

Speaker Bios – An Overview of Peer Programs for Employers

AMANDA BOWMAN

LCSW-S, PSS

Amanda Bowman, Via Hope LCSW-S, PSS, Recovery Institute Manager, is a social worker using her clinical field experience and her lived experience with mental health challenges to promote person-centered practices in behavioral health care. Coming from direct social work practice and administrative leadership within the public Mental Health system, she joined Via Hope in 2014, where she now oversees the variety of programs aimed at supporting systems change. In this role, she oversees the development and delivery of organizational change programs, which include statewide initiatives to support the implementation of person-centered recovery planning, peer support services, and trauma-responsive work environments. With a passion for participatory learning methods and an appreciation for “local” solutions, Amanda routinely facilitates collaborative events to support groups of all sizes as they chart a path toward a more recovery-focused system that is driven by people with lived experience.



AMY PIERCE

MHPS, PSS, ALF

Amy Pierce, MHPS, PSS, ALF, Via Hope Peer Services Implementation Field Liaison, has been working in the Peer Movement in the State of Texas for almost two decades. She most recently was the C.E.O. of Resiliency Unleashed, an international training and consulting company focusing on the development and implementation of peer services. She has extensive experience in the peer support sector. She previously started the first peer support program in the state hospitals in Texas, was a peer support worker in a community mental health agency and was also the Program Coordinator for a transitional peer residential housing project funded through the 1115 Waiver Program. Amy is a peer, and family member, with both mental health and addictions experience. She is a Certified Peer Specialist Facilitator, Advanced Level Wrap Facilitator, ASIST Trainer, and WHAM Facilitator. Amy was previously Chair of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Council in Texas and on the U.S. National Disability Rights Board. Amy is a lover of life and all that is possible for human beings.

