

# PAPRS NEWSLETTER

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION SERVICES

## 2025 BOARD MEETINGS

- ✦ JANUARY 16 & 17  
(IN-PERSON)
- ✦ APRIL 4  
(VIRTUAL)
- ✦ MAY 15 & 16  
(VIRTUAL)
- ✦ SEPTEMBER 11 & 12  
(IN-PERSON)
- ✦ NOVEMBER 13 & 14  
(VIRTUAL)

## NEXT PAPRS QUARTERLY NETWORKING MEETING:

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025  
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM



STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH  
PAPRS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



## PAPRS PRESIDENT REPORT

BY: SARA DOBSON

A Message from the PAPRS Board President:

As I write this, it's been a cloudy and rainy stretch here in Eastern Pennsylvania—perfect weather for a bit of reflection. Thinking back on our 2025 PAPRS virtual conference, “Psychiatric Rehabilitation: The Road to Recovery,” I’m filled with gratitude for everyone who made it such a success.

From our four inspiring keynote speakers to the many presenters who shared their expertise and passion, the dedicated staff who kept things running smoothly, the board members who offered their steady support, and the engaged attendees who brought energy to every session—thank you. I’m thrilled to share that this year’s conference exceeded all expectations, with our highest attendance for both live and through our on-demand sessions.

If you haven’t yet, there’s still time to register for the on-demand courses—available until June 16—so don’t miss out!

Looking ahead, I hope you’ll mark your calendars for next year’s virtual conference: April 9, 10, 16, and 17, 2026. We’ll also be bringing back the Creativity Contest, with selected submissions featured in next year’s conference materials. Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for more information!

Another recent highlight was Harrisburg Hill Day, where I had the opportunity to join the Bucks County CSP in meeting with five legislators. We advocated for stronger support for mental health services, access to Medicaid, and affordable housing across the state. It was a meaningful and energizing day of advocacy.

As summer approaches, I hope you have some sunshine and good things to look forward to. Don’t forget to check our website for upcoming training opportunities—Super Supervisor is coming up on June 20, and our next Networking Meeting is on June 12, from 11:00–12:30. I hope to see you there!

Thank you all, truly, for being part of this journey. Wishing you a wonderful summer ahead!

Warmly,  
Sara Dobson  
Board President

## PAPRS STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Denise Astaneh  
denise.astaneh@papr.org

### EDUCATION MANAGER

- Rochelle Reimert  
rochelle.reimert@papr.org

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Aaron Burkhardt  
aaron.burkhardt@papr.org

## PAPRS LEADERSHIP

### PRESIDENT

- Sara Dobson

### PRESIDENT- ELECT

- To be determined

### SECRETARY

- Karen Yob

### TREASURER

- Jocelyn Giancola

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

- Kim MacDonald -Wilson

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Philip Debrasky
- Virginia Dikeman
- Sara Dobson
- Laura Gardner
- Jocelyn Giancola
- Katelyn Ivanac
- Holly Knoll
- Kim MacDonald-Wilson
- Caitlin Needham
- Corinne Schnee
- Marietta Scouten
- Hazel Smith Guild
- Debra Weisgerber
- Patrinia Wilkerson
- Kimberly Wilson-Roberson
- Karen Yob

## ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Amy DeMay
- Skyler Deitrick
- Donna Duffy Grimm
- Eileen Joseph
- Rita Kraus
- Peggy Maccolini
- Lu Mauro
- Jennifer McLaughlin
- Susan Poznar
- Lisa Quintana
- Maureen Walsh

## WELCOME, NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS!

PAPRS is excited to welcome five newly elected members who began their first term on the Board of Directors earlier this year. As part of the Class of 2027, they officially started their three-year term on January 1, 2025.

Please join us in congratulating and warmly welcoming:

### *Class of 2027*

- Philip Debrasky
- Marietta Scouten
- Jocelyn Giancola
- Hazel Smith-Guild
- Patrinia Wilkerson

**PAPRS**

# Conference Attendee Hub REMAINS Open

## Psychiatric Rehabilitation: The Path to Recovery

Please check  
out the great  
On-Demand  
Courses!

Registration  
remains open  
through June 16th!

