

2018 iNAPS Conference Presenters

Ahmad Abojaradeh is the Founder and Executive Director of Life in My Days, a Global Non-Profit paving the way for starting difficult conversations around Mental Health and Disabilities, Abuse and Trauma, and Social Justice worldwide. Life in My Days connects individuals from over 150 countries and has operations in the United States, Turkey, Malaysia, and Jordan. Life in My Days specializes in starting these difficult conversations, empowering community members, and creating spaces of Belonging.

He is also a Social Justice and Mental Health advocate, sharing his personal experiences about Mental Illness and Oppression worldwide, and supporting organizations in creating more accessible and safe spaces. He has worked with dozens of communities worldwide, working on the individual, community, organizational, and policy levels. His work has been featured on Healthline, The Mighty, This is My Brave, Communications Rebel, Muslimgirl, and many local publications in the communities he works in.

He is also a Peer Support Specialist, supporting individuals from around the world, specializing in working with individuals displaced by war, torture and complex childhood trauma, living with Mental Illness and/or Disability, and individuals living with Suicidality.

Lori Ashcraft During her 40-year behavioral health career, Lori has had a strong interest in the therapeutic effects of self-determination, choice, and personal freedom. She did her dissertation on freedom, spending a month in Russia at the time the Soviet Union collapsed, and focused her inquiry in Soviet mental hospitals, where the lack of freedom and choice was pervasive. After a full career in California that included the Deputy Director for Community Programs of state Department of Mental Health, she re-located to Arizona where she accepted the position as Director for Adult Services for the Regional Behavioral Health Authority and served as a professor for the University of Arizona teaching psycho-social rehabilitation. It was during this time that Lori became involved in the recovery movement. Through training with Mary Ellen Copeland and help from colleagues at Boston University, her commitment to recovery principles became a passion. In the fall of 2000, Lori accepted the position as Executive Director of the Center. Currently Lori was the Executive Director for the Recovery Innovations Recovery Opportunity Center. In 2014 Lori created Resilience Inc. A training and consulting service dedicated to preparing and supporting a peer workforce.

Elisa Barnett is the Assistant Program Manager, and lead on Adult and Older Adult training, at the Behavioral Health Education Training Academy (BHETA), a program of the Academy for Professional Excellence. A graduate of Kenyon College, and a current Masters candidate at the University of San Diego, Elisa has been working in the San Diego public behavioral health system of care for the last nine years. Using her lived experience of mental health challenges, as well as her lived bi-cultural experience, Elisa has worked as a Peer Support Specialist (PSS), including facilitating the training of PSS to work as professional service providers and facilitators, as well as providing training for those who supervise and work alongside PSS. She has also provided training on cultural competency, person-first language, and the importance of recovery-oriented environments in providing trauma-informed care to diverse populations.

Andy Bernstein is a clinical and community psychologist who has long been involved in the consumer movement and in peer support as a helping paradigm and an evolving discipline. This career trajectory began in the 1980's at the NJ Self-Help Clearinghouse, where he did his doctoral dissertation on the development of self-help groups. He has been closely involved with iNAPS since attending its first Denver conference in 2006 with NJ peer colleagues, and has sat on its Board of Directors for a number of years. He provided technical support to the NJ Consumer-Provider Association for 10 years until he moved to Tucson, Arizona, where as a Clinical Professor in the University of Arizona's Department of Family and Community Medicine, he supervises interns and residents in their communication skills with patients, and serves as Clinical Director of Camp Wellness, a SAMHSA award-winning recovery-oriented adult education program which employs peers as Health Mentors. He is on the Governing Board of Arizona's Peer and Family Career Academy (PFCA), and also on the Boards of Directors of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA) and Arizona's Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioners (AAPRP).

Elvin Blanco, LMHC. is the Consumer Network/Adult System of Care Liaison. Mr. Blanco has worked in the Mental Health field for the past 9 years, through community organizations dedicated to the recovery of individuals with Substance Use and Behavioral Health Disorders. Mr. Blanco has been influential in engaging the community in activities provided through the Consumer Network and has been an advocate for Recovery Services and its implementation throughout Florida. Mr. Blanco continues to focus on the resiliency and recovery of individuals within the Florida System of Care through his work with Statewide Consumer Network by promoting Recovery Oriented practices and advocating for equity in all levels within the Behavioral Health System of Care.

Patricia Blum, Executive Vice President at Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. is a leader for the California Mental Health and Spirituality Initiative, has over 36 years' experience in mental health services, and has family members with lived experience. She has presented at the World Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation; USPRA; IAPSRs; CASRA; Alternatives; NYAPRS and CIBHS.

Jo Bower, informed by her lengthy histories of physical and emotional distress, Jo earned her Master's Degree in Social work from the Boston University School of Social Work with a Concentration in Human Services Management in 1985, becoming an "Advocate Manager." Over the past 20 years, she has served NILP in a variety of managerial and strategic capacities. One of the pioneers of consumer-driven Peer Support in MA, Jo continues to dedicate her energies to the transformation of medical and mental health services into avenues of healing that promote individual choice, dignity and independence.

Waynette Brock has lead peer teams focusing on high risk individuals and underserved populations such as those that are incarcerated, individuals seeking recovery from substance use disorder, and those with life threatening illnesses, as well as anyone who wants to make positive life changes. Waynette lives in Northern California and is the National Trainer for the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery.

Thomas Brown has been working as a Peer Specialist for 9 years and is a co-founder of Eastern Mass Peer Network (EMPN). He has written an eight-hour trauma-informed support training that he teaches across the state in Massachusetts and to all staff in the agency at which he is employed, Bay Cove Human Services in Boston. Thomas is on the board of directors for Eastern Mass Peer Network. He additionally teaches trauma studies at Harvard Medical School and Tufts University.

Marcia Burrows has been a professional learning game designer for over 40 years and has served as Community Teaching Assistant for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's online courses (MIT edX) on game design. She currently works on designs for peer -led, therapeutic gaming. In 2016 Marcia and her sister, CPSS Janet Mott-Snider, formed Goal Quest Games and began creating games about goal setting. They published their first tabletop game "Strengths and Troubles: The Wellness Board Game" in 2017. Strengths and Troubles helps players realize their strengths and discover wellness tools while having fun. Currently the team is finishing work on their second game, "Goal Hero".

