

Statewide Peer Networking Awards Banquet

SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, May 8, 11am to 2pm @ the Castle of Knights,
1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA**

The Western Mass Peer Network, Eastern Mass Peer network, and Central Mass Peer Network have come together with people in peer roles across the state to plan the first Statewide Peer Networking Awards event. The event will include food, networking opportunities, a keynote panel of speakers, and AWARDS!

8 awards will be given in total, and that's where YOU come in. We need nominations!!

Make your nominations by March 13 here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNAwardNoms2020

!!! EVENT REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON !!!

INTRODUCING OUR KEYNOTE PANEL:



Daryl McGraw

Daryl is the President and Founder of Formerly Inc, Connecticut's first criminal justice consultant agency, staffed predominately by formerly incarcerated individuals. He also works with C4 Innovations, providing technical assistance around the country. When not traveling, he spends his time as Senior Reentry Policy Specialist with the Institute for Municipal Policy and Research at Central Connecticut State University, toward bettering the Reentry process for other formerly incarcerated individuals. In 2007 Daryl experienced a life changing event, when he was arrested for a probation violation, and sentenced to serve 4 years in prison. This was not his first time in prison although it would be his last. Daryl used every second to create what he now calls his five-year plan for successful reentry. In 2010, he was released from prison with a GED and six composition notebooks containing the blueprint for that plan, which was just the starting point of how he found his way to success.



Chacku Mathai

Chacku is an Indian-American, born in Kuwait, who became involved in consumer/survivor/ex-patient advocacy and peer support when he was 15 years old. Chacku's personal experiences with trauma, suicide, and disabling mental health and substance use challenges, including being diagnosed with psychotic disorders, launched Chacku and his family towards a number of efforts to advocate for improved services, social conditions, and alternative supports in the community. He has since accumulated over thirty years of experience in a variety of roles including youth leadership, community organizing/advocacy, direct service, training, and program leadership in Community Mental Health Centers, residential programs, and peer support, as well as international, national, statewide, and local board governance and executive leadership roles.



Martha Barbone

Martha is a mother of three who spent twelve years in the Air Force before being sidelined by a diagnosis of depression and PTSD. After several years that included multiple hospitalizations, medications and other treatments, she was introduced to peer support. This brought newfound hope and discovery of inner strength, ultimately leading her to serve as the coordinator of the MA Certified Peer Specialist Training for three years. Martha is also a facilitator for WRAP, Alternatives to Suicide, Hearing Voices, and SAMHSA's Recovery to Practice Next Steps. She also facilitates Alternatives to Violence workshops in several state prisons. Martha has worked providing peer support in an inpatient unit, for the Western Mass RLC, and for the Veterans Association. Her passion today is sharing what she's learned with others and working to reduce the trauma associated with inpatient psychiatric treatment.