Need help: email  
board@papr.org

 [www.papr.org](http://www.papr.org)

## 2025 PAPRS Virtual Conference

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the PAPRS Board members who completed their service and transitioned off the Board at the end of 2024. Your commitment, insight, and leadership have played an important role in advancing our mission. Thank you for the time, energy, and passion you brought to PAPRS. We truly appreciate all you've done!

*Couldn't  
have done it  
without you!*

# 2025 UPCOMING TRAININGS

## **BECOMING A SUPER SUPERVISOR**

➤ June 20, 2025  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

## **ORIENTATION TO PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION**

➤ July 14 & 15, 2025  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## **ETHICS & BOUNDARIES IN RECOVERY-ORIENTED SERVICES**

➤ September 8, 2025  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## **ENGAGEMENT SKILLS IN THE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION PROCESS**

➤ September 22, 2025  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## **PR SERVICES DOCUMENTATION: SKILLS THAT WORK FOR REGULATORS, PAYERS, AND PEOPLE IN SERVICES**

➤ July 28 & 29, 2025  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## **PAPRS CPRP JOURNEY THROUGH THE DOMAINS - LIVE BOOTCAMP**

➤ September 25,  
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,  
November 6, 2025  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**TO REGISTER FOR A SESSION OR BROWSE ADDITIONAL DATES:**

[Course Calendar](#)



# TO SHOW OFF YOUR PROGRAMS!

PAPRS wants to spotlight your Psych Rehab program in our social media and newsletter! We're excited to showcase the incredible work you and your team are doing to support your local communities. Whether it's a major milestone or a small success, we'd love to help you share it. If you're interested in having your program featured, contact Rita Scouten at [ritascoutenwcsc@yahoo.com](mailto:ritascoutenwcsc@yahoo.com) to get started. The process is quick and easy—just 10 minutes or less!

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

BY: LINDSAY NORDENHOLD

Mental Health Awareness Month is 31 days of providing information on mental health conditions, other resources, and, how to advocate for people within our communities asking for help that they might not already receive.

This has been made possible due to the work by Mental Health America (MHA), which began in 1908 by Clifford Beers who wrote a personal biography titled- *A Mind That Wanders*. In it, he documented the struggles he experienced with mental health as well as the subpar conditions he and others had been dealt within institutions across the country.

By 1949, MHA started sharing information for mental health awareness month turning it gradually into what society now understands it to be 76 years later.

*What is the community doing to raise awareness?*

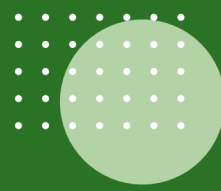
On May 23, 2025, Wellspring Community Support Services held a Mental Health Awareness picnic, inviting participants and the community at large to enjoy outdoor games, personal medicine activities, socialization, and a delicious family-style meal to round out the day.



Mental Health Awareness Month, observed every May, highlights the importance of mental health and reducing stigma. Established in 1949, it promotes education, support, and early intervention. In psychiatric rehabilitation, this month is a key opportunity to emphasize recovery, empowerment, and person-centered care as these are core values that help individuals build meaningful lives in their communities. Green ribbons symbolize support, and each year's theme encourages open conversations and access to resources that foster hope and healing.



# WE ARE HIRING!



We're looking for someone to join our team as a

## FINANCIAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST- Work from Home

We are looking for a dedicated and detail-oriented Financial Operations Specialist to join our team on a contract basis to assist with financial operations. This role is key to ensuring smooth and efficient financial operations within the organization. The ideal candidate will have experience with bookkeeping, payroll, auditing, and accounting systems, along with the ability to manage multiple platforms and adapt to new technologies.

### Requirements:

- Strong math skills
- Expertise in QuickBooks
- payroll expertise
- background in accounting
- Familiarity with multiple financial and member platforms
- experience in auditing
- ability to work independently and take ownership of projects
- General tech awareness
- Reporting & Analysis of day to financial operations.


**APPLY NOW!**

If you have the skills and experience required, we want to hear from you!

