

The Pipeline

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Volume 4 2017

Upcoming Events

GMHCN Board Meetings

Conference Calls

July 13, 2017

Face to Face

St. Simon's Island, GA
August 21, 2017

Board Retreat

Cordele, GA
October 19 and 20, 2017

CPS Trainings

Columbus, GA
September 11 - 21, 2017

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

Alternatives Annual Conference

Boston Park Plaza
Boston, MA
August 18 - 21, 2017

GMHCN Annual Conference

St. Simon's Island, GA
August 22-24, 2017

Georgia School of Addictions

Savannah, GA
August 28 - September 1, 2017

Georgia Consumer Council Memorial Service

Milledgeville, GA
October 1, 2017

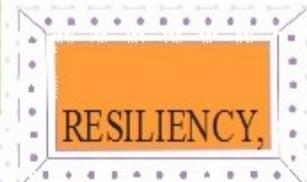
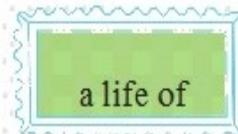
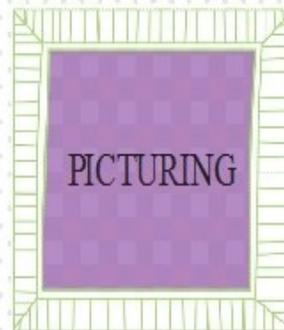
How Do You Picture Your Recovery?

The 26th Annual Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network Conference will be held once again this year at Epworth by the Sea in Saint Simon's Island, Georgia. The conference will take place from August 22—24, 2017 and will as always work to promote recovery and resiliency among the peers of Georgia.

The theme of this year's conference is "Picturing and Realizing a life of Recovery, Resiliency and Respect." The conference will feature 3 days of speakers, workshops and activities that focus on that theme as well as a number of other topics.

The Deadline for registration this year is August 1, 2017 and can either be completed online or on paper using the registration form that is available at our offices, sent to you by request or at our website, www.gmhcn.org. The Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network will offer scholarships to the conference for peers when we have them available, but registration for the full conference with lodging and meals starts at just \$225.00 for a cabin and \$335.00 for a double room if there are no more scholarships available. Be sure to join us in August to share your message of hope, recovery and resiliency.

26th Annual Summer Conference



Artistic Expression

COMING DOWN THE PIPELINE

Rise 2 Recover - Aisha Northington, CPS
 Socially unacceptable
 Deemed unemployable
 Wrapped in isms, scisms of Bipolarism
 My mind
 But still I climb
 Rise Up Rise Up
 Self Directed- Better Check it
 Catch It, Change It
 Rearrange It
 Got a new name for it
 Recovery
 What that means to ME
 New Life
 No Strife
 Time to fight
 Salute
 To All My Troops
 Who blazed before me
 To show Me
 I am not limited by my diagnosis
 No MORE Psychosis
 A Kiss
 To ALL my PEERS; Put away those fears
 After all these years
 But yet we ARE HERE
 Pass the torch-build a fort
 -Dismiss
 Are you recording this?
 It has to be heard-need to get out the
 word
 Applaud
 We've traveled the LONGEST YARD
 Not a pit stop; but a journey
 No one before informed me
 This time-we gotta shine
 Never rewind to turn back the hands of
 time
 But moving onward, onward,
 Up
 Up
 Rise I say
 Rise....to Recover

- There are lots of great opportunities for peers to work with GMHCN and other organizations. Check them out on the CPS Jobs page of our website at www.gmhcn.org
- 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.

Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network Represented on SAMHSA Criminal Justice Panel

On May 2nd and 3rd, 2017 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) held a summit of stakeholders to give input on the future of mental health in the criminal justice system. The Criminal Justice Expert Panel had representatives from various state and national groups with over a dozen stakeholders being included. The Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network was represented by Forensic Peer Mentor Tariq Rashid, CPS (pictured below - left).

Tariq used his lived experience to help the panel understand the unique struggles and barriers to success that peers face as they progress through the various stages of the criminal justice system. Tariq reports that he really feels like SAMHSA and the other stake holders want peers to be used at the center of breaking cycles of recidivism in the criminal justice system. He also reported that as various organizations reported their models and methods that they repeatedly tipped their cap to the pioneering work that the peers of the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network have done to be the evidence of recovery.

The federal government has set aside millions of dollars to be used by SAMHSA to create change in the various aspects of behavioral health. While some stakeholders may view various methodologies in different ways Tariq is sure that everyone is committed to creating a holistic approach with multiple paths to recovery for each and every peer that needs it.



NEVER GIVE UP ON
SOMEONE WITH A
MENTAL ILLNESS.
WHEN "I" IS REPLACED
BY "WE", ILLNESS
BECOMES WELLNESS.

-SHANNON L. ALDER



Georgia Mental Health

Consumer Network

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Golf Tournament Raises Thousands

On Memorial Day weekend over a dozen two-person teams met at Jekyll Island Golf Club for the Second Annual Ken Whiddon Memorial Golf Tournament. The tournament was organized by Jay Willis and Robert Howell, two friends of the late Ken Whiddon. The two hope that the tournament continues to grow to honor their late friend and to benefit the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network, that Ken was an early pioneer of. 100% of the proceeds have been donated to the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network which totaled over \$2000 from hole sponsorships, mulligan sales and raffle tickets.

The best ball style tournament was very competitive with trophies given in 2 groupings (A and B) as well as a random combined trophy. Prizes were also awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin. The organizers hope to hold the tournament on Memorial Day weekend into the future so be sure to mark your calendars for 2018!



L-R: Jay Willis, Nick Calhoun, CPS, and Robert Howell, CPS.