

# Recovery to Practice Monthly Report

## January 2012

### National Association of Peer Specialists

The primary (and almost exclusive) focus of this month's activities has been the development of modules for the recovery curriculum. Modules 1 (Recovery Basics), 8 (Parts 1 and 2), and 2 (Trauma-Informed Practices) were completed in draft form. Module 3 (Multi-Cultural Awareness) and 4 (Wellness) are very nearly complete in draft form.

The NAPS RTP team has developed a system of internal review before submitting modules to DSG for broader distribution. And when modules are submitted to DSG, they are simultaneously submitted for review to a key group of additional, external reviewers who also provide comments.

The NAPS RTP team has been careful about incorporating copyright-protected material in its modules. Permission has been sought—and granted—for important material we wish to include. Currently, two requests for permission remain outstanding. We were most gratified that Peggy Swarbrick graciously allowed us to use her work (with attribution) as we wish.

We have found reviewer comments from all sources useful and relevant. We have noticed, however, that one reviewer, Chacku Mathei, offers very thoughtful insights that often address broader RTP issues. We have found his comments help us “keep on track” regarding the RTP purpose and goals. Steve Harrington has arranged to discuss Chacku's perspectives with him personally to be certain he understands the value of his comments and to gain a better understanding of his perspectives and vision for the project. We believe Chacku has much to offer and we seek not only to continue his input but make better use of it.

In addition module development, Steve has made arrangements to participate in a conference for community mental health psychiatrists in Tempe, AZ in early March. He will be making a presentation about the RTP project. He will also participate in a poster presentation at the ACMHA conference in March in Charleston, SC and will present information regarding the project at that event. Plans have also been made for Antonio Lambert to present on the RTP project at the NAMI national conference in Seattle, WA in June. Steve will attend the conference only as “backup” in the event detailed information regarding the project is needed.

Few requests for information about the RTP project have been received in January. One person asked to be a volunteer reviewer of modules (and modules have been sent to her for review) and Peter Ashenden, as part of the planning for the Pillars of Peer Support summit at the Carter Center in Atlanta in November, requested information contained in our situational analysis.

In February, work will continue to develop module drafts and refine (using reviewer comments) drafts already submitted for review. The team is cognizant that these modules will require modification following pilot testing—especially in regard to time frames.

Because the module time frame has been expanded to four hours (a decision we are finding to be most practical), piloting will require changes from our original plan, which anticipated piloting in conference contexts. But, this month, we have received three serious inquiries about pilot testing in a week-long time frame, the entire curriculum. Those inquiries have come from organizations in Massachusetts, Texas and New York.

This apparent willingness to devote this amount of time for piloting may have implementation implications. We continue to hope—and expect—that peer specialist training organizations will adopt the curriculum as an advanced training offering. This strategy, if implemented, will meet the goals of the RTP project and may foster long-term sustainability for the project.

Website development continues but is nearing its final stages. Rita Cronise, working with the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, has created a website design that will accommodate our need to distribute RTP information and products to a broad audience. The NAPS RTP team has also addressed the need to provide ready access to at least one video incorporated in the curriculum. Using “partner status” with YouTube, it appears we will be able to provide free and easy access to everyone with an Internet connection. The video, *Open Spaces*, will be uploaded and available in its entirety (instead of 10-minute segments). If other videos are deemed important to the curriculum, we expect to provide them via this method.

It is unanimous among the NAPS RTP team developing the modules that although it involves considerable work, prior phases of this project (such as development of the situational analysis and marshalling recovery resources) are allowing the team to create meaningful documents.