



# National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems

## Exploring the Intersectionality of Peer Support and Person-Centered Planning across Disability

Summary of a webinar from August 19, 2020

### Introduction

This webinar is on how peer support can be used as a person-centered approach. Peer support is people who have things in common helping each other. Some people work as Peer Supporters. Peer Supporters from different fields shared information on peer support.

### Panel Discussion

Bevin Croft is a Co-Director of NCAPPS. She led the discussion and asked panel members these questions:

- What are the goals for peer support and how do we measure success?
- What is the role for peer support in advocacy for racial equity across disability?
- What does leadership in peer support look like?
- What is your vision for the future of peer support?

Each of the panelists gave thoughtful answers to these questions. They shared how peer support is a relationship that benefits both people. It is helpful to have a connection with someone who “has been there.” They can help you find hope.

Martha says, “It was peer support that first gave me hope that I could live a full life, instead of a limited life.”

Ebony says, “Perseverance is my priority to ensure my prosperity.”

Sassy says that leadership in peer support looks like, “the ability to feel powerful in your own body.”

The webinar ended with answering a few questions from the attendees. They were posted in the chat box.



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The speakers on this webinar were:



**Martha Barbone** served in the U.S. Air Force before being sidelined by a diagnosis of depression and PTSD. After several years including multiple hospitalizations, medications, and other treatments, she was introduced to peer support. This led to newfound hope and discovery of inner strength. Martha has worked as the director of CPS training and provided peer support on an inpatient unit, in a peer-run organization and facilitated groups in the VA. She currently is the Interim Director of Operations for iNAPS.



**Ebony Flint** is a Certified Peer Specialist, a Peer Group Facilitator for *Alternatives to Suicide* and *Hearing Voices Network*, and a Wellness Recovery Action Plan Facilitator for adults, young adults, and trauma survivors, working with populations both within the community and in hospital settings. She is a graduate of *Massachusetts Leadership Academy*, which focuses on bridging the gaps between the mental health community and the disability community. She currently works for Advocates, Inc as the Peer Program Coordinator for The Living Room, a 24 hour peer run crisis alternative located in Framingham, MA. Her passion for this work comes from being a parent of a child with special needs and having overcome traumatic experiences herself.



**Sassy Outwater-Wright** is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She has fifteen years of experience in the digital accessibility fields, consulting for small businesses, helping make products and services digitally accessible. Her background is in user experience and project management, and she specializes in multiple disability intersectionality.