



Western Mass
Recovery Learning Community

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December 20th, 2017

Dear Applicant:

We are writing you about the next opportunity to attend a "Hearing Voices Group Facilitator" Training. We've had great responses to our previous facilitator's trainings and several groups have started as a result. The training is presented by the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community (RLC) with the primary purpose of training people to start their own Hearing Voices Groups in their own area.

Hearing Voices Groups originated in Europe and now there are over 160 chartered groups in England alone. Hearing Voices Groups do not pathologize hearing voices, seeing visions or other unusual experiences. Instead, group members explore these phenomena in an environment of mutual support and curiosity. They offer people who hear voices, see visions or have other unusual experiences the opportunity to share their experience and explore new ways of coping, understanding their experiences and getting support.

Currently there are a growing number of Hearing Voices Groups in the United States, and our vision includes both supporting and bolstering existing groups and expanding the overall numbers and accessibility. We hope that you will join us in bringing this vision to reality!

Sincerely,

The Western Mass RLC

See Below for Further Training Details:

TRAINERS TO INCLUDE: **Caroline Carlton**, experienced HVN USA trainer and group facilitator, **Marty Hadge**, experienced HVN trainer and group facilitator, with special guests to be determined.

TRAINING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATION: Dates for the training are scheduled for Saturday, January 13th, 2018 through Monday January 15th, 2018. Each day will run from 9:30am to 5:00 pm. Reading homework may be assigned ahead of time and/or during the class. The training will be located at Denney Hall Room 311, The Ohio State University – Columbus, 164 Annie and John Glenn Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43210. **Attendance at all 3 sessions is required to complete the training.**

TRAINING PREREQUISITES: This training is intended for persons who hear voices, or have other unusual or extreme experiences, and for clinical staff, family, and friends, interested in supporting persons who have such experiences. The Facilitator Training will provide one with the tools to start a hearing voices group (a group where voice hearers, and/or their allies can support each other.) Some awareness of and investment in the Hearing Voices Movement and approach is required, so please be sure you've checked out www.hearingvoicesusa.org and/or other sources to be sure you are familiar with the basics and still interested in applying!

COST: \$170 per person (cost includes registration for all three days of training, along with materials needed to start a Hearing Voices group.) This fee may be negotiable in certain circumstances. We are attempting to obtain additional funding and therefore are hopeful that the fee will decrease further - we will keep you posted regarding any future adjustments in the fee. To make a payment or a donation, or to sponsor an attendee who might not be able to attend due to financial reasons: Payment/donation by check/money order (preferred): Checks can be mailed to: **Western Mass Training Consortium ATTN: Sera Davidow 187 High Street, Suite 202 Holyoke, MA 01040.** Check should be marked clearly: **Donation for Ohio Training, January 2018** By credit card: www.westernmassrlc.org/ohio-fundraising. All donations are tax deductible and receipt of donation will be provided. Thank you for supporting this important endeavor!

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO: This training is open to people who identify as voice hearers, allies, friends and family, clinicians, peer workers and more. If you attend, you should expect that the group will include a mixture of people in varied roles. This training is designed to challenge and encourage creative thought about different belief systems, and so openness and genuine curiosity is a must! It is not intended as a 'train the trainer' model.

We believe that ~~the journey leads to healing and hope~~

Under the umbrella of The Western Mass Training Consortium

Application for Hearing Voices Groups Facilitator Training

Contact Information (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Application (Please feel free to attach separate sheets if necessary)

1. Please indicate which of the following most applies to you: (circle one letter)

- a. I am a voice hearer or someone with other unusual experiences, who is interested in co-facilitating a group
- b. I am a voice hearer or someone with other unusual experiences who is interested in supporting the movement
- c. I work in a peer role in a mental health setting and would like to start a group there
- d. I work in a traditional role in a mental health setting and would like to start a group there
- e. I would like to start a hearing voices group in Ohio
- f. I would like to start a hearing voices group elsewhere
- g. I am an ally of the hearing voices movement

If you have selected 'c' or 'd,' please enclose a letter of support from your supervisor or other administrator that confirms their interest in setting up a group at your organization AND addresses the following five questions:

1. Will the organization support you to NOT have to take notes on what happens in the group? Why/why not?
2. Will the organization support you to NOT have to have any organizational employees in the room during groups who have not actively been trained as facilitators? Why/why not?
3. Will the organization support you to NOT have to keep attendance records? Why/why not?
4. Is the organization willing to give the group space to talk about difficult topics without reporting those conversations back to anyone outside of the group?
5. Is the organization willing to work with you to identify clear limits to group privacy and confidentiality and put those in writing so that group members can also have a clear understanding of those limits?

2. I am able to attend all three training sessions to be held on **Saturday THROUGH Monday from 9:30am to 5:00pm** on the following dates: January 13th, 14th, and 15th.

Yes No (Circle one. If no, I will not be able to attend _____)

3. Please initial that you have read and understand each statement:

Initials

_____ I understand that I need to complete all three days to successfully complete the training.

_____ I understand that this training does not guarantee me a job as a facilitator, and that it will be up to me and/or my own organization or group to find financial and other support needed to actually start a group.

_____ I understand that the training group will likely include a mixture of people who hear voices, allies, people working in peer roles and people in clinical roles.

_____ I understand that this training is not intended to provide basic facilitation skills, but rather focuses on facilitation skills and perspectives directly pertaining to the Hearing Voices Network approach.

4. In a short statement, please describe why you are interested in doing this training:
5. In your own words, explain what you think makes Hearing Voices groups different from clinical groups?
6. Describe any training or experience you have facilitating groups. If you have no facilitation experience, how will you approach building your facilitation skills beyond this training?
7. Please tell us a bit about the group you intend to start (or the existing group you are hoping to support).
8. Briefly describe the supports and barriers that will be present for you in starting/supporting this group.
9. Tell us a little bit about yourself. What are some of your accomplishments, interests, dreams? What are the qualities you most appreciate about yourself?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. **Please return application to: Rae at universejuly2015@gmail.com or contact Rae to make other arrangements for submission. Please also make payment by check/money order (preferred) or credit card as described above. Applications will be reviewed at time of submission (rolling admissions process.)**

The training is presented by the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community