Mary Chirico handles all of the centers administrative duties. She started working as a Peer Support Specialist in 2009, and in June 2015 became the Program Director at Hearts and Ears. After a long struggle with mental health and addiction issues Mary has dedicated herself to helping others on their road to recovery. Educated in both Psychology/ Sociology and a certification in Case Management from the Community College of Baltimore County, Mary is also a graduate of the Shapiro Training and Employment Program (STEP). She is a registered member of the International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS) and holds a current certification as a Wellness and Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Facilitator.

Elisha Coffey is the manager of the Individual Coalition Action Network (ICAN) at the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. She holds a Masters Degree from Temple University with a focus on Policy and Advocacy, and is also a Certified Peer Specialist. Elisha has experience supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, case management working with youth transitioning from the Foster Care System to independence, systems advocacy, legislative advocacy, conducting listening sessions, developing curriculum, and facilitating trainings. Elisha feels privileged to be tasked with creating a statewide network of individuals who identify as living with mental health conditions and insuring that their voices are represented with boards and decision- making bodies by helping them connect with their legislators. She is excited to be part of developing a workforce of Certified Peer Specialists who are ready and excited to support youth and young adults in mental health recovery.

David Conley, CPSS works for the Department of Veteran Affairs Health Administration in Colorado Springs. The first four years. Mr. Conley spent working as a Peer Specialist in the Substance Abuse Treatment Program in the VA Clinic, currently Mr. Conley is attached to the Mental Health department facilitating A Veteran X group, an MRT group, new patient orientation group as well as multiple individual one on one coaching sessions. Mr. Conley is a Veteran of The US Navy, USS Midway CV-41.

Terry J. Cox is a Peer Support Specialist in the Emergency Department with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. In addition to being a Certified Peer Support Specialist, Cox also is Wellness Action Recovery Plan (WRAP) Facilitator and a North Carolina Certified Nursing Assistant I. He previously worked as a Member Engagement Specialist for Cardinal Innovations Healthcare and a peer support specialist at RHA Health, Inc. where he provided Peer Support Services for the homeless population at Bethesda Homeless Shelter. Cox is a 1982 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a 1985 graduate of Forsyth Technical Community College with an Associate of Applied Science in Computer Programming.

Rita Cronise became involved in the self-help peer support movement in the late 90's and went on to train facilitators of peer support programs. In 2007, she was one of the first 100 peer specialists hired by the VA and also founded a local chapter of the National Association of Peer Specialists (NAPS). In the years that followed, Rita helped NAPS to develop the SAMHSA-funded Recovery to Practice curriculum for experienced peer supporters, the National Practice Guidelines task force, and a survey of peer specialist education, compensation, and satisfaction, which was published in the professional literature. In 2015, Rita took on the role of Director of Operations for iNAPS after founder Steve Harrington had a stroke and was unable to continue his work as the executive director. Rita is now a member of the faculty at Rutgers University on the instructional design team for the Academy of Peer Services, an online, on-demand training and testing platform for Peer Specialist Certification in New York State. She lives in upstate New York, she thrives on collaboration, and she strives for a global community of practice for peer supporters.

Sera Davidow has been a part of the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community (RLC) since its envisioning process, and has served as Director since it became funded in 2007. At present, she focuses much of her time on grant writing, oversight and project development. Through this work, she has gained a range of experiences including starting up a peer respite, opening resource centers, and producing educational materials (including co-authoring handbooks on peer respites and developing peer roles). She has also developed a passion for filmmaking, beginning with 'Beyond the Medical Model' in 2013.

Kelly Davis is the Director of Peer Advocacy, Supports, and Services at Mental Health America (MHA) where she works to promote the expansion of peer support throughout health care. She also leads MHA's Collegiate Mental Health Innovation Council, which is dedicated to highlighting and expanding student-led programs that fill gaps in traditional services and supports on campus. Kelly is passionate about empowerment, civil rights, positive psychology, peer support, and trauma-informed care. She has spoken about her lived experience at the Obama White House and on NBC Nightly News and has been featured in the *Mighty*, *Mashable*, *University Business*, *Recovery Campus*, and *Yes!* Magazine. She is a member of the advisory council for the Well Being Trust and The Support Network and is on the National Youth Advisory Council for Doors to Wellbeing, where she helped lead the first national youth-run, youth-focused mental health conference and developed a three-day youth empowerment training curriculum.

Jonathan P. Edwards, LCSW, ACSW, M.Phil., CPS has worked in the behavioral health field for more than 20 years and has facilitated individual and system-wide change through programming and planning, clinical practice, training, supervision of peer specialists, and utilization of lived experience. Mr. Edwards has held several positions integral to organization transformation, including Training Specialist for Parachute NYC, a federally-funded program that provided enhanced, long-term mobile treatment, respite, and peer-run phone line support to individuals experiencing crisis. Prior to this position, as Director of Peer Services and Assistant Director of Wellness, Recovery, and Community Integration at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, Mr. Edwards managed daily operations of peer support services and supervised 28 peer support staff. He was also instrumental in developing and facilitating multi-family support groups. Mr. Edwards has presented at numerous conferences and conducted trainings on supervision and peer workforce integration locally, nationally, and internationally. He is a New York State Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW), a Doctoral Candidate in the Social Welfare Program at the CUNY Graduate Center and a Certified Peer Specialist. He is also an executive member of New York Peer Specialist Certification Board (NYPSCB), and a board member of International Association of Peer Supporters (INAPS) and Mental Health News Education (MHNE).

Gita Enders, LMSW, MA, CPRP, CPS is Director, Consumer Affairs for NYC Health + Hospitals / Office of Behavioral Health, where she oversees consumer activities for the health care delivery system and manages projects for consumers aimed at recovery and wellness in both mental health and substance use disorder treatment settings. She is also process owner for the rollout and implementation of HCBS transformation across the health care delivery system. Ms. Enders has presented locally and nationally on programming and supervision. She has a BA in Psychology and an MA in Creative Writing, and is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) and a N Y Certified Peer Specialist (NYCPS). She is a standing member of the N YS Office of Mental Health Recipient Advisory Committee (RAC) and has served on the N YC Peer Certification Advisory Committee. Ms. Enders serves as supervisor to the Peer Advisor Program as part of the Public Psychiatry Fellowship of Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute, and is also a member of the Steering Committee of the New York City Mental Health Workforce Summit.

