

# **A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN PEER ROLES IN WESTERN MASS**



## **Don't Miss: The Celebration of Peer Roles**

**Friday, December 5th, 12pm to 3pm  
@ the Summit View Banquet House,  
555 Northampton Street, Holyoke**

***Co-sponsored by the Western Mass Peer Network &  
The Western Massachusetts Area Department of Mental Health***

Don't miss this great opportunity to celebrate the development, growth and value of peer roles throughout Western Massachusetts! Join us and enjoy:



- ⚙ Time to network and connect
- ⚙ An introduction to the new 'Declaration of Peer Roles'
- ⚙ Free lunch!
- ⚙ Awards to individuals working in peer, provider and ally roles
- ⚙ A chance to meet the new Western Mass Area DMH Director of Recovery, Jenifer Urff!

***RSVP to 413.539.5941 x 301 or [info@westernmassrlc.org](mailto:info@westernmassrlc.org)***

## **SEEKING: NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

This new newsletter is especially for individuals working in peer roles in Western Massachusetts. The Western Mass Peer Network's plan is to distribute this newsletter by mail on a quarterly basis, and include information, articles and events relevant to individuals working in peer roles.

To keep it interesting, we will need YOUR submissions! Submission ideas include: Event and training notices; Articles about peer work; Questions you're hoping others in the Peer Network might have ideas about; Resources worth sharing about; Etc!

**To submit items for the next issue of this newsletter (February, 2014),  
e-mail [info@westernmassrlc.org](mailto:info@westernmassrlc.org) by January 14th!**

### **Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Training**

The next CPS training (as offered by the Transformation Center) is now being planned for a start date of late February with locations in Framingham (just over an hour on the Mass Pike from the Holyoke area of Western Mass) and Lawrence. At present, this is the only training that certifies peer specialists in MA.

Applications are due to be released in early December, with interviews scheduled for mid-January!

**Check [www.transformation-center.org](http://www.transformation-center.org) regularly for updates.**

### **Help Us Get This Newsletter to You!**

We will be asking local provider organizations to help us make sure we have work addresses for all people working in peer roles in Western Massachusetts, but we know we will miss some people without your help.

Please make sure to let us know the right physical (snail!) mail address to reach you at, so no one gets left out of the network!

**E-mail [info@westernmassrlc.org](mailto:info@westernmassrlc.org) to make sure you are signed up!**

### **Desperately Seeking: A New Logo!!!**

The Western Mass Peer Network's logo was the result of a hurried, late night creation for the sake of a letter that needed to be sent out on letterhead some time ago. At this point, we'd like to take some time to create a new logo that we can all feel good about!

Are you an artist? Have an idea for a logo for the network? Submit your ideas by May 1st, 2015 to have your work considered! The new logo will be chosen by committee. The artist whose logo is selected will receive formal recognition via this newsletter and a \$50.00 gift certificate as a small token of our appreciation for your support to help the network grow!

### **Western Mass Peer Network Meetings Take On a New Structure:**

Western Mass Peer Network meetings have been happening on a monthly basis for about four years. During those years, we've seen over 85 people in peer roles come through the meetings and have held two large and very successful regional events (with one more to come on December 5).

As the numbers of people working in peer roles across the region have grown and we've all gotten busier, we've recognized a need to create new and expanded ways to connect that go beyond just in person meetings that not all of us regularly have time to get to. As a result, those who have attended the last handful of meetings have worked on a new structure for 2015 which will include:

- \* Quarterly in person meetings on Friday afternoons to include lunch (pizza, salad and whatever else attendees may want to bring) - ***The next one will be the third Friday in March, 3/20 from 11:30pm to 2pm.***
- \* Quarterly newsletters (such as this one, right here!)
- \* An on-line forum where people can connect, post questions, etc. (Coming soon)

**Have other ideas? Let us know!!**