox, Confluency Consultants and Associates</p> <p>8:30 pm Peer Support Meetings / Zumba! 9:15 pm Open Mic with Michael Skinner; Board Games 9:30 pm Dancing with DJ Jenkins</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday September 28, 2023</p> | | | |
| 7:30 am Breakfast | | | |
| Thursday September 28 ROUND 6 8:30-9:45 am | | | |
| 37. | Peer Service Innovations Across the Nation | Cherene Caraco, Promise Resource Network, Charlotte, NC; Patrick Hendry, Firsthand, NYC, New York; Steve Miccio, Poughkeepsie, NY | PEER SERVICES |
| 38. | Approach Matters: What Is Psych Rehab and Why Should I Ask For It? | Daniella Labate-Covelli, Psych Rehab Training Academy, Steve Nawotniak, Brittany Higgins | REHABILITATION |
| 39. | A Springboard to My Higher Self | Emily Grossman, The Dream Team Coaches, Montclair, NJ | HEALING |
| 40. | Addressing the Rising Mental Health Needs of an Aging Population: | Michael Friedman, Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of NY; Harvey Rosenthal, NYAPRS, Albany, NY | ACROSSS THE LIFE SPAN |
| 41. | Empowering the next Generation of Disability HUMAN RIGHTS Leaders through Multigenerational Collaboration | Bianca Logan, Young Leaders and Advocates Network, Victor, NY; Kevin Smith, Mental Health Peer Connection and Stephanie Orlando, WNY Center for Independent Living, Buffalo, NY | ACROSSS THE LIFE SPAN |
| 42. | How to Meet and Mingle | Bill Gamble, Mental Health Empowerment Project, Albany, NY | HEALING |
| 43. | An Anti-Racist NYAPRS: Collaboration from Within | Lenora Reid-Rose, Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships & Community Connectedness, Emily Childress and members of the committee | DIVERSITY |
| 9:45 to 10:00 am Break | | | |
| TOWN HALL: Ann Sullivan, Commissioner NYS Office of Mental Health 10:00am to 11:00 am | | | |
| Register for the Conference Book Hotel 11:00 to 11:15 am Break | | | |
| Thursday September 28 ROUND 7 11:15 am to 12:30 am | | | |

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| 44. | NYS Youth and Young Adult Panel | Speakers TBA | RECOVERY ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN |
| 45. | Foundations of Change | Carrie Woodcock S.T.E.P. by S.T.E.P. Inc and Total Transformation, Ogdensburg, NY | PEER SERVICES |
| 46. | The View from the States | Amy Brinkley, National Association of State Mental Health Program Director Recovery Support Systems Coordinator; Noah Abdenour, Peer and Recovery Services Director, Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Amanda Saake, Chief Advocacy and Peer Support Services Officer, NYS Office of Mental Health, Albany, NY; TBA; Harvey Rosenthal, NYAPRS | PUBLIC POLICY |
| 47. | Seat at the Table | Christina Sparrock, Steve Coe, Dawn Yuster, Mental Health Advocates, NYC, New York; Luke Sikinyi, NYAPRS, Albany, NY | HUMAN RIGHTS |
| 48. | Making Mental Illness Fun Again | Dan Frey, City Voices, NYC, New York | FUN |
| 49. | Healing Black Women's Ancestral & Intergenerational Trauma | Chiquita Williams, Consultant, Fountain House, NYC, New York | DIVERSITY |
| 50. | CORE Services | Emily Childress, Director, NYAPRS Peer Navigator Project, Binghamton, NY; OMH rep | INNOVATIONS |

CLOSING REMARKS RAFFLE PRIZES BOXED LUNCHESES

[Register for the Conference](#)

[Book Hotel](#)