Wesley Evans is the State-wide Coordinator of Integration and Recovery Services, for the Florida Department of Children and Families. His work experience includes community behavioural health provider oversight, criminal justice, and various community behavioural health provider service settings. Wes' priority focus for the State of Florida is coordinating a state-wide transformation effort; to transform Florida's behavioural health care system from an acute-care focused system, to one that focuses on wellness and recovery; as a Recovery Oriented System of Care. His efforts in this transformative process have helped establish strong collaborative stakeholder partnerships. Florida's efforts are recognized as a paradigm shift in today's behavioural healthcare system as a result of these partnerships and progress made.

Alicia Farria is a native of Detroit, she currently resides in New Orleans. She received her Bachelors of Psychology in 2018. She is currently employed with AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana as Senior- Community Health Navigator. Her primary role is to design specific outreach intervention programs using the Peer Support Model. She previously worked for Resource for Human Development and CrescentCare as a Peer Support Specialist. Alicia has been a Certified Peer Support Specialist through Louisiana- OBH since Sept. 2011 and Certified as a Peer Recovery Support Specialist with Louisiana Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers since June 2015.

Amy Farrington holds a master's degree in Instructional Systems Design and brings more than 18 years of statewide and national experience developing and administering professional adult education, training, and certification programs. She has been responsible for the development and administration of all facets of FCB's professional certification programs. Prior to joining the FCB, she served as the Director of Education and Training at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Mrs. Farrington is also the Director of Comprehensive Examination Services, Inc., an exam development and exam-grading corporation. This corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Florida Certification Board, Inc

Matthew Federici's personal and professional journey in wellness and recovery includes involvement as a family member and a mental health consumer advocate for over 20 years. Matthew is the Executive Director of the Copeland Center for Wellness & Recovery and is an Advanced Level Mental Health Recovery Educator and WRAP Facilitator.

Dana Foglesong has been a systems change leader since 2010. She currently works as the Director of Recovery and Resiliency Services for Magellan Complete Care. She leads a diverse team of 15 Recovery Support Navigators, who provide peer support services as part of Magellan's integrated health team approach. Dana also manages the operations and budget for MCC's Recovery Support Initiative, partnering with recipients, peer-run organizations, advocates and providers to expand recovery oriented and peer support services, as well as providing technical assistance and training to providers and community stakeholders.

Prior to joining Magellan, Dana worked for the Florida Department of Children and Families in the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, contracted with Disability Rights Florida to provide outreach, and founded the statewide peer network The Peer Support Coalition of Florida. In these roles she has leveraged opportunities for current and past recipients of services and their families to have their voices included in the creation, implementation and review of practices.

Dana is a nationally certified peer specialist, an advanced level wrap facilitator and is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of Central Florida.

Zach Garafalo understands building communities begins with leveraging the power of people. Zach empowers mult marginalized communities including immigrants, young people, older adults and people with disabilities to be active, healthy and informed citizens who use their voices to change the system through strategic sharing of lived experience. Zach mentors people to be aware of government operations, their rights and the ability to use their voices to influence policies, practices, regulations and law. Zach was honored by the Obama Administration as a Champion of Change at the White House. The Champions of Change initiative recognized ordinary Americans who are doing extraordinary things in their communities to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world.

Mary Garcia is a Certified Peer Specialist with the Veterans Health Administration currently working in Suicide Prevention and on a Behavioral Health Treatment Team. Mary is a Navy veteran. She is certified in WRAP, Master Trainer in Honest Open Proud and a Whole Health Coach. Mary does several groups a week as well as outreach speaking engagements. She is currently a graduate student working towards Mental Health Counseling.

Miss Goh Siao Yen, MEd, CPRP, is currently a freelancer providing Supported Education services in her hometown, Miri in Malaysia. Miss Goh has ten years of working experience in the Education line, which culminated in a branch principal position of a large tuition school in Miri. Thereafter she achieved a Master in Educational Psychology. Her 10 credit research was on Supported Education, and was shared in three international publications. She then worked in a psychiatric rehabilitation centre in Singapore for nearly ten years. It was there she introduced the Supported Education practice. She also became a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner. She has done numerous oral and poster presentations; both domestically and internationally. In 2016, she won the Best Poster Award in the 1st European Supported Education Conference in Holland. All stated achievements were attained despite a schizophrenia onset 28 years ago. She will, therefore, be a walking evidence that higher education for peers are possible and can contribute to improved self confidence; besides using research and practice evidence in her PEP talk. (Her full disclosure of her psychiatric history was in an article invited to write by iNAPS, published in the September issue of its newsletter.)

Ruth Gonzales is an Advanced Level WRAP Facilitator and a Wellness and Recovery Educator with Crestwood Behavioral Health, Inc. She has a personal connection to the topic of Healing Stigma through Trauma Informed Approaches, Healing through Spiritual Practices out of a personal need to heal from childhood wounds and understanding that in the Public Mental Health System 80-90% of individuals served have experienced Trauma. Healing from Trauma is an inside out process. Ruth has presented at National Conferences including New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) 2017 and Alternatives 2017, 2018 and CASRA 2016, 2017 and PRA 2017 and NYC Peer Specialist Conference 2016 and previously a planning committee member. She has conducted recovery-oriented trainings with mental health staff in California and New York State in a variety of settings. Ruth is a leader in peer specialist training programs with the mission of applying WRAP® as an Evidence Based Practice.

Alma D. Guia is a Certified Peer Support Specialist who works at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Hospital. She works in the Behavior Health in Prime Care Mental Health Integration, Women's Clinic, and at the Tomball Outpatient Clinic. She is a Disabled Veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps. As a female Marine she served in a predominately male field. Unfortunately Alma had the negative experience of being introduced to discrimination via gender and orientation. As a person with a different sexual orientation, Alma had to learn to live in the shadows of those who persecuted her due to her orientation. Unfortunately this is a battle that she did not win. Eleven months after discharge Alma was diagnosed with PTSD at the Houston VA. This brought big changes to her life, as well to her future interest. She graduated from Sam Houston State University with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. She then worked with the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department as a Probation Officer for 6 years. She's completed a Post Graduate Certificate Program in General Psychology. She is currently working toward completing her Master's degree.

