

WHAT'S IN A



Defining and Discussing Diverse Peer Roles

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET

Learn More and Register

Peer Support started gaining popularity in the late 1980's, the concept of "wounded healer"--the idea that people who have survived illness or trauma may have special abilities to help others facing similar challenges--has deep roots within the history of addiction treatment and recovery. During the same period, the concept of families helping families was gaining popularity with the growth of the family movement. Today, there is growing recognition of the value of both services. These types of support improve outcomes with the use of peer-based support services provided to individuals and families. Both adult peer and family peer support services are vital in the process of creating healthy families and individuals. This training will explore how the two roles are similar and how they differ and when to use each service.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to articulate the difference between Peer Recovery Specialist and Family Peer Specialist
- Participants will understand when there is a need for either or both
- Participants will be equipped to understand which technical assistance (TA) center best fulfills their needs for TA

Meet the Presenters

Gail Cormier, Project Director, NFSTAC

Gail brings over 25 years of experience providing national and statewide technical assistance and expertise working with families, youth and young adults. She is a proven national family leader with both professional and family-lived experience.

Cormier's knowledge is demonstrated by her work at several levels. At the national level, she partners in the development of federal programs that serve at-risk and vulnerable consumers, families and their children and youth.

For the last 14 years, Gail has served as Executive Director for North Carolina Families United, Inc., the North Carolina state affiliate of the National Federation of Families.

Cormier was a co-developer of the University of New Hampshire's national best practice RENEW, a care coordination process for transition aged youth with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED). She provided oversight for the SAMHSA funded Statewide Family Network grant in New Hampshire and then in North Carolina from 1996-2019. Gail has served as Project Director for seven federal grants funded by SAMHSA, the Department of Education and the Administration for Children and Families, leading the way in developing and supporting families who need services and supports for their children across the lifespan. She supports family organizations, family peer support, and policy making boards that aid the growth and the development of child, youth, and family-serving systems within peer organizations statewide and across the nation.

As Project Director, Gail manages the day-to-day activities of our National Family Support Technical Assistance Center (NFSTAC) and is responsible for all grant required reports, assurances, outcomes, and documentation demonstrating that project goals and objectives have been met. Gail will use her experience to support the provision of technical assistance and training for families, providers, family-run organizations and communities.

As a long-term advocate of social justice, Ms. Cormier strives to ensure that all individuals find mental health and substance use services in their home communities that best fit their needs - no matter their age, gender identity, race or economic background.



Laurie Johnson-Wade, CRS, CBC, CRC, FPS

Laurie Johnson-Wade is the Co-Founding Director of Lost Dreams Awakening (LDA) Recovery Community Organization (RCO), a 501c3 non-profit in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Laurie is an Advanced Implementation Specialist (AIS) with the Opioid Response Network (ORN) at UMKC; a Steering Committee Member for the Peer Recovery Center of Excellence Workforce Development Core Team 3; an adjunct faculty member of Faces and Voices Recovery Training Institute (RTI); and was selected to serve on the Life Unites Us Community Impact Committee.

Laurie is a Certified Behavioral Consultant (CBC), a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS); a Recovery Support Supervisor (RSS); a Forensic Peer Specialist (FPS), and has a degree in Health Administration.

Laurie brings over 30 years of lived recovery experience (Established May 30, 1991), to the revolutionary and rewarding work of Recovery Support Services and Recovery Coaching.

Laurie is a trainer of the CCAR Recovery Coach Academy and Ethical Considerations for Recovery Coaches; a facilitator of the PA Family Support Alliance (PFSA) Recovering Families Program, and the PROACT Family Education Series.

Laurie was named the 2020 Recovery Advocate of the Year by the Pittsburgh Recovery Walk. Ms. Johnson-Wade serves on the Board of Directors of Faces and Voices of Recovery - Chairing the CAPRSS Committee, as well as serving on the F&V DEI Committee.

Laurie is a proud member of Black Faces Black Voices (BFBV) and seeks to integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) within all systems of care - spanning Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, and Harm Reduction.

Laurie is the founder of LDA Ubuntu Recovery, an Afrocentric recovery pathway, based on the ancient African Philosophy of Ubuntu.



Shannon Roberts

Shannon Roberts is a Senior Program Manager at the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Collaborative to Advance Health Services, serving primarily on the SAMHSA funded Peer Recovery Center of Excellence. Upon receiving a BA in biology with a minor in chemistry from Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Michigan, she returned to Kansas to pursue her Master's in Public Health with a focus on social and behavioral health from the University of Kansas Medical Center. While earning her MPH, she worked as a laboratory technician in Lawrence Memorial Health's Lab. After graduating, she was promoted to LMH's Quality Department as a project manager where she worked intimately with the infection prevention program, Medical Staff Office, and other ancillary care work groups. Her expertise includes process-based management, data and statistical analysis, evaluation and strategic program development. Her work, both professional and personal, is guided by her compassion for community and desire to advocate for those who have been marginalized.



Lachelle Freeman

Lachelle is dedicated to advocating for youth and families to receive appropriate services that meet their needs. Lachelle is trained in family systems and stands by System of Care values that ensure the system benefits the entire family. She wholeheartedly believes that treating the whole person yields the best results.

With over 25 years working in the mental health system, Lachelle has provided direct care in family preservation programs and therapeutic services for Pittsburgh children and families where abuse occurred within the family. Additionally, she provided clinical oversight, managed therapeutic group homes and assisted in work groups for block grants.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Lachelle has worked on mental health initiatives in Maryland and North Carolina and assisted in research projects at both the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland's Systems Evaluation Center. For the past nine years Lachelle worked at a Managed Care Organization where she was most recently served as the Project Director for North Carolina's SAMHSA System of Care Expansion Grant.

Lachelle earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Geneva College. She is the proud mother of two children, Joshua and Madison. Lachelle is dedicated to family advocacy, whole-person care and policy change that meets the needs of the individuals being served.

Lachelle is a strong advocate for social justice. She believes mental health and/or substance use concerns should not impact how humans are treated. All individuals should be provided equal service, respect, and opportunities in our society. Social justice is a must for all of us.



This webinar is free and open to all families who are impacted by mental health and/or substance use challenges and to the workforce, organizations and communities that support them.

Register Here

Request No-Cost Technical Assistance or Training from NFSTAC at: www.nfstac.org/request-ta.