



Western Mass  
Recovery Learning Community

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December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Potential Applicant:

We are writing you about the next opportunity to attend a “Hearing Voices Group Facilitator” Training. We’ve had great responses to our previous facilitator’s trainings and several groups have started as a result. The training is presented by the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community (RLC) with the primary purpose of training people to start their own Hearing Voices Groups in their own area.

Hearing Voices Groups originated in Europe and now there are over 160 chartered groups in England alone. Hearing Voices Groups do not pathologize hearing voices, seeing visions or other unusual experiences. Instead, group members explore these phenomena in an environment of mutual support and curiosity. They offer people who hear voices, see visions or have other unusual experiences the opportunity to share their experience and explore new ways of coping, understanding their experiences and getting support.

Currently there are a growing number of Hearing Voices Groups in the United States, and our vision includes both supporting and bolstering existing groups and expanding the overall numbers and accessibility. We hope that you will join us in bringing this vision to reality!

Sincerely,

The Western Mass RLC

***See Below for Further Training Details:***

**TRAINERS TO INCLUDE:** **Caroline White**, experienced HVN USA trainer and group facilitator, **Marty Hadge**, experienced HVN trainer and group facilitator.

**TRAINING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATION:** Dates for the training are scheduled for Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Each day will run from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Reading homework may be assigned ahead of time and/or during the class. The training will be located at Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue,, Holyoke, MA. **Attendance at all 3 sessions is required to complete the training.**

**TRAINING PREREQUISITES:** This training is primarily intended for people who have some basic facilitation skills and/or training, though not absolutely required so long as it is understood that the training is not designed to provide these basic skills. Some awareness of and investment in the Hearing Voices Movement and approach is required, so please be sure you’ve checked out [www.hearingvoicesusa.org](http://www.hearingvoicesusa.org) and/or other sources to be sure you are familiar with the basics and still interested in applying! You should be already facilitating or have an active interest in starting an HVN group.

**COST:** There is no cost for this training for people residing or working in Massachusetts. For out-of-state attendees, we are requesting a \$100.00 fee per participant. **(This fee is to support our own limited budget and resources, and is negotiable if you are coming as an individual not sponsored by an organization or if it is somehow otherwise cost prohibitive.)** Participants are responsible for their own food and travel expenses as applicable.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFO:** This training is open to people who identify as voice hearers, allies, friends and family, clinicians, peer workers and more. If you attend, you should expect that the group will include a mixture of people in varied roles. This training is designed to challenge and encourage creative thought about different belief systems, and so openness and genuine curiosity is a must! It is not intended as a ‘train the trainer’ model.

***Applications are due Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016***

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We believe that the journey leads to healing and hope

*Under the umbrella of The Western Mass Training Consortium*

## Application for Hearing Voices Groups Facilitator Training

**Due Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

There has already been a high degree of interest in the training and spaces are limited. As a result, we are asking people to apply to do the training and we have set areas of priority which we will use when selecting participants. We will prioritize applicants who:

- Are willing and able to attend all four sessions
- Have some prior facilitation training and/or experience
- Hear voices and who have a genuine interest in co-facilitating a group
- Have support and/or resources needed to start a group in their area

### **Contact Information (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Agency or organization where you work (if applicable):

### **Application (Please feel free to attach separate sheets if necessary)**

1. Please indicate which of the following most applies to you: (circle one letter)

- a. I am a voice hearer who is interested in co-facilitating a group
- b. I work in a peer role in a mental health setting and would like to start a group there
- c. I work in a traditional role in a mental health setting and would like to start a group there
- d. Other, please specify:

**If you have selected 'b' or 'c,' please enclose a letter of support from your supervisor or other administrator that confirms their interest in setting up a group at your organization AND addresses the following five questions:**

1. Will the organization support you to NOT have to take notes on what happens in the group? Why/why not?
2. Will the organization support you to NOT have to have any organizational employees in the room during groups who have not actively been trained as facilitators? Why/why not?
3. Will the organization support you to NOT have to keep attendance records? Why/why not?
4. Is the organization willing to give the group space to talk about difficult topics without reporting those conversations back to anyone outside of the group?
5. Is the organization willing to work with you to identify clear limits to group privacy and confidentiality and put those in writing so that group members can also have a clear understanding of those limits?

2. I am able to attend all four training sessions to be held on **Monday THROUGH Wednesday from 9:30am to 4:30pm** on the following dates: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>.

Yes                      No      (Circle one. If no, I will not be able to attend \_\_\_\_\_)

3. Please initial that you have read and understand each statement:

*Initials*

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I need to complete all four days to successfully complete the training.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this training does not guarantee me a job as a facilitator, and that it will be up to me and/or my own organization or group to find financial and other support needed to actually start a group.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the training group will likely include a mixture of people who hear voices, allies, people working in peer roles and people in clinical roles.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this training is not intended to provide basic facilitation skills, but rather focuses on facilitation skills and perspectives directly pertaining to the Hearing Voices Network approach.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I write illegibly or if my answers are only a couple of words or a sentence long, my application will probably be discarded. (Nor do we need essays, but we need at least a few sentences in order to get a sense of where you're coming from!)

4. In a short statement, please describe why you are interested in doing this training:

5. In your own words, explain what you think makes Hearing Voices groups different from clinical groups?

6. Describe any training or experience you have facilitating groups. If you have no facilitation experience, how will you approach building your facilitation skills beyond this training?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Please tell us a bit about the group you intend to start (or the existing group you are hoping to support).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Briefly describe the supports and barriers that will be present for you in starting/supporting this group.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Tell us a little bit about yourself. What are some of your accomplishments, interests, dreams? What are the qualities you most appreciate about yourself?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application.

**Please return by Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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