Jacek/Jack Haciak is a person with both lived experience and system transformation achievements in medical model settings through program administration and Psychologist clinical work. He is certified in Intentional Peer Support and as an HVN Hearing Voices Group Facilitator. In addition to experiencing some family members' cognitive and mood challenges, Jack has worked through his own Asperger's patterns, the effects of early life serious traumas, and a diagnosis of schizophrenia at age 22 to learn from multiple perspectives about his own and others' "mental illness," and what truly constitutes "Recovery."

Easton K. Harrison, born and raised in Broward County Florida, is a community organizer with the focus on improving the quality of life for the low-income residents in underserved areas. Easton's work in the community began in freshman year of college when he began to join activist clubs on campus. Since then, Easton has been engaged in the community through volunteering, event planning, voicing issues at commissioner meetings, and starting initiatives intended to help people around Economics, Mentorship, and health. Easton's main goal now is to influence his peers in his age group to also engage in civic activism and volunteerism to improve the quality of life and make the community we live in a better place.

Patrick Hendry has worked as a mental health advocate for the past twenty-four years. His areas of expertise include peer-provided services, self-directed care, recovery based trainings, organizational development, and management and sustainability. Patrick received MHA's highest honor, the Clifford W. Beers Award in 2012, and a SAMHSA Voice Award and Eli Lilly Reintegration Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. He is the former Executive Director of the Florida Peer Network and has assisted in the development of numerous peer-run programs and organizations. Patrick is a strong supporter of the inclusion of mental health consumers in all aspects of the behavioral health system.

Bob "Buzz" Hickox is a Certified Forensic Peer Support Specialist with the Veterans Administration. Buzz is a 13 year Army veteran and has lived experience with mental health challenges and Military Sexual Trauma (MST). He holds certifications as a WRAP Facilitator, Master Trainer in Honest Open Proud, Master Trainer in Forensic Peer Support, and is a VA Whole Health Coach. Buzz is a nationally recognized speaker on peer support, veterans issues, and nonprofit leadership.

Jeanine Hoff is the founder of Where is the Sunshine?, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to peer support for mental wellness. Jeanine is a 2016 TEDx Jacksonville speaker and presented at Mental Health America's National Conference. She is a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid, a certified presenter for NAMI, a member of the Peer Support Coalition of Florida and certified in Suicide Prevention (QPR). Her organization, Where is the Sunshine?, will be co-presenting the Florida Mental Health Summit with Mental Health America of Northeast, FL in October 2018. Jeanine is a contributor for The Mighty and Jacksonville Moms Blog and has been featured in the Florida-Times Union. Jeanine has been a guest on First Coast Living, First Coast Connect, River City Live, and The Chat. Her written work can be seen in The I'mPossible Project 2, a published anthology of written works by mental health advocates and Stigma Fighter Anthology: Volume 3. Jeanine is a classically trained singer, actor, composer and pianist, and holds a Masters degree from Arizona State in American Media and Culture, focusing on film and social media, and a Bachelor's of Music degree in Music Theatre/Opera Performance from Arizona State University.

Madeline Jaekle is an author, advocate, peer, comedienne, and dog enthusiast operating out of Greensboro, North Carolina. Currently Ms Jaekle is pursuing her Doctoral studies in Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Rutgers University's School of Health Professions with plans to specialize in adolescent treatment, community integration, and self-management activation. To keep up to date with Ms Jaekle's ongoing projects and initiatives, visit Ms Jaekle's company, Madhouse Innovations online, @MadhouseInnovations on Facebook, or on LinkedIn.

Ken Jiretsu is the Program Director at Hearts and Ears Inc. He handles the programming, social media, and outreach in the center and teaches trainings on mental health & LGBT, and Transgender sensitivity awareness to many agencies. He started in 2015 as a facilitator of the Support in Transition group. In 2016, he was hired as the Peer Support Specialist, and in 2017, became the Program Director at Hearts & Ears. Prior to his work in Peer Support, Ken was also a member of the leadership team of The Baltimore Transgender Alliance and Black Transmen Inc. His focus in these organizations included advocacy and awareness for transmen and transfamilies in Baltimore City. He is a member of the International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS), and currently has a certification as a Wellness and Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Facilitator. As a transgender man in the LGBTQIA+ community, Ken is very involved in advocacy and education in helping to address issues of discrimination and violence against transgender individuals in Baltimore City. He is a member of Alpha Omega Kappa Fraternity Incorporated, and is a father of four special needs young adults and soon-to-be husband to Mary in October.

Karl Johan Johansen is an assistant professor at Norwegian University of Science and Technology. He is teaching Social Educators and Social Workers at the Faculty of Health and Social Science in Trondheim. He has conducted a lot of evaluation studies of Mental health services with focus on quality and involvement of service receivers, He has also a long experience as a relative of family with mental health problems, from working as a volunteer and from central positions in the Mental health movement in Norway.

Penny Johnson is a Certified Peer Specialist and she works on the Consumer Satisfaction Team of Montgomery County for HopeWorx and as a technical assistant for the Southeast Regional CSP committee. Penny brings to her work her lived experience with homelessness and with losing close family to suicide, as well as her own struggles with mental health challenges. She is a proud mom of two young adults, and she still brings the skills and passion from her former career as a restaurant chef to the HopeWorx community as she teaches cooking and shares delicious food.

Clarence Jordan is Beacon Health Options' Vice President of Wellness & Recovery, Clarence Jordan leads the company's national Wellness & Recovery Program, responsible for putting into operation Beacon's commitment to recovery-based principles in the delivery of behavioral health services.

Jordan is a former naval officer, and his recovery journey is chronicled in last year's edition of National Council Magazine's "50 Years, 50 Stories of Recovery" special issue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Community Mental Health Act.

Additionally, he received the Consumer Leadership Award at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration 2010 National Voice Awards, as well as its 2012 Voice Awards Fellowship. In 2014, the National Council for Behavioral Health named him its Peer Specialist of the Year. In 2015, Jordan was selected to serve on the Committee on the Science of Changing Behavioral Health Social Norms by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. In 2016, the Committee released its study on "Ending Discrimination against People with Mental and Substance Use Disorders."

