

Working Well Together

Training and Technical Assistance Center



What's Working Well

...In the Employment of People with Lived Experience of Mental Health Challenges, Parents and Family Members to Transform California's Public Behavioral Health Workforce

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<http://workingwelltogether.org/>

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Working Well Together (WWT) is a collaborative project comprised of the [California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations \(CAMH PRO\)-Peers Envisioning & Engaging in Recovery Services \(PEERS\)](#), [National Alliance on Mental Illness California](#), [United Advocates for Children & Families \(UACF\)](#), and the [California Institute for Mental Health \(CiMH\)](#). Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the WWT Training and Technical Assistance Center supports the vision of the MHSA to transform systems to be client and family-driven. As such, WWT supports the sustained development of client, family member and parent/caregiver employment within every level of the public mental health workforce. The What's Working Well Quarterly News brief is produced and edited by [Karin Lettau, MS](#), WWT Technical Assistance Coordinator for the Southern Region. Translations and acculturations by Eva Molina-De Vilbiss, MA.

Youth/Parent Partners & Family of Adults Peer Leaders in San Diego County Work Well Together by Karin Lettau

In San Diego County we pride ourselves on working very well together! As a resident of San Diego I have had the opportunity to do just this with all the constituent advocacy leaders: of parents/caregivers of children/youth with behavioral health (BH) challenges, of family members of adults with BH challenges, and of people with personal lived experience of BH challenges. The heads of these agencies, [Family & Youth Roundtable \(FYRT\)](#), [NAMI San Diego](#) (NAMI SD) and peers, [Recovery Innovations \(RI\)](#) still meet together with the county administrative leadership weekly to collaborate on community efforts.

In this final newsletter issue we want to focus on youth/parent providers in San Diego County and on how we all work together to support common goals. FYRT is the children's system advocacy and training agency headed by Donna Marto with five full time staff offering unique, extensive [training programs](#) for youth and parent providers and to other public and provider partners. FYRT services "guide families and youth on how to utilize their life experience to assist other families in navigating the system and overcoming their challenges" and to "develop community leadership skills that allow family and youth partners to become partnership brokers, which enhances recipients of public services outcomes." County contracts

previously required youth/parent providers to undergo the FYRT 40-hour training for Family and Youth Partner providers, now reduced to four hours. FYRT still provides this training free yearly and supervision workshops monthly.

To start a peer career ladder, the County currently funds [Alliant University's Community Academy](#) to provide students with lived experience accepted into the program with academic credits for trainings from FYRT, NAMI SD and RI as well as mentorship and field placement.

Pioneer of Youth & Parent Partners

Melinda Furfuro helped design FYRT 14 years ago, and has been advocating and working in the BH field for children, youth and families for over 18 years at the local, state and national level. For the last seven years Melinda has been the Program Manager for the Family and Youth Support [Partners Program](#) at [San Diego Youth Services](#) supervising four parent partners under contract with the County of San Diego, which is due to end this June. Melinda has also been contributing to the WWT Stakeholder process for Peer Certification. Thanks! 

Donna estimates there are currently 91 youth/family peer specialists working throughout the county in the children's system. With NAMI SD's new contract and work with FYRT that number is sure to rise. (see page 2 for more on new NAMI contract)

For Behavioral Health Jobs in Southern California:
<http://www.jobsinsocal.com/>



A Note on Future of WWT

This is our last WWT newsletter issue as our contract ends June 30, 2014. Of course we hope we will together rise again in the new fiscal year in some new collaborative configuration to continue our good work. UACF, NAMI CA, CAMH PRO-PEERS and CiMH are interested in continued collaboration. The consumer and family employment contract Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will not be released until the end of July, 2014. (See page 2 for more information on the future of Consumer/Family employment.)

Points of Interest in This Issue

- ◇ San Diego County Youth/Parent & Family Peers
- ◇ Future of WWT
- ◇ Regional Updates
- ◇ WWT, State Peer Certification & Consumer Family Employment

NAMI SD Develops Peer Provider Training for Family of Adults

[NAMI San Diego](#) was one of 4 agencies in the state just awarded a contract for Peer Personnel Preparation. Shannon Jaccard, Executive Director, will partner with FYRT and Alliant University to train, prepare and place family of adult peer providers into the adult system, as well as youth/parents into the children's system.

