

The Pipeline

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Volume 1 2017/2018

Upcoming Events

GMHCN Board Meetings

Board Retreat
Cordele, GA
October 19 and 20, 2017

CPS Trainings

Savannah, GA
October 16 - 26, 2017

Atlanta, GA
December 4 - 14, 2017

Georgia Peer Support Institute

St. Simon's Island, GA
November 8 - 10, 2017

Helen, Ga
Unicoi State Park Lodge
May 8 - 10, 2018

Peers Share Their Pictures Of Recovery At The 26th Annual Summer Conference

The 26th Annual Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network Summer Conference was held at Epworth by the Sea in St. Simon's Island, GA August 22-24. The reviews are in and it was a roaring success.

The theme of the conference was "Picturing and Realizing a Life of Recovery, Resiliency and Respect." With that in mind the photo-booth was naturally a big hit! Peers were able to share what recovery looks like to them with other peers from all over the state. This was the largest conference in GMHCN history so the peers in attendance were able to support peers and influence the direction of recovery in Georgia as policy makers from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities also attended.

One peer in attendance, Mitchell Preva wrote, "It was so awesome words could not explain. The workshops were great and being able to interact with others like myself; the spiritual connection with my Higher Power was so overwhelming. I can say when the road looks rough ahead at times I can reflect on the days at the Island and breath the fresh air and remember the ocean blue and my peers speaking and moving forward in life no matter what challenge we may face." The experiences of peers like Mitchell is what makes the GMHCN annual conference so special. Peers supporting peers is what the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network is all about and when there are that many peers and one place special things are bound to happen.

The annual conference is usually held during the last week of August each year. Be sure to plan your trip next year to experience the power of the peer and share what recovery looks like to you!



Artistic Expression

COMING DOWN THE PIPELINE

Hope
By Gail Herrschaft,
CPS

Going through the
tunnel
Looking for a dot
They said it would be
there
Did they not
Shrouded in darkness
Searching
So weary
Where is the light
I query
Alone in the dark
Fallen
Surrendering
Oh there it is

you will be
okay, ok?

- There are lots of great opportunities for peers to work with GMHCN and other organizations. Including positions available at each of our 5 Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers. Check them out on the CPS Jobs page of our website at www.gmhcn.org
- November 28th is Georgia Gives Tuesday presented by the Georgia Center for Nonprofits. Please see www.gcn.org/gagives for more information and please consider giving to support the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network.
- Remember we love to see your artistic expressions of recovery. Submit them to nick@gmhcn.org with the subject line "Artistic Expression"
- The University of Pennsylvania is continuing to conduct ongoing surveys into the relationships peers have with their loved ones. It is anonymous and you can enter into a drawing for a \$50 gift card. The survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/1VOQJGs>
- Be sure to check the "What's New" section of the GMHCN homepage for regular updates about upcoming events and news.

Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers Celebrate Their Anniversaries.

Late summer and early fall is the anniversary season for the Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers throughout the state. In February of this year the first Peer Support and Wellness Center in Decatur celebrated an amazing 9 years of operation. While Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers in White County and Bartow County each celebrated their 6th anniversary in June. This year's anniversary was the final one for Bobby Sanders, CPS as the Director of the Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Center in White County. In September Bobby left the center for retirement. A retirement that everyone at GMHCN hopes is long and enjoyable for him.

In October the Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers in Henry and Colquitt Counties will celebrate their 3rd anniversaries with Henry County celebrating from 11am-2pm on October 17th and Colquitt County celebrating on October 27th from 12pm-3pm. As always we welcome everyone to celebrate the power of peers and the continued success of the Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Centers throughout the state. So please join each of the centers in the celebrations and enjoy complimentary food and refreshments while sharing your recovery with us.



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September - National Recovery Month

As always, September marked national recovery month in the United States. Once again Georgia and the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network was well represented. Every year recovery events spread across the state with something for everyone. There are walks and fun runs, displays of art and expression as well as rallies for those that have found recovery to let their friends and neighbors know what recovery means to them. If you missed out on the event this year be sure to mark it on your calendar for next year. However, be sure to check the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network website regularly to see the recovery events that occur all year long because at GMHCN its recovery 24/7 - 365!

