



**Peer Workforce Development Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Southern Tier RPC**  
**9/3/19 2pm-3pm**  
**MHA**

Present: Emily Childress, RPC Coordinator; Kayti Dean, Director Crisis Respite, MHA; Matthew Petite, Peer Liaison, Excellus; Sue Ruff, Advocacy Director, Southern Tier Independence Center; Lynn Hopkins, Transitional Peer Support Specialist, RSS Chenango Engagement Support Program; Garrett Smith, Regional Advocacy Specialist, OMH; Pat Vincent, Director of Family Support Services, MHA Tompkins

On the Phone: Colleen Klintworth, Behavioral Health Government and Community Affairs Manager, Excellus; Bill Gamble, Statewide Trainer, MHEP; Sharon MacDougall, Tompkins County DCS & RPC Co-Chair; Denise Brown, Program Director Chenango & Tioga Counties, Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc.

1. Introductions: The group introduced themselves and their roles in relation to Peer Workforce Development. Emily reviewed the purpose of this group is to learn what other Peer Workforce Development is currently being done across the state and determine what practices would be best to bring to the Southern Tier to meet the needs of the peer workforce in the region.
2. Current Development Practices: Emily asked the group to explain what current training and development they utilize and what areas they would like to improve.
  1. Local Organizations
    - MHA:
    - Staff would like more professional development (peer values and ethics)
    - RSS
      - No internal training
      - Lots of opportunity to learn from co-workers' experiences
    - STIC
      - Independent Living Centers: Peer services required; used state money for MSWs; Susie Link head of Peer Services
    - MHA Tompkins
      - Peer Specialist who does the training
  2. Around the State: Emily, Garrett, and Bill reviewed what is happening around the state.
    1. Mohawk Valley COPE: developed from RPC HARP/Health Home/HCBS workgroup, 2-3 years running
      1. Peer Networking group for each discipline
      2. Committee and Learning Circle
    2. Long Island Community of Practice: developed from RPC workgroup, 6 months running
      0. Very informal
      1. developing a committee for ongoing development
3. Southern Tier Future

- OMH trainings for peer supervisors and administration
- Integration of peers into traditional model
- many different "specialty disciplines" within peer work ex. ER, prison, crisis
- Professional development - boundaries
- many working as peers but not certified
- fees associated with certifications
- creation of a resource hub to meet the need of the community
- recruitment/education
- destigmatization
- Shared governance and shared responsibility
- Peers dually diagnosed MH/DD
- Garrett shared vision for future that includes funding codes for training/networking groups

Emily will be sending out a follow-up survey for further feedback from organizations.