

Mike Weaver

Mike serves as the Executive Director of the International Association of Peer Supporters. He previously was the Co-Chair of iNAPS for two years and on the Board of Directors for 3.5 years. He has advocated for those living with mental illness for many years after reinventing his life at the end of a successful educational career which was interrupted by severe mental illness and resulting incarceration. Mike found his passion in promoting recovery and assisting individuals in achieving their hopes and dreams.

Mike is one of 14 children, many of which have serious mental illness, as did his father. His father wanted him to be a minister. Mike turned his pain into purpose and ministers in a different way to many who need hope and encouragement.

Previously, Mike served as Executive Director of Mental Health America of the Tar River Region. Mike was a National Alliance on Mental Illness board member for six years, three of those as the Policy Chairperson. He served on several other state boards and has been the President of both NAMI Guilford and NAMI Charlotte.

His professional experience bridges clinical and peer programs including mobile crisis, Day Treatment, ACT and Community Support Teams, state facility liaison, transitional housing, and recovery education. Mike is an expert peer support facilitator and Advanced WRAP facilitator and uses his personal and professional experience to inform his presentations at conferences on a variety of topics.

He is the author of *"Helping Others Heal"*, a peer support training manual and is the principal editor of *Recovery Milestones*, the peer support curriculum of Cardinal Innovations Healthcare. He is a regular instructor at Crisis Intervention Team training for law enforcement.

Mike has been awarded for excellence with the Mecklenburg County CIT Peer of the Year in 2016, the 2014 NC Recovery Champion Award, 2012 NAMI NC Advocate of the Year Award, 2011 NAMI National Ken Steele Award for outstanding individual contribution to those living with mental illness, 2010 NAMI NC President's Award, 2006 Community Supporter of the Year by CPDMI and the 1993 San Diego County Teacher of the Year Award.

Mike believes that iNAPS is a unifying organization and believes in it as the one organization that is solely dedicated to the promotion of peer support to be included in all healthcare and other community systems. He believes that peer support is the most valuable innovation in the past 25 years in the mental health and addictions fields.