



Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

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DBSA Convenes Peer Workforce Stakeholders for Historic Meeting

CHICAGO-- On December 7, 2015, representatives from organizations that train, employ, and promote the peer specialist workforce gathered in Chicago for a roundtable discussion about advancing the peer specialist profession. Convened by DBSA, the cross-sector group discussed how, collectively, they could forward the idea that peer support services are essential to quality behavioral health services and should be readily available, thereby creating high demand.

Prior to the event, DBSA identified the top issues facing the field, two of which will be the focus of the cross-sector group in 2016. They believe that within the community there must be

- a common understanding of the roles and scope of work that ensure effective integration and utilization of peer specialists in a variety of venues; and
- a clear understanding of the value of peer support services in achieving desired outcomes.

The group members comprise representatives from Appalachian Consulting Group, Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey, Humana Health Systems, International Association of Peer Supporters, Mental Health America, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc., Optum, Recovery Innovations, Resiliency Inc., ValueOptions, Inc., and the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health Services.

The **Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)** strives to improve the lives of people living with mood disorders. The organization fosters an environment of understanding of the impact and management of these life-threatening illnesses by providing up-to-date, scientifically-based tools and information; supports research; and works to ensure that people living with mood disorders are treated equitably. Assisted by a scientific advisory board, comprising leading researchers and clinicians in the field of mood disorders, DBSA has more than 700 peer-run support groups across the country. Millions of people are assisted each year with in-person and online peer support; readily understandable and current information about depression and bipolar disorder; and empowering tools focused on an integrated approach to wellness.

For more information, call (800) 826-3632.

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