**PEER SUPPORT TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

<http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/default.asp>: SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation believes in creating a learning community that offers ways to network, support, learn, and grow.  An important aspect of this learning community is meaningful peer involvement in Center initiatives.   Incorporating this philosophy into Center work and services, SAMHSA’s GAINS Center strives to connect people with the following valuable resources:

* **PeerShare via the SAMHSA’s GAINS Center Virtual Learning Community.** PeerShare is a place where peers involved with the criminal justice system in any capacity, as well as peers from the various GAINS projects, can go to find answers to questions, seek out technical assistance, and share their experiences. [Learn more here](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/peershare.asp).
* **STAR Center and GAINS Center *3-Part Series on Supporting the Recovery of Justice-Involved Consumers***

[The STAR Center](http://www.consumerstar.org/) and SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation have collaboratively developed a three-part series on supporting the recovery of justice-involved consumers. The series is most effective when used collectively, but can also be used individually.

Part 1 –    [Learning about Us, Learning to Help Us: Supporting People with Psychiatric Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System (PDF 642kb)](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/100397-335842.learningaboutus.pdf)

Part 2 –    [The Self-Advocacy and Empowerment Toolkit (PDF 609kb)](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/100398-427680.selfadvocacyempowertoolkit.pdf)

Part 3 –    [The Promising Practices Guide (PDF 361kb)](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/100399-796759.promisingpractices.pdf)

**Additional Peer Community Resources on GAINS Center Web page:**

* [Engaging Women in Trauma-Informed Peer Support: A Guidebook](http://www.nasmhpd.org/publications/engagingWomen.aspx)
* [Overcoming Legal Impediments to Hiring Forensic Peer Specialists](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/pdfs/Miller_Massaro_Overcoming.pdf)
* [Peer Support within Criminal Justice Settings: The Role of Forensic Peer Specialists](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/pdfs/Davidson_Rowe_Peersupport.pdf)
* [Involving Peers in Criminal Justice & Problem-Solving Collaboratives](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/62304-42605.peersupportfactsweb.pdf)

**Veterans Administration Peer Support Resources** <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn4/docs/Peer_Specialist_Toolkit_FINAL.pdf>: Peer Specialists are required as part of VHA System Transformation. Peer support occurs when people with the same types of problems help each other. There are different kinds of peer support, including peer support groups, organizations, and providers. In 2003, the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health Report recommended using consumer providers, stating, "Because of their experiences, consumer providers bring different attitudes, motivations, insights, and behavioral qualities to the treatment encounter (p. 45)." VHA now requires the use of peer support providers within mental health. Several regulations, guides, and laws describe how peer support providers are to be included in VHA programs. All these handbooks are found at [www.va.gov/vhapublications /](http://www.va.gov/vhapublications%20/) .

**Wichita State University, Center for Community Supports and Research (CCSR)**

Peer Support Training <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=ccsr&p=/certifiedpeerspecialisttraining/>

CCSR’s Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) trainings prepare persons who self-identify as having direct, first-hand experience of living with a psychiatric diagnosis for work as peer specialists. Persons who have been hired as peer specialists at Kansas Community Mental Health Centers, state hospitals and in Veterans Administration programs are eligible for the training. Completion of the training qualifies participants to take the certification exam. Military cultural competency trainings will be introduced Spring, 2015.

**Depression and Bi-Polar Support Alliance**. Peer Specialist Core Training. This training does include a module on military culture responsiveness. DBSA is a recognized leader in training for the peer specialist workforce: people who use their lived recovery experience to assist others in regaining hope and moving forward to achieve their goals. <http://www.dbsalliance.org/site/PageServer?pagename=education_training_peer_specialist_core>A training that focuses on integrating consumers into policy and program development by providing administrators and policy makers with information and direction to facilitate integration of consumers into policy and program development **and** providing consumers with information and skills to become effective partners and participants in this process. [Learn more here.](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/training.asp)

**Additional Peer Community Resources**

* [Engaging Women in Trauma-Informed Peer Support: A Guidebook](http://www.nasmhpd.org/publications/engagingWomen.aspx) [exit disclaimer icon](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/disclaimer.asp)
* [Overcoming Legal Impediments to Hiring Forensic Peer Specialists (PDF 188 kb)](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/pdfs/Miller_Massaro_Overcoming.pdf)
* [Peer Support within Criminal Justice Settings: The Role of Forensic Peer Specialists (PDF 144kb)](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/pdfs/Davidson_Rowe_Peersupport.pdf)
* [Involving Peers in Criminal Justice & Problem-Solving Collaboratives (PDF 227kb)](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/62304-42605.peersupportfactsweb.pdf)

**Presentations**

* How Forensic Peer Specialists Can Help Your Program  
  PowerPoint Presentation: [PDF 92 kb](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/pdfs/9_07_FPS_NetTeleconference_Slides.pdf) | [MS PowerPoint 207 kb](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/presentations/FPS_NetTeleconference9_20_07.ppt) | [Text Only](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/presentations/9_07_NetTeleconference.asp)
* Strategies for Effectively Integrating Consumers as Staff and Experts into Jail Diversion Programs  
  PowerPoint Presentation: [PDF 153kb](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/pdfs/9_04_Net-tele_Slides.pdf) | [MS PowerPoint 302 kb](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/presentations/Sept4NetConf.ppt) | [Text Only](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/peer_resources/presentations/9_04_NetTeleconference.asp)
* Emerging Roles for Peer Staff in Drug Courts  
  [Slides from the webinar](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/140832-456386.webinar-combined-presentations.pdf) | [Recording of the webinar](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/140817-686370.peers-in-drug-courts-recording.wmv) | [SAMHSA Statewide Consumer Networks](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/140833-468053.consumer-networks.pdf) | [SAMHSA Statewide Family Networks](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/140834-685983.family-networks.pdf) | [State Offices of Consumer Affairs](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/cms-assets/documents/140821-715996.state-offices-of-consumer-affairs.pdf)