

Community Integration News

THE UPENN COLLABORATIVE... Working to understand barriers, develop supports and impact policy to promote community integration and equal participation at every level of society.

Now Available!

Will Health Reform Help Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities?

Two new documents to help people with psychiatric disabilities learn more about how the health care bills passed by Congress in 2009 might affect them are available from the UPenn Collaborative on Community Integration.

The documents, a product of the UPenn Collaborative, developed by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, may be downloaded for free. "[Will Health Reform Help People with Mental Illnesses?](#)" examines the health reform bills and their impact on opportunities for community integration for people with psychiatric disabilities.

"[If I Have a Psychiatric Disability, Will Health Reform Help Me?](#)" is a complementary factsheet that further describes some changes the law could make in care and treatment for people with psychiatric disabilities. The bills covered include the House bill, Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962), and the Senate bill, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (S. 3590).

For more Papers and Reports from the UPenn Collaborative visit:

<http://www.upennrrtc.org/resources/list>.

Spring 2010



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Contact Information

For more information about the UPenn Collaborative on Community Integration, please contact the Center Coordinator at: katykap@mail.med.upenn.edu;

Phone: 215-746-6713 or toll free at 888-320-4580;

Fax: 215-349-8715;

Mailing Address: Katy Kaplan, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, 3535 Market Street, 3rd Floor -- CMHPSR Philadelphia, PA 19104

Training and Technical Assistance

The UPenn Collaborative continues to offer a wide variety of free or low-cost Technical Assistance & Training Programs for organizations that want to enhance their movement toward community integration and the recovery model. For more information please contact

Katy Kaplan at:

katykap@mail.med.upenn.edu or 215-746-6713.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

This year the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, (DBSA), is hosting a special national conference to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The conference, "Celebrating 25 Years of Peer Support," will take place this **April 30, 2010 - May 2, 2010**, in Itasca, Illinois, and offers three days of education and inspiration for consumers, family members, and providers. This peer-led and peer-centered conference will feature over 20 presentations from leading experts in the mental health community. It will also offer inspiring messages of hope from distinguished keynote speakers: world-renowned researcher and author, Kay Redfield Jamison, PhD; health care reformer and researcher, Ron Manderscheid, PhD; playwright and author, Paula Kamen; Pulitzer Prize nominee, Marya Hornbacher; Australian author and consultant, Graeme Cowan; and advocates in the "Bring Change 2 Mind" campaign, author Jessie Close and artist Calen Pick .

For more information and to register for this one-of-a-kind conference, please visit www.DBSAlliance.org/Conference2010.

Help Identify Asset Building Initiatives for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities!

The University of Pennsylvania Collaborative on Community Integration, in partnership with the National Research and Training Center, is looking for initiatives that help individuals with psychiatric disabilities take charge of their finances and pursue economic independence. Some examples could be efforts around financial planning, asset building, and any other supports/services that encourage individuals with psychiatric disabilities to take charge of their own finances.

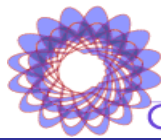
Please contact Kim Lovelock (klove@mail.med.upenn.edu) to submit descriptions about your initiatives to assist individuals with psychiatric disabilities in building their financial assets. We encourage you to let us know about your program! To learn more or to submit information about asset building initiatives visit the UPenn Collaborative website: <http://www.upennrrtc.org/news/view.php?id=58>.

Community Integration Webinars Available Now!

In November and December 2009, the UPenn Collaborative led a two-part webinar series, sponsored by USPRA, addressing the principles and practice of Community Integration. The sessions were presented to live audiences of about 350 participants each. The series is now available free of cost online until **April 24, 2010**. Those interested can access the archived presentations at:

An Introduction to the Principles of Community Integration (1st session)
<http://commpart.vo.llnwd.net/o28/USPRA/091118/index.html>

Bringing Community Integration to Life (2nd session)
<http://commpart.vo.llnwd.net/o28/USPRA/091209/index.html>



[New Online Course from the National Research and Training Center!](#)

Community Integration: Supporting People In Getting What They Want
Click here to [register online](#) today!