To apply, Send your Resume and Cover letter to:

[denise.astaneh@paprs.org](mailto:denise.astaneh@paprs.org) or  
[Board@paprs.org](mailto:Board@paprs.org)

### More Information:

 717-655-7662

 [www.paprs.org](http://www.paprs.org)

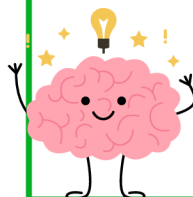


**PAPRS**

## PAPRS IS LOOKING FOR *YOUR* SUGGESTIONS

Are there any trainings you are thinking about that you think would help you in the process of learning psych rehab or would help you to grow as a Practitioner? PAPRS is welcoming suggestions. Please email Rochelle Reimert, our education manager at:

[rochelle.reimert@paprs.org](mailto:rochelle.reimert@paprs.org)



# 2025 PAPRS CONFERENCE STATISTICS



THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING  
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, GAB  
BONESSO, LISA RAZZANO, SERA  
DAVIDOW, LASADA PIPPEN, AND  
SESSION PRESENTERS FOR  
MAKING THIS A CONFERENCE  
TO REMEMBER!

## PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION: A PATH TO RECOVERY AT A GLANCE

A total of **292** individuals registered for the live conference.

Current total registration stands at **324**.

The most viewed keynote was delivered by **Gab Bonesso**, our featured comedian.

The most viewed workshop was "**Integrating the Wellness Domain into Psychiatric Rehabilitation**".

The session with the most positive and highly rated feedback was the **AI workshop**.

**Lasada** and **Skyler** were recognized as the top-rated speakers of the conference.

Congratulations to our conference game winner: **Rebecca Edwards**!

**We are still addressing certificate and transcript issues—please reach out to Aaron Burkhardt @aaron.burkhardt@paprs.org if you're missing anything.**

# 2025 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

A special **THANK YOU** to our 2025 Conference Sponsors! Without you, we would not be able to achieve our vision. We continue to meet our mission of offering state-of-the-art educational training to practitioners across the state and beyond, and you are a huge part of that success. Your generosity year after year is truly appreciated!

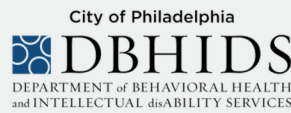
## Gold Sponsors



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## Silver Sponsors



PerformCARE



PENN FOUNDATION  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

## Bronze Sponsors



## Friends of PAPRS



# 2025 DISTINGUISHED AWARD WINNERS



## Presidential Award for Lifetime Achievement- Ellwyn Anders

This award is given out at the discretion of the sitting president to a deserving individual to has made a significant contribution to Psychiatric Rehabilitation



## Distinguished Career Award- Susan Poznar

This award is to honor an individual who, throughout their career, has effectively promoted the development and implementation of psychiatric rehabilitation services in Pennsylvania. Nominations are open to members of PAPRS/PRA who are credentialed in Psychiatric Rehabilitation and have no less than 10 years' experience in psychiatric rehabilitation.



## Distinguished Program Award- Sally and Howard Levin Clubhouse

This award is to honor an agency or program within an agency, which operates psychiatric rehabilitation that effectively meet the needs of persons in recovery. Nominations for this award are open to Psychiatric Rehabilitation agencies or programs that have been in operation for no less than 3 years and are organizational members of PAPRS/PRA.



## Distinguished Advocate Award- Milton Dennis

This award is to honor an individual who has advocated for the inclusion of psychiatric rehabilitation services in their organization, county, region, and/or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Nomination for this award is open to mental health staff, persons in recovery, family members and public administrators.



## Distinguished Practitioner Award- Oscar Hernandez

This award is to honor an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the principles and ethics of psychiatric rehabilitation in their work with persons in recovery. Nominations are open to mental health direct care and/or supervisory staff who are either an individual member or work for an organizational member of PAPRS/PRA.



# 2025 CREATIVITY CONTEST WINNERS

This year, PAPRS chose to expand our traditional poster contest to include all forms of art, a more inclusive way to celebrate creativity and personal expression in the recovery journey. Thank you to everyone who participated and courageously shared your stories through art. A special thank you and congratulations to our winners including two ties, a first in PAPRS history!



**TORI JOSEPHINE**



**EMILY JAMES**

**CAROL CRUZ**



**SIMERE DIXON**



**SELENA CHAIKOWSKY**



**MATT WHITE**



**HOPE DECKER**

**QUINN SMITH**



**OUR NEXT PAPRS NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2025**