



Alternatives 2009

uniting our movement for change

Omaha, Nebraska
October 28 - November 1

"Transforming Lives Through the Arts"

***A Specially Designed Pre-Conference Training Institute
for Peer Specialists and other Peer Providers
Wednesday, October 28, 2009
9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.***

Art can be a powerful force in changing people's lives. The purpose of this institute is for peer specialists to engage in multi-dimensional arts activities adaptable for providing peer support. Participants will be offered a variety of hands-on arts activities, including painting, writing, performance, dance, humor and others—all practical for use in peer support work.

Keynotes:

Deb Whittle, Program Director, National Empowerment Center

Steve Harrington, Director, National Association of Peer Specialists

Registration and additional information is included on the Alternatives registration form at www.alternatives2009.org. Register early, as this training is limited to the first 100 registrants. Participants will receive a certificate of completion. There is no additional charge for this training.

For additional information contact Gayle Bluebird:
gayle.bluebird@nasmhpd.org

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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Transforming Lives Through the Arts

A Pre-Conference Arts Institute
Alternatives 2009
Omaha, Nebraska

October 28, 2009

Description:

The purpose of this pre-conference training institute, *Transforming Lives Through the Arts*, is to train peers employed as peer support providers in how to integrate the arts into their work. The arts have become widely accepted as a means for peers to tell their stories, as a way for them to express themselves, and for their power to heal and transform lives.

This institute adds another dimension to the arts offerings at Alternatives. Focused entirely on peer providers or those in training, the institute will offer a variety of arts activities, including painting, performance, writing, humor, music, and others. All of the activities will be replicable in a variety of settings, including inpatient facilities, community programs and consumer-operated services. The faculty will be made up of peer artists who have knowledge and experience both as artists and trainers.

Attendees, who will not be required to have previous experience as artists or have any particular talent, will choose the arts activities that most interest them. While no one will be able to participate in every activity, a show-and-tell session at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions will engage all of the participants.

To our knowledge, this training is the first of its kind. The goal is for this experience to become an accepted part of peer specialist advanced training and that it will engender similar trainings around the country.

Participants will receive certificates of completion and a how-to workbook with details about how to develop all of the activities in their communities.

Registration:

This institute is part of Alternatives 2009; however, it has its own registration form, available on the Alternatives Web site www.alternatives2009.org. Successful applicants will be notified of their acceptance by e-mail (or phone if no e-mail address is available) soon after they register. Participation is limited to the first 100 registrants.

Cost:

There is no charge for this pre-conference institute. Participants will be responsible for their meals and for their lodging the night before.

For more information, contact Gayle Bluebird: gayle.bluebird@nasmhpd.org