Charles "Kelly" Joy is a former member of the United States Army Air Defense Artillery and Logistics Corps. In 2011, mental health issues surfaced and Charles found himself abandoned by his family, homeless and broke. A Peer at the local Vet Center reached out and helped him learn to navigate the never ending river for recovery. With an extensive career in transportation, logistics and sales, Charles describes the move to become a Peer Support with the VA Supportive Housing team in 2013 akin to putting a square peg in a round hole. However, his negotiating skills proved invaluable to other Veterans in overcoming barriers and instilling "can-do" attitudes. Charles has participated in numerous Peer Support initiatives, to include the committee developing the Alaska Peer Support Certification. Charles holds Certification as a VA Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Certified WRAP Facilitator and a Master of Science in Global Supply Chain Management from the University of Alaska.

Carmen Joyce is an artist, idealist, visionary, instigator, mental health advocate and peer living in recovery (not necessarily in that order). She learned to use art as a healing modality as a teen while experiencing deep depression. Carmen possesses Bachelor of Science in both Criminology and Sociology along with a Master of Arts degree in Counseling. She has worked in the field of mental health over 14 years. She spent twelve of those years working with teens in the role of counselor and teacher. In 2014 she created the nonprofit, I Still Matter. I Still Matter (ISM) is a peer-run program whose goal is to foster mental and emotional healing through art and creative expression. ISM provides free monthly expressive arts support groups and supportive programming for peers in Jacksonville, Florida. In 2017 ISM received a Ripple Effect Award from Mental Health America of NEFL for “Innovative Program”.

John Koch is a Peer Support Programs Manager with Community Medical Services. John is a person in long-term recovery who uses his story to empower, instill hope and to help change the way people look at substance use disorders. John developed the Peer Support Program within Community Medical Services and has helped to develop educational programs within the Maricopa County Jail. John Koch is a locally and nationally recognized motivational speaker.

Lisa Kugler, PsyD. is a licensed psychologist in the state of Pennsylvania. Dr. Kugler has been active in the field of substance abuse and mental health services providing direct care, executing administrative duties, and conducting research for over 20 years.

Currently, Dr. Kugler serves as the Vice President/ CEO of the Beacon Health Options Maryland Division. She leads her team in the management of Medicaid benefits for over 1 million covered lives in the state of Maryland. She works with the state, counties, providers, and oversight to make certain that individuals are receiving the appropriate treatment to assist them in their recovery journeys. Prior to her current position with Beacon Health Options, Dr. Kugler was the Vice President of Clinical Services for Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (VBH-PA) where Dr. Kugler oversaw all clinical operations. Prior to her position at Beacon Health Options, Dr. Kugler was head of the behavioral health and physical health integration team for a community based out-patient clinic and team lead for the Center for Treatment of Addictive Disorders at the Pittsburgh Veteran’s Administration. Dr. Kugler has provided services to adults, veterans, inmates, adolescents, and children. She has been involved in research endeavors that focused on repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) and Dr. Kugler completed a study that examined the impact of methadone maintenance therapy on executive functioning. Dr. Kugler has presented locally, regionally, and nationally on topics focused on substance abuse concerns, motivational interviewing, and recovery and resiliency.

Michael Lane, M.A., CPRP, NCPS, has worked as a peer specialist in a mental health clinic, served in leadership roles in advocacy, and currently directs a large Peer- operated Wellness & Recovery Center in Sacramento, California. Michael Lane’s experience in peer support emerged from his experience transcending what some call “serious mental illness.” Living beyond and drawing from that past, Michael enjoys connecting with his peers, evaluating, developing and delivering trainings, and in a myriad of ways transforming how peer support and other mental health services are delivered. Michael studied Drama at UC Irvine, and holds a Master’s in Education from University of the Pacific, with a concentration in Organizational Learning. He has a passion for innovation that changes lives.

Lyn Legere is a person in long term recovery from substance use and mental health challenges. She has been active in promoting the value of peer support in our behavioral health systems since the first efforts to create a peer role in substance use in the early 1980's. She was the Director of the Peer Support Training and Certification Program in Massachusetts for 8 years, and has done similar work in North Carolina for the past 4 years. Lyn consults nationally and internationally on best practices in peer support training, supervision and roles within and beyond the behavioral health system. She is also a consultant to SAMHSA and BRSS TACs on recovery and peer support.

Laurel Lemke has over 35 years experience providing mental health, vocational rehabilitation and advocacy services in Washington State. Meeting Mary Ellen Copeland in 1989 was key to her recovery journey. Laurel trained with Mary Ellen in programs relating to depression management prior to the development of the Wellness Recovery and Action Plan. Laurel certified as a WRAP facilitator and offered classes at Western State Hospital and for peers in the community prior to becoming a Advanced Level WRAP faciliator in 2015. She asked for the opportunity to be mentored by Copeland Faciitators during a WRAP Facilitator training a few months later and has co-facilitated WRAP facilitator trainings and refreshers for certified peer counselors for state and locally funded trainings. Laurel retired from state service earlier this year and is planning to offer WRAP programs at venues which will reach seniors and persons with health challenges. Laurel also hopes to have more opportunities with Next Steps and the Alternatives to Violence Project. She also hopes for additional Stand Up for Mental Health projects and performances. She has lead Grave Concerns restoration project for the former state hospital cemetery since 2000 which has provided hands on learning opportunities for grass roots leadership.

Evelyn Maddox is the Youth Liaison for Washington State Health Care Authority, The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. She was appointed by the Governor as a member on the Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice. She also chairs the youth committee under the partnership council, leading youth to be agents of change. Evelyn has lived experience in the juvenile justice system and the behavioral health system. For 9 years, she served youth in all systems. During her last two years of direct service, she was the Youth Tri lead for Pierce County WA Family Youth System Partner Round Tables, governance structure for youth and families impacted by the system to voice change to all youth serving systems. Her role with the State allows her to provide TA on utilization of youth peer counselors, youth engagement and leadership to youth serving systems and agencies across Washington State. She recently helped create and is the Program Manager for 'Building the Blueprint for Youth Leadership',the Washington State Children's Behavioral Health Youth Network. Her vision for the youth is that they will take over what she currently is doing in her work.

Ameika Malcolm is the project coordinator for the Consumer Satisfaction Team at HopeWorx. She loves working with people and being a part of community development activities. Currently, she is a part of the Norristown Community Garden project and Bush with the Law art group. She has a bachelor's degree in Human Service Management from the University of Phoenix. By working in the mental health field, she has gain an appreciation for individuality, diversity, and creativity. This have led to her reaching out to different human service organizations to partner on different projects as Art & Eat, Open Mic, and Food Co-op.

