

## **STRENGTHENING PEER SUPPORT IN ALASKA**

### **6-Part Series**

#### **Presenter Bios**

##### **Cheryl Gagne, ScD**

Subject Matter Expert, Professional Trainer, C4 Innovations

Cheryl has over 25 years of experience in developing and delivering training programs for behavioral health service providers. She has delivered trainings in many evidence-based practices including, Illness Management and Recovery, medication-assisted treatment, health promotion for people with behavioral health conditions, and integrated services for people with co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. Cheryl served as a deputy director of BRSS TACS and managed expert panels, produced webinars, and delivered TA. She has developed skill-based curricula for providers who include peer workers in a range of behavioral health roles. Cheryl also led the team that described peer worker core competencies for SAMHSA. Cheryl is a person in recovery from mental illness and addiction and this informs her work. She is an advocate for others who are in recovery and are striving for their rights to participate in valued roles in communities of their choice.

##### **Neil Campbell, MS**

Executive Director, Georgia Council on Substance Abuse

Neil is the executive director of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building and supporting community alliances to increase the impact of recovery through education, advocacy, and training. Neil is a passionate advocate, using her own lived recovery experience to reach others who are struggling. Her current emphasis is influencing public policy through a recovery-positive legislative agenda, promoting Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care, and increasing the peer recovery workforce. In 2009, she co-founded the Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist Academy that to date has prepared over 400 people in recovery to deliver support services in Georgia's behavioral health system. Additional recovery initiatives include community listening sessions in partnership with the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network and the annual Addiction Recovery Awareness Day at the state capitol. In 2015, Neil received the SAMHSA Voice Award for Peer Leadership. The Voice Awards program honors consumer/peer leaders and television and film professionals who educate the public about behavioral health.

##### **Marianne Farkas, ScD**

Co-Principal Investigator of the Research and Training Center, Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Boston University

Marianne has been the Co-Principal Investigator of the Research and Training Center and a professor in the Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Boston University for over 30 years. Marianne has worked in various capacities in the field of psychiatric rehabilitation and recovery. She advanced the use of effective strategies to develop and implement services that promote full health and recovery from serious mental illnesses.

Marianne is the former vice president of the World Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation , the current president of the National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, and the recipient of several awards for her work in promoting recovery and rehabilitation. Marianne has developed training, consultation, and organizational change methodologies to support services and integrative systems for the adoption of recovery and psychiatric rehabilitation innovations across cultures within North America and around the world. Marianne has worked over decades as a partner with peer leaders to strengthen the role of individuals with lived experience in services, systems, integrated workforce development efforts, and research endeavors.

### **Tom Hill**

Vice President of Practice Improvement, National Council for Behavioral Health

Tom served as a Presidential Appointee in the position of Senior Advisor on Addiction and Recovery to the SAMHSA Administrator. As part of this post, Tom initially served as Acting Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Before his appointment, he was a senior associate at Altarum Institute, serving as technical assistance director for several SAMHSA treatment and recovery support grant programs. He also served for 4 years as the director of programs at Faces & Voices of Recovery. Tom is frequently sought out as a national thought leader in the addiction and recovery field; his personal experience of recovery from addiction spans more than 25 years. Tom has also served on numerous boards of directors, advisory boards, committees, and task forces/working groups. His work reflects his commitment to the goal of long-term recovery for individuals, families, and communities. He received his MSW in community organizing from Hunter College at the City University of New York. Tom is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Johnson Institute America Honors Recovery Award, the NALGAP Advocacy Award, and a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in the Developing Leadership in Reducing Substance Abuse initiative.

### **Lisa Conlan-Lewis**

Executive Director, Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

Lisa is currently the executive director of Parent Support Network of Rhode Island and been a state and national consultant for peer service delivery for 26 years. Lisa leads the State-Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Workforce Development Program. The program delivers integrated substance use and mental health peer recovery services. Lisa brings lived experience as a parent of children and adults with behavioral health needs and as a person in long-term recovery.

### **Harvey Rosenthal**

Executive Director, New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS)

Harvey is the executive director of the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. He has 40 years of experience in promoting public mental health policies and services that advance the recovery, rehabilitation, rights, and full community inclusion of individuals with psychiatric disabilities, diagnoses, or both. His advocacy has helped transform state and national mental health systems; increase access to community-based housing, employment,

and support services; and advance numerous recovery- and criminal justice-related mental health reforms. Harvey has helped create several nationally acclaimed and replicated self-help, employment, and transformational training innovations. He has also worked to fight negative attitudes, discrimination, and human rights violations and expand informed choice protections and cultural competence. Numerous New York State and national groups have recognized his work— Mental Health America, The College for Behavioral Health Leadership, the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, and the National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery.

**Steven K. Samra, MPA**

Deputy Project Director, C4 Innovations

Steven is a Deputy Director on SAMHSA’s Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS), which provides both virtual and on-site technical assistance (T/TA) to individuals, states, territories, federally recognized tribes, and community based organizations. After entering recovery from homelessness, complex trauma, substance use, criminal justice involvement, and mental health challenges, Steven began medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in 2000 for a severe and chronic opioid addiction. He discharged from the MAT program in 2014 and continues to assist and advocate for marginalized, disenfranchised populations, with a special emphasis on Opioid Use Disorder and medication assisted treatment and recovery. As the BRSS TACS Deputy Director and a consumer advisor, Steven is adept and skilled at both virtual and on-site T/TA; planning, implementing, and evaluating recovery programs and services; harm reduction; culturally congruent approaches to service delivery; conference planning; and managing T/TA teams. As a core team member for the Opioid

Response Network, he provides mentoring and coaching for recovery consultants around the country who are working within the ORN framework.

**Edye Schwartz, DSW, LCSW-R**

Consultant, Edye Schwartz Consulting

Edye is currently available as a consultant to provide executive coaching and training and technical assistance in a variety of areas of leadership, management, and organizational change. She has a long history in the field of mental health and is a strong proponent of the recovery movement. Since earning her master’s degree in social work from Hunter College School of Social Work, she has consistently worked to advance recovery-based approaches. During the early 1990’s Edye trained at Boston University’s Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation and was able to operationalize this knowledge while working as the director of community support services for Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health. There, she contributed to shifting mental health delivery from a traditional illness-based model to a system centered on recovery, helping to develop the ICM/SCM program, the Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation Treatment Programs, Supported Housing, Supported Work Programs and Supported Education, and offered technical assistance to developing peer-run organizations that wanted to grow and attain independence.