The most exciting part of the contract is that **NAMI San Diego will develop the first training that we know of in the nation specifically for peer providers who have experience as family-of-adults with behavioral health challenges** to work in the system to serve others like them. This new curriculum will undoubtedly be very useful to the State Peer Certification efforts too. Shannon wants to integrate WWT stakeholder-developed materials and to be congruent with future state certification requirements. She hopes to have the 72-80 hour training ready in the next five months. Alliant University will assist to develop family



Shannon Jaccard

Join WWT Monthly Networking Calls

...For people with lived experience working in public mental health:

Parent Call: 2nd Tuesday of each month thru June, 10-11am, [1-800-914-3396](tel:1-800-914-3396) Code 3970681, Email dvandunk@uac4hope.org

Consumer Web Call:

2nd Wednesday of each month, 4-5pm, thru June

Register for web link at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2855921328720867072>

Use free computer audio or call 1-909-259-0034, Code: 419-253-837

Email kletttau7@gmail.com if you require a toll-free number.

WWT Superior Region

Save June 25th, 2014 for a one-day Superior Region Training in Redding. We are pleased to offer "Introduction to Emotional CPR" with Lauren Spiro, Director, National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery. [Emotional CPR \(eCPR\)](#) is a public health educational program designed to teach people to assist others through an emotional crisis by three simple steps: Connecting, Empowering and Revitalizing. eCPR is based on the features found to be shared by a number of support approaches: trauma-informed care, counseling after disasters, peer support, emotional intelligence, suicide prevention, and cultural attunement. It was developed with input from diverse individuals across the U.S., who have gained wisdom from first hand experience of emotional crises. For registration information, please email Camile Duria, cduria@cimh.org.

WWT Central Region

In the Central Region, Peers with lived experience are sharing their system expertise, lessons learned, program successes and effective strategies. On March 28th, San Joaquin County facilitator Raksme Roesum-Castleman presented a statewide webinar -- Second Glance, Second Chance: A Deeper Understanding of the Southeast Asian Community and Trauma Informed Care. On April 10th, Stanislaus County host John Black, Coordinator (Wellness Recovery Center) and CEO ([Peers Recovery Art Project](#)) facilitated a daylong event. This daylong event -- six presenters and three program site tours -- provided opportunities to 'hear and see' best practices with peers as leaders. Both trainings will be made available. Raksme's Second Glance, Second Chance will be accessible through a recording link. Peers Speak: Stanislaus's Promising Ideas, Concepts and Designs will have a variety of power point handouts.

To reserve your copies, call or email Ron Shaw, WWT Central Region, 916.228.1146 or ron.shaw@namicalifornia.org.

WWT, Consumer/Family Employment & State Certification Efforts

In April the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) began convening the [Workforce Education and Training \(WET\) Consumer and Family Member Employment Advisory Committee](#) to advise on how the \$10 million now earmarked for consumer/family employment will be prioritized over the next two fiscal years (July, 2014-June, 2016) for progress in meaningful consumer and family employment. The next advisory meeting/webcall will be on May 21, from 10am to 4pm, and the public may listen in and speak briefly during public comment period. See the highlighted hyperlink above for details.

No direction is clear yet what services currently provided by WWT will be contracted out in July. The OSHPD consumer and family employment contract Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will not be released until the end of July, 2014. The CA Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) and the CA Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) are keenly interested in moving towards state peer certification. Currently collaborating with stakeholders and state agencies, CMHPC is mapping out the steps for planning a peer certification process for OSHPD. A possibility exists that a contract for implementation of the peer certification process will be overseen by a state agency, subcontracting with state consumer, family and parent agencies.

Lots of uncertainty but progress nonetheless. We have a long way yet to go—one step at a time. We will make it there though, keep the hope alive! Stay informed and involved and use your voice!

CiMH's LAST WWT Peer Certification Stakeholder Web Call

Please click on date below to register for the web call*: [Thurs, May 22, 2014 12:00PM- 1:00PM](#)
*Need computer with mic & speakers or smartphone to be heard.

◆◆◆ [Karin Lettau](#) volunteers to resume these Web Calls in July courtesy of [PEERS](#) ◆◆◆

Please register for Monthly Peer Certification Stakeholder Web Call-4th Thursday 12:00 PM beginning Jul 24 at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5009971269545557249>