



Workshop Session I

10:45-12:15

Employment Supports in ACCS

Michael Stepansky, DMH Westborough

There is a misconception that ACCS does not support employment or education. Attendees will learn what employment-related supports are allowed, encouraged, or required in DMH's new model.

Vinfen Safe Havens: A Housing First Model for People with Long Term Homelessness and Mental Illness

Will Buckley, Wally Olaleye, Kimberly Burns, Doe Estabrook, Vinfen

A discussion of the areas that are most helpful in serving people who have been long term homeless and are mentally ill. The challenge of building a bridge of trust while supporting their efforts in building better lives and access the housing of their choice.

The Alternatives to Suicide Approach: New Strategies for Dialogue in Times of Struggle

Caroline Mazel-Carlton, Sera Davidow, Western MA RLC

The phrase "I feel suicidal" can hold many meanings. How do we create connection-focused and non-coercive spaces to explore the under-lying emotions, social factors, losses, experiences of systemic oppression and trauma that connect to suicide?

Whole Brain Thinking: How to Recognize Your Thinking Style to Make You a Better Leader

Michelle Larned, Vinfen

Awareness is the first step to change. Begin to understand how why people approach problems the way they do and how you can use that to influence change.

The Role of Collaborative Learning in Services Implementation and Competency Development

Steve LaMaster, TJ Weihing, Vinfen

A community of practice (CoP) has been defined as "a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly" (E. Wenger). A CoP can evolve naturally from members' common interest in a particular domain

or area, or created deliberately with the goal of gaining knowledge related to a specific field. In this interactive presentation, you will identify some fundamental principles for building and maintaining effective CoP, and learn important actions to be taken that can leverage collaborative learning, even when geographic distance separates participants.

Walking Together: Weaving IPS and Environment Matters into ACCS

Sarah Leach, Olga Boruchovich, Diane Santoro, Bay Cove Human Services

This presentation explores how Bay Cove is incorporating recovery and trauma-informed practices into every element of our work through ensuring that all staff are trained in and practicing the basic tenets of intentional peer supports, and through reinventing our program with the guidance of environment matters, a Module Taken From the Certified Peer Specialist Training.

Workshop I: Basic SSA Disability Programs and their Application to SSA Work Incentives

Brian Osborne, DMH Metro Boston Area

This workshop series (3) will review the basics of Social Security Administration Work Incentives with an emphasis on the rules, that affect Impairment Related Work Expenses, Programs to Acquire Self-Support & the Extended Period of Medicare Eligibility.

Psychosis and Ecology

Steve Morgan, Intentional Peer Support

Psychosis is an experience of mind existing in all cultures throughout time. So what is it doing on the planet? Here we explore an exciting frontier where nature and mind intersect.

Rehabilitation Practitioner-Employer-Development

Kelley Gamble, Open Sky Community Services

What does it take to make an effective PSR practitioner? Strategies for supervision, training, and monitoring implementation.

Wednesday, May 15

Workshop Session II

1:15-2:45

Tools for School: Supporting the Academic Success of Young Adults with Mental Health Conditions in College and Beyond

Laura Golden, Ian Lane, Transitions ACR, SPARC, UMass Medical

This workshop describes academic challenges faced by college students with mental health conditions. We'll explore students' rights and pre-existing and innovative campus services to overcome these challenges.

Strategies for Implementing Health & Wellness Initiatives

Shari Rudisill, Deborah Record, Advocates

Individuals with serious mental illness die 25-30 years younger than those without a mental health diagnosis. At Advocates, we strive to change that horrendous statistic through improved health and wellness.

Integrated Services for People Who Experience Co-Occurring Disorders

Christine Palmieri, Sara Kendall, MHA Inc.

A broad overview of best practices for working with individuals who experience both psychiatric symptoms and addiction. Strategies for engagement, effective interventions that can be used in a wide array of service types regardless of funding source (DMH, BSAS, residential, outpatient). The barriers associated with traditional models of treatment and service. Positive outcomes for those who receive support/treatment for both by the same service team.