Caroline Mazel-Carlton currently serves as Director of Training for the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community, promoting an ethos of self-determination and mutual support in a number of settings across the globe. She has been privileged to be a facilitator/trainer for the "Alternatives to Suicide" approach for over five years, promoting conversation and connection over the current paradigm of "risk assessment". Caroline also works towards developing regional networks of support for voice-hearers in her role as Training Coordinator for the national Hearing Voices Research and Development Project.

Rona McBrierty is an International mentor for the Copeland Center. It has taken 54 years but I now am trying on new glasses and seeing my life through a different lens a lens filtered through SELF COMPASSION and from this starting point each day I take response- ability, the need to control and to be control has been replaced by being an active participant in my own life. As a mentor for the Copeland I have the privilege and opportunity to work internationally with diverse communities and to be intentionally in relationships of wellness.

Shannon McCleerey-Hooper has been working in mental health and substance use recovery for the last 10+ years in varied peer support leadership roles. Before coming to Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health (formerly Riverside County Department of Mental Health), she worked as a school teacher, a proud mom of a transgender child and musical theatre performer of over 40 years. After working as a Peer Support Specialist in Adult Services, she has had the opportunity to work with the Department to develop a whole new Peer Support career ladder. When the Peer Support Services in Riverside started to expand, she was tasked to develop new roles for Peer Support leadership and training roles. In 2013, she was promoted to Program Manager for the Consumer Affairs division of Riverside University Health System- Behavioral Health, which employs one of the largest Peer Support Specialist programs in the Country, with over 250 full time peer employee positions – 137 of those are self- identified consumer providers. Shannon has presented multiple peer support workshops for 8 different iNAPS conferences.

Sandra McQueen-Baker has been a consumer advocate since 1996. She is currently the Executive Director of the organization she helped establish, Fresh Start Miami Dade Inc. Sandra is also a leader involved in a variety of community organizations and initiatives that help empower individuals through Education, Advocacy and Personal Transformation.

Vesper Moore has been a part of the Central Mass Recovery Learning Community for several years and works as the Director of Zia, a young adult access center operated by the Central Mass Recovery Learning Community's connection site, Kiva Center. Zia has 2 locations one in the Kiva Center and the other at Open Sky Community Services, Worcester, MA. Vesper is a person of many lived experiences they are an inter-sectional activist and is one of CMRLC's state and nation-wide trainers. They train curriculums surrounding the topics of trauma, trauma-informed services, state-wide organizational training development, public health, mental health, peer support, gender, queer & trans communities, attraction, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, social work and social justice. Vesper is skilled in many aspects of peer specialist/ mutuality-based work such as peer bridging, general peer support work, peer supervision, peer mentoring, recovery-based coaching and peer facilitation. Vesper is bi-lingual and has supported their Latin community through the advocacy group called "Latinos en Accion (Latinos in action.)". Vesper works to shift the paradigm in regard to social constructs associated with the human experience and believes the process to achieving wholeness is not only possible but probable for each person who seeks it. Vesper as a lecturer and instructor has taught at various universities and has spoken on several panels within Central Massachusetts and beyond. They were awarded the Transformation Center's "Inspirational Journey Award" in 2017 and were awarded one of the national awards for excellence in diversity and inclusion, the Cookie Gant & Bill Compton LGBTQIA Award in 2018.

Steven Morgan has worked in peer support services for thirteen years. He was originally trained as a Georgia Certified Peer Specialist and worked in traditional service agencies, where he became intimately familiar with the difficulties of practicing peer support within a medical model. This led to an interest in developing alternative supports, so in Vermont he helped create a peer-run respite, was Executive Director for four years of a peer-run agency called Another Way, and finally became project developer for Soteria-Vermont. Steven has provided many trainings in systems change at both a local and national level, and has served on several Boards of Directors for peer support organizations. In 2013, he joined Intentional Peer Support as Operations Manager with a passion for creating instruments of social change, a love of organizational development, and a belief in the transformative power of community. On full moons, he enjoys writing, playing music, woodworking, and taking long long walks. You can read more of Steven's story in his writings at www.stevenmorganjr.com/read

Janet Mott-Snider is a Certified Peer Support Specialist currently working for Macomb County Community Mental Health in Greater Detroit, Michigan. Janet has been certified as a WRAP instructor, and has also received certifications in WHAM, eCPR, the Art and Skill of Group Facilitation, and Peer Forensics. She has lived experience in navigating the Community Mental Health system and is currently working in the system as a peer, seeing individuals and facilitating a group of participants in the Mental Health Court. For the past two years, Janet has been working alongside a professional game designer, her sister, to develop, test, and publish wellness games for use by peers. Their company is called Goal Quest Games. In 2017 and 2018 Janet presented workshops on therapeutic gaming at the Michigan Peer Conference.

Carla Neely is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who relocated to Baton Rouge in February, 2012 to assume the position of Recovery and Resiliency Coordinator for Magellan Behavioral Health. As such, she created and implemented the Peer Support Whole Health and Resiliency wellness initiative and supported and helped grow the Louisiana WarmLine. Both initiatives were targeted to the peer community to support holistic health.

Currently, as the Recovery and Resiliency Administrator for Aetna Better Health of Louisiana Carla co-chairs the Aetna Better Health of Louisiana Advocacy Advisory Committee, and works on projects as diverse as healthcare equity and expanding the knowledge and accessibility of peer support, and the incorporation practice of recovery and resiliency principles in a fully integrated system of care.

Debbie Nicolellis is working as senior trainer for Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, where she runs the Vocational Peer Support training program, and supervises peer leaders in the Vocational Empowerment Photovoice research project, among other things. Debbie's been interested in supporting employment, education, and career exploration for people with lived experience for over 30 years, and has provided services, supervised supporters of recovery, directed training projects, and written articles on topics related to rehabilitation and recovery.

BJ North is the National Director of the Mentoring Program for the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery. BJ has been using, living, and sharing the power of WRAP as an Advanced Level Facilitator for almost two decades. BJ's mentoring work is based on the power of communication and the belief that in the right environment with the right actions, people have the power to find the answers within themselves. BJ works mostly with WRAP Facilitators as well as organizations whose interpersonal relations and bottom line can benefit from a positive, practical and nurturing approach to wellness. BJ provides organizational wellness consultation, facilitator mentoring, consultation on the Organizational Wellness Landscape, O.W.L. program implementation and Advanced Level WRAP Facilitator mentoring.