In this 6-module online course, faculty of the Penn Collaborative provide an overview of community integration emphasizing self-determination, disability theory, research evidence, and successful practices. Learners taking the course will accomplish the following objectives:

- ✦ Develop a better understanding of the current state of community integration for individuals with serious mental illnesses;
- ✦ Be able to define community integration and understand how community integration is related to community participation, well-being, and recovery;
- ✦ Be able to identify the key principles for promoting community integration in the delivery of housing, employment, education, spiritual, leisure, social, citizenship, and empowerment programs;
- ✦ Be familiar with examples of how people in recovery, families, providers, agency administrators, and policy makers can better support community integration; and
- ✦ Be able to identify key strategies to meet the challenges of promoting community integration.

All instruction and instructional materials are web based. Each of the modules includes a 30-minute lecture, downloadable Powerpoint Presentations, homework assignments, and required readings.

For more information on this course please visit:

<http://www.upennrrtc.org/news/view.php?id=59>

[Update!](#)

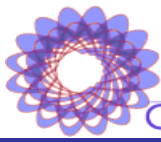
Last year, the UPenn Collaborative provided support to a coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) behavioral health consumers in the development of recommendations to ensure LGBTQI individuals receive equitable services from Pennsylvania's mental health provider community.

The statewide taskforce, now called the Keystone Pride Recovery Initiative (KPRI) and the Persad Center have received a grant of \$15,000 from the State Equality Fund to support inclusion for LGBTQI behavioral health consumers. The State Equality Fund is a donor-advised fund of the Tides Foundation, administered by the Gill Foundation. KPRI will use this funding to work with OMHSAS to develop and adopt new policies.

In July 2009, Deputy Secretary Joan Erney accepted the recommendations of the OMHSAS LGBTQI Workgroup calling not only for policy changes but system-wide LGBTQI cultural competency and appropriate services training, and changes in demographic data collection. The policy work KPRI will do under the State Equality Fund grant represents a portion of the implementation of these recommendations.

For more information about KPRI contact Co-Chair Rita Cisneros at:

rcisneros@pmhca.org.



UPenn Collaborators: News and Selected Highlights

Pennsylvania Supported Education Network

The Pennsylvania Supported Education Network (PaSEN) is a natural outgrowth of the UPenn Collaborative on Community Integration. Bringing together stakeholders from every facet of the community, the aim is to foster supports for people with physical or psychiatric disabilities who would like to pursue any sort of post-secondary education or training. PaSEN brings together provider agencies, students, consumers, family members, schools, and training institutions so that everyone involved can share resources and information.

Since beginning work in October, the PaSEN has held collaborative meetings in Erie, Harrisburg, Allentown, and Wilkes-Barre. Initial discussions focused on information sharing and coming up with ways to pool resources to create supported education programs.

Over the next few months, the PaSEN will be focusing on providing training across the state. The two-part, hands-on trainings for providers of disability services will focus on how to design and implement supported education programs. These trainings will be held in Johnstown, State College, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Wilkes-Barre through the end of June. For more information about the PaSEN contact Arlene Solomon at 215-386-3838 or Arlene.Solomon@hhinc.org

Voting Rights: An Innovative Effort

Since 2004, the Mental Health America chapter in Allegheny County (PA) has sponsored a consumer advocacy and voter education project - Let Our Voices Be Heard (LOVBH) - that has proven effective in increasing the number of people with psychiatric disabilities in the Pittsburgh area who are both registered to vote and knowledgeable about what to do in the voting booth. For the general election in 2008, LOVBH expanded to four additional counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania, with consumer volunteers registering and educating an additional 500 individuals. Then, in 2009 LOVBH joined with the statewide Disability Voting Coalition in Pennsylvania (part of a larger mobilizing effort to build a voting block within the disability community), resulting in 705 new individual members and 60 organization members since then. Rachel Freund, Director of Community Outreach for MHA-Allegheny County, has directed the effort, and says she is impressed with how the work of Let Our Voices Be Heard increases community participation, builds knowledge and confidence among voters with disabilities, and is succeeding in building a strong dynamic network of citizens within the disability community.

For Further Information About this Effort Visit:

http://www.upennrrtc.org/resources/view.php?tool_id=229