Why and How to Promote Wellness with Hands-On Reiki

Cynthia Piltch, Deborah Bennett, Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation

This workshop will provide participants with training in how to provide Reiki treatments to self and others to promote wellness. Participants MUST have already received initiation to Reiki in order to take the workshop

Workshop II: The IRWE and PASS-SSA Work Incentives

Brian Osborne, DMH Metro Boston Area

This workshop series (3) will review the basics of Social Security Administration Work Incentives with an emphasis on the rules that affect Impairment Related Work Expenses, Programs to Acquire Self-Support & the Extended Period of Medicare Eligibility.

Embracing Neurodiversity and the Importance of Social Cues in Peer Support

Christopher Laureano, Nancy Berger, Bay Cove Human Services

The awareness of people belonging in neurodiverse and underrepresented communities will be explored, and Intentional Peer Support is used to improve effectiveness in peer support and bring these communities together.

Trauma and Psychosis

Thomas Brown, Bay Cove Human Services

This workshop will explore the strong connection between trauma and psychosis that is emerging in academic research. The history of diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia will be reviewed, and the various models compared.

Understanding and Creating Trauma Informed Environment

Mark DeNofrio, Vinfen

This training will provide an overview of trauma, as well as the role trauma plays in day to day functioning, and approaches/attitudes which are supportive of trauma recovery.

How to Give a Workshop

Patricia Nemec, DBA Nemec Consulting, Anne Sullivan-Soydan, Boston University

Do you want to give a workshop, but don't know where to start? Have you given workshops you wish were better? Come learn the general principles and essential steps of planning and delivering training in a conference workshop format.

Wednesday, May 15

Workshop Session III

3:00-4:30

Facilitating a Welcoming Community

Dennis Rice and Michael Seibold, Open Sky Community Services

Assisting the people we serve to assume valued roles as active members of the community has been a long standing challenge for us. Presenters will “lay out” a concrete methodology that includes specific strategies so staff can help individuals achieve this goal. Examples of success stories will be shared to illustrate the effectiveness of the process. The presentation will be lively and challenging and will encourage participant involvement in discussion and problem solving within their own organizations.

Community Criminal Justice Involvement: Navigating the System/Breaking the Cycle

Barbara Brown, Bay Cove Human Services

We will demystify the court process and identify challenges to successful criminal justice participation. Specific strategies for positive outcomes will be highlighted to foster rehabilitation and recovery for court-involved individuals.

Think Work is Stressful? Try Unemployment!

Christa Mullaly, Colton Davis, Sarah Cowart, Emily Breslin, Vinfen

Come explore the impact of employment on mental health, get up to date on new research, and learn how to promote employment with persons served.

How the Center of Excellence (COE) for Psychosocial and Systematic Research Can Support the Recovery Community

Cynthia Piltch, Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation

This session will focus on a facilitated discussion among key members of the COE team that highlights COE’s activities aimed at tapping diverse stakeholders to develop a peer-informed research agenda.

Crisis Prevention, Self-Awareness and Basic Safety

Donald Rankins, Bay Cove Human Services

To address the challenges of staff or any person responding to challenging behavior instinctively or emotionally, crisis prevention practices have been developed and implemented to decrease negative outcomes during the four stages of crisis.

Workshop III: The Extended Period of Medicare Eligibility (EPMC)-SSA Work Incentive

Brian Osborne, DMH Metro Boston Area

This workshop series (3) will review the basics of Social Security Administration Work Incentives with an emphasis on the rules that affect Impairment Related Work Expenses, Programs to Acquire Self-Support & the Extended Period of Medicare Eligibility.

The Bay Cove Miracle

Hanul Kim, Cameron Vilain, Vaness Barnard, Idella Sanders-Jones, Bay Cove Human Services

On July 1, 2019, Bay Cove Human Services embarked on a journey that was spearheaded by a new type of workforce; certified peer specialists.

The CORI Barrier to Employment

Rina Wolok, Bay Cove Human Services

Having a criminal record can be a major barrier to obtaining work, education, housing, and other necessities. Joins us to explore vital questions about the process for overcoming this barrier.

The Family Perspective in ACCS

Steve LaMaster, Vinfen; Thomas Brown, Baycove Human Services, Judi Maguire, NAMI-MA

The Department of Mental Health's Adult Community Clinical Services model includes a member of the services team to "support the desired level of family participation in the Persons' treatment." This workshop explores the needs of families (and close supporters), and elaborates on the promises and challenges of incorporating family support into the adult mental health service system in MA.