Vivian Nunez, BSW, CPS is also a Certified Wrap Facilitator, Recovery Initiatives Training Consultant and state & national presenter. Originally from Puerto Rico, Vivian has lived in the States for 33 years, and been part of the peer support movement for 18 years. In January 2000 Vivian moved away from her role as a Mental Health service provider and started the lifelong & ever-changing journey into her path to Wellness & Healing. Vivian is a strong advocate for equal access and inclusion in the Peer Community – and committed to wellness recovery and healing initiatives and supports for non-English speaking individuals and the many sub-cultures of the Hispanic/Latino community. For the past nine years she has been a community activist and staff trainer, raising awareness of the central role played by individuals with lived experience in providing direct support to others who are just starting their recovery journeys. Vivian is one of the three Spanish speaking certified WRAP facilitators who have completed several Spanish / Senior Citizens' / Community Corrections WRAP in Massachusetts.

Susan Nyamora is a devoted advocate for people who have or are experiencing Behavioral Health challenges. Susan is not just an advocate; she is a hands-on leader who strongly believes in equitable services for all. As a person who has her own experiences Susan recognizes the importance of choice. Susan currently runs a Peer Run Organization in Broward County, Florida which currently employs Youth, Family and Adult Peer Specialists serving across various systems.

Dan O'Brien-Mazza is national director of peer services at the Veterans Administration (VA). Since 2007, when he became the first director of peer support services with VA's Central Office in the Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, he has developed training for peer support workers and supervisors within the VA system. He has overseen the hiring and training of over 1,100 peer specialists in VA facilities nationwide. He provides webinar training for those peer specialists and 550 peer support supervisors. His current focus is on ensuring that newly hired peer specialists are integrating well into VA behavioral health services and expanding peer support to primary care settings as well as integrating community partners to develop peer support networks for Veterans. Mr. O'Brien-Mazza was one of the first responders on the VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline—currently called the Veterans' Crisis Line—when it opened in July 2007. He holds a master's degree from Syracuse University's Rehabilitation Counseling Education Department, and is a past recipient of the VA Secretary's Heart and Hands Award.

On the personal side, Dan is especially thankful for 30 years of marriage to his beautiful and loving wife, of 30 years. They have three grown children, all of whom are married. Their oldest daughter has presented Dan and his wife with 4 beautiful grandchildren, who live close to them in Florida. Dan is an Air Force Veteran of the Viet Nam era, who has abstained from alcohol and other psychoactive substances of abuse for 40 years following multiple physical, emotional and social consequences that led him to a spiritual rebirth and recovery. Dan likes sports, antique cars, fishing and telling stories about it all!

Tasha Pearce is an Advocate at the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community, providing peer support in the locked psychiatric units of hospitals throughout the region. Tasha is a trauma and psychiatric system survivor, step-and-cat-mom, and lives with her partner near Springfield, MA.

Khalil Power has worked as an advocate for survivors of sexual trauma and uses this past work to understand the intersection of trauma(s) and mental health. Based on Khalil's own lived experiences they firmly believe that each person is the driver of their own healing journey and that during this journey each person deserves support and compassion. Specifically, Khalil aims to increase understandings of how gender, economic status, race, culture, language impact lived experiences with mental health. Always aiming to learn, Khalil works to bring together history, their own lived experience, and community narratives to dispel common myths and stereotypes regarding mental health, substance use and trauma.

Anise Robinson is a Certified Peer Specialist with Forensic certification and a WRAP facilitator. She currently works as a member of the Consumer Satisfaction Team at HopeWorx and is an active member of the Montgomery County's Suicide Prevention Task Force, and the Trauma Team Leaders workgroup. Anise is an outspoken advocate for the needs of the underserved people in the community. She is also a proud grandmother who enjoys introducing her grandkids to new and interesting experiences whenever she gets the chance.

Phillip Schulman has been a participant in the MH CSX human rights movement since 1989. He was the director of one of nation's first crisis alternatives/peer respite programs. He has served as Chaplain at the Alternative Conference several times. Taught "Nonviolent Communication" classes and workshops since 2005, and "Restorative Circles" since 2012, including extensive volunteer time in prison. He is a member of the Gainesville Opportunity Center (clubhouse) and has brought his wellness work to mental health conferences since 1993.

Elizabeth Shilling received her MA in Counseling degree from Wake Forest University and her PhD in Counseling/Counselor Education from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Shilling is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Health and is the Co-Director of the Addiction Research & Clinical Health Masters of Science Program in the Biomedical Campus of the graduate school at Wake Forest University. She also directs the peer support services and supervises peer support specialists and clinical addiction specialists providing substance use intervention services in 8 departments at Wake Forest Baptist Health. Previously she served as an adjunct Assistant Professor at Wake Forest University in the Department of Counseling where she taught clinical courses in practicum and internship for more than three years. Prior to moving back to North Carolina, Dr. Shilling brought expertise in motivational interviewing skills and substance abuse treatment to a SAMHSA-funded grant at Baylor College of Medicine which trained medical residents on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). Dr. Shilling has over eight years of experience in substance abuse treatment and research and more than nine years of experience in clinical research and graduate level education.

Kelsey Stang is a Certified Recovery Peer Specialist who has been supervising CRPSs and individuals working toward becoming CRPSs since March 2016. She has been in long term recovery from substance use challenges since December 2012 and has worked in inpatient and outpatient substance use treatment settings, as well as in managed care. Kelsey currently supervises 6 full-time peer specialists and two part-time apprentices working toward certification. Additionally, Kelsey supervises the Magellan Apprenticeship Program and has been a key player in its design and implementation.

Gail Sulser is a proud mother of five great adult children. And a proud grandmother of 6. I lived a tumultuous life for decades. I lived both here in my natural habitat, San Pedro, California, where I was born and raised. I came from one of the worst neighborhoods in Southern California and grew up in a project housing for low income. Raised by a wonderful and amazing mother who raised my twin brother and I as best she knew how. I was traumatized at an early age and knew I had something special going on (mental illness). I have bi polar type 2 along with PTSD and OCD. I came up in the systems at bay that made my life more and more difficult because of my psychotic breaks in life. I would run into more and more trauma than should have been aloud. But, I survived. And I am strong because of it. I went to prison in 2003, paroled in 2004 back to Los Angeles County. I volunteered, attended school and I worked two jobs and graduated. I became the first Peer Advocate to be hired at the same clinic, I still work at today.

