

Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

April 2012

National Association of Peer Specialists

The NAPS RTP team continued work on creating first drafts of recovery curriculum modules and obtaining and processing input from various stakeholders. Reviewers are both formal (those identified by DSG) and informal, those who have contacted NAPS for review purposes. In addition, a subgroup of NAPS stakeholders receive drafts for comment. This subgroup lies somewhere between formal and informal but regularly receives drafts for comment. In all, approximately 15 to 20 people receive drafts for comment. Of these, about half regularly provide input.

The NAPS RTP also prepared and met at the “in person” meeting at the SAMHSA offices in Rockville. Representing the team were Steve Harrington, Rita Cronise and Lisa Goodale. A discussion among the three following the event confirmed that everyone felt it was valuable. The “use of self” presentation was deemed especially helpful. Making contacts again with other RTP representatives helped the NAPS RTP team identify key individuals for later contact.

Getting to know the representatives from the addiction/substance abuse professions was valuable and later connections were made between NAPS and some representatives from the “new” profession. As a result of these contacts, the NAPS RTP team believes it will be able to adequately and competently explore online options for presenting the curriculum. It is hoped that all or part of the curriculum will be presented online to facilitate distribution. The NAPS team has shared most of the draft modules and other information with a “recovery coach” training organization in Florida that is closely linked with the addiction/substance abuse profession.

The NAPS RTP team continues to receive inquiries from training entities and advocate organizations. Most recently, Access to Independence, headquartered in Madison, Wis., e-mailed a formal request to be a pilot site for the curriculum and have some of its peer specialist training facilitators be trained to teach the recovery curriculum.

In addition, it appears as though several more states have decided to increase the instruction hours for certifying peer specialists or are quickly heading that way. The RTP recovery curriculum will likely be very timely as its format and content seem to be a “natural” fit for extension of existing courses.

In April, Steve Harrington had several contacts with Lori Ashcraft of the Recovery Opportunity Center, which offers training and peer support services in several states, including Arizona, California, North Carolina and Delaware. Although discussions have not directly focused on the RTP recover curriculum and the ROC already offers a comprehensive basic and advanced

training for peer specialists, the NAPS team is hopeful that it will soon explore a collaborative relationship with the ROC and its sister organization, Recovery Innovations.

As a result of the in-person meeting and discussion regarding self-care, the NAPS RTP team will be creating a module to address this topic. Due to the existing structure of the curriculum, the team will be exploring ways to create a “pre-session” exercise that will be integrated throughout the curriculum. The self-care module is likely to fit both a pre-session exercise and a “stand alone” module. The NAPS RTP team hopes the other disciplines will carefully consider including the module or parts of it in their own curricula.

In May, the NAPS RTP team will have created drafts of all modules and begin the formal integration of comments received. Piloting issues continue to be a topic of discussion and it appears that for the remainder of this fiscal year of the project, only portions of the modules will be pilot tested. But during the next year of the project the team expects complete pilot testing of all modules in their entirety and in a manner most likely to simulate real, on-the-ground implementation of the curriculum.