Richie Tannerhill is a North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist and Trainer, Veteran Support Specialist, Certified Recovery Coach and Trainer, Certified WRAP Facilitator and Trainer. Richie is a man in longterm recovery for more than 13 years from addiction and other life challenges. Richie is grateful to be a part of the Addiction Professionals of North Carolina Team. Where Richie has the opportunity to support individuals recovering from mental health and/or addiction barriers to find understanding, support, and hope to rebuild their lives. Richie is a Recovery Champion who believes that ""Recovery happens in the community and there are no hopeless cases!"" Richie spends the majority of his time working in the communities across North Carolina to provide education, training, identifying gaps and problem solving solutions!"

Ryan Tempesco, CPS and Advanced Level WRAP Facilitator, is a transgender individual who has found peace and wellness through community support, connection and understanding. He is currently the Program Support Coordinator for Doors to Wellbeing National Consumer Technical Assistance Center. He is an advocate for wellness, as well as equal rights in his community, and always brings optimism with him wherever he goes. Ryan is a youth trailblazer, having served on multiple boards and councils in various different arenas. He currently brings his experience as a board member of a consumer operated organization in VA, VOCAL, and his continued involvement in the development of the Peer Generation Youth Empowerment Training curriculum.

Crick Watkins, D.O. is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine where he serves as physician champion for an ED-based Peer Support program developed to improve connections with patient presenting to the emergency department for mental health and substance use concerns. Dr. Watkins received his medical degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in 2009 and went on to pursue primary residency training in Emergency Medicine and subspecialty fellowship training in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Wake Forest University Baptist Health, completed in 2012 and 2014, respectively. In 2016, Dr. Watkins completed additional fellowship training at Wake Forest University in International Emergency Medicine with an emphasis on health system development.

Rosemary Weaver has been a Certified Peer Support Specialist in the state of North Carolina since 2008 and also obtained the National Peer Support Specialist Certification in May 2018. She has been employed as a peer support specialist continuously since 2008. Rosemary has worked in an inpatient setting for the last 3-1/2 years where she works closely with forensic individuals and has developed a passion for the issues that are faced by those with mental health and substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system. She has been a certified Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) facilitator since 2009, a Mental Health First Aid instructor since 2014 and a trainer of peer support specialists in North Carolina since 2013. Rosemary is a leader in the field of peer support. She started the first peer run drop-in center in North Carolina in 2012, received appointments to 2 legislative committees providing input on managed care organization governance and implementation of the Transitions to Community Living Initiative, chaired the NC State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee from 2012-2014 and currently serves on the Peer Support Specialist Workgroup that has implemented changes to the certification and training of peer specialists in North Carolina. Rosemary has presented at many conferences including the NC One Community in Recovery, the NC Council on Community Programs, the NC Association for People for Employment First, NC Tide, Gardner Webb University, NAMI and numerous local organizations. She is also involved in assisting states and organizations with implementation of a Recovery Oriented System of Care.

Veronica Welch has been working in Behavioral Health in northern Arizona for over 20 years. She started at the provider level and then transitioned to Health Choice Integrated Care in 2007. She previously worked as the Medical Systems Analyst and Acute Health Plan Coordinator. Her current position of Office of Individual and Family Affairs Administrator allows her to build partnerships with individuals, families and stakeholders to promote recovery, resiliency and wellness. Her desire is to increase the voice of members and families in areas of leadership, service delivery and decision making committees. She advocates for members and families to have service environments that are supportive, welcoming and free of barriers. She promotes wellness and whole health care for individuals. She coordinates our Stanford Self- Management Programs and is a T-Trainer in Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management and Chronic Pain Self-Management, ensuring that our lay leaders adhere to the fidelity of the model, keeping it a high quality experience for our members.

Sandra K. Wilcoxon is the CEO of Recovery International, an 80-year-old nonprofit providing peer-led, self-help, cognitive behavioral training for people dealing with depression, anxiety, anger, suicidal ideations and other forms of mental illness. Our trained volunteer peer leaders operate more than 500 meetings per week in the US, Puerto Rico, Canada, Ireland and India. Wilcoxon has more than 25 years of nonprofit management experience, and has lectured frequently at conferences and corporate meetings.

Alex Wilson is a Certified Peer Support Specialist, receiving his certification in the state of North Carolina in 2017. Alex has a Bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and is a United States Navy veteran. Alex uses his more than 6 years of recovery in his role as a Peer Support Specialist at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in several Internal Medicine units where he provides support for patients with substance use disorders.

Katie Wilson is the Director of Operations for the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery. Katie lives, works, and plays in Southern Vermont.

Jane Winterling grew up in a small rural village where there was no knowledge about or services for people struggling with mental health issues I learned to disappear and become invisible any time I experienced difficulties. After a particularly difficult depression I found work by chance in an inpatient psychiatric setting. I very quickly learned what my struggles were all about. Disappearing and being invisible were indeed survival techniques. At the same time, I soaked up as much information as I could and applied it to my own life. As a mental health service provider I still did not have resources available until the Mental Health Parity Law was passed in Vermont years later. After years as a Mental Health Worker, Behavioral Technician and Community Case Manager I met and began talking to Mary Ellen Copeland at one of her beginning trainings, Recovery Education. The result of those conversations was WRAP and the courage to openly disclose my personal struggles. I have used WRAP for years to manage my own depression. The daring to disclose has led to many rich and diverse opportunities both personally and professionally that would not otherwise have happened.

Jessica Wolf, Ph.D. is Principal of Decision Solutions consulting, focused on peer workforce development. She founded, advised and taught Mental Health Certificate Program students for many years at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, CT. She also served as a regional administrator and educator in the public mental health system and is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Yale University Department of Psychiatry. Her lived experience of mental health conditions and of recovery fuels her passion for peer workforce and career development, including effective supervision essential for peer workforce success.

Jimmie Ann Wooding, LCSW is the CEO of Harbor House, Inc. which started the first recovery coach practice in Arkansas, a very rural state which presents many challenges. Jimmie has been in the substance use treatment field for 40 years, beginning with her service in the US Navy. She has been a pioneer in Arkansas by starting the statewide Critical Incident Debriefing Team, starting the Employee Assistance Program for the state of Arkansas, and most recently the recovery coach's program serving re-entry clients statewide.