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, DECEMBER 11, 2025

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

BY: DENISE ASTANEH

Dear Members and Friends,

I want to share a few updates on some of the exciting developments happening with PAPRS and PRA.

First, I am working closely with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA) to revisit and update the CFRP credentialing exam. A task force has been created that includes me, several PAPRS representatives, and colleagues from other state PRA chapters. This important work builds on last year's PAPRS–PRA pilot program, which—for a limited time—gave individuals the opportunity to take the certification exam after attending the extensive "Boot Camp" Training. I am proud to say PA had an excellent pass rate. Congratulations to all of Pennsylvania's newly credentialed CPRPs and CFRPs! Your dedication continues to strengthen our field and advance the practice of psychiatric rehabilitation.

It's also hard to believe, but planning for our 2026 Conference has already begun! Our theme will be "Thriving Together." I'm especially excited about this year's creativity contest, which is now accepting submissions. We're adding a new twist—the winner's artwork will be featured in our 2026 conference branding! Please consider submitting; I look forward to seeing your creativity shine. The Call for Papers will be opening soon, and I encourage you to think about submitting a proposal. We are so fortunate to have a vast amount of knowledge, experience, and innovation within our PAPRS network, and your contributions are what make the conference so meaningful year after year.

On July 12th, Rochelle Reimert and I had the privilege of representing PAPRS at the 5th Annual Wellness Days: Carnival Edition – Shattering the Stigma, hosted by Youth MOVE PA at Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre. The event welcomed children, young adults, families, caregivers, and service providers, with over 30 vendors in attendance. Despite a brief summer shower, the day was filled with energy, connection, and celebration. From inspiring speakers and community resources to music, balloon art, face painting, food trucks, a bouncy house, arts and crafts, and even demonstrations by first responders, the event had something for everyone.

PAPRS STAFF

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PAPRS LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

- Sara Dobson

PRESIDENT- ELECT

- To be determined

SECRETARY

- Karen Yob

TREASURER

- Jocelyn Giancola

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

- Kim MacDonald-Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS

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Holly Knoll
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Rita Kraus
Peggy Maccolini
Lu Mauro
Jennifer McLaughlin
Susan Poznar
Lisa Quintana
Maureen Walsh

It was a joy to engage with community members and network with fellow presenters. Events like these remind us of the power of partnership and the importance of standing together to shatter the stigma around mental health. Thank you for the vital work you do every day. Together, we are advancing our mission, and I am deeply grateful to be on this journey with you.

DO *YOU* WANT *YOUR* PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA?

Email Our Communication Committee Chairman, Marietta Scouten, at **ritascoutenwcss@yahoo.com** to fill out our simple questionnaire!

PAPRS HAS A NEW ADDRESS!

2025 PAPRS CONTINUING EDUCATION

PSYCH REHAB SERVICES DOCUMENTATION

November 17 & 18

9 AM to 4 pm

CPRP JOURNEY THROUGH THE DOMAINS

October 2,9, 16, 23, & 30

9 AM to 1 PM

November 9

9 AM to 1 PM

GREAT REVIEWS REGARDING OUR PAPRS TRAININGS!

"I ENJOYED THE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AND BREAKOUT ROOMS."
– ORIENTATION TO PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION

"ROCHELLE EXPLAINED EVERYTHING IN A MANNER THAT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE TO ME. I LEFT THE TRAINING FEELING LIKE I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING."
— PR DOCUMENTATION SKILLS

"ROCHELLE WAS VERY INFORMATIVE AND GAVE ME MORE SKILLS TO USE AS A SUPERVISOR."
— USING THE PR PROCESS IN SUPERVISION

*12 PARTICIPANTS IN EACH TRAINING; 36 PARTICIPANTS TOTAL

September 2025 is

National Suicide Prevention Month

1 in 20 U.S. adults have serious thoughts of suicide each year! Suicide is a difficult subject and conversations are hard when you aren't sure what to say. Tips are available at seizetheawkward.org

Let's make this a thing of the past!

Opening up about your mental health journey does not make you weak, it allows you to get the help you need.

Call, text, or chat 988

" It isn't weak to ask for help. It's like using a flashlight when you are lost in the dark."

Summer Fun!

WITH THE PAPRS BOARD

As summer winds down, our board members shared some of the memorable moments from their travels and time with loved ones. Rita enjoyed a special visit from family, making the season extra meaningful. Aaron made the most of summer break with trips to both Niagara Falls and Puerto Rico, taking in the beauty of natural wonders and island life. Sara captured the breathtaking scenery of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park through her photography. Hazel headed south to Tennessee, while Susan went abroad, spending time in England, Ireland, and Scotland.

Save the Dates

2026 PAPRS Virtual Conference

April 9, 10, 16 & 17, 2026

Thriving Together: *Empowering Recovery Through Connection & Community*

PRA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE & CELEBRATION

NOV 10 & 11

Two Days of Insight, Inspiration & Connection

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

This year's conference is set to be our most dynamic yet, bringing together leading voices in psychiatric rehabilitation for two days of learning, networking, and inspiration.

✨ Here's What's Ahead

- Keynote Presentations from nationally recognized leaders
- Breakout Sessions on evidence-based practices and community supports
- Cheers to 50 Years – Happy Hour, Cake, and Celebration
- Networking Opportunities with peers, colleagues, and innovators in the field

More Speakers Coming Soon!
We've already announced an exciting lineup, and we're not done yet.
Stay tuned as we continue to add inspiring voices and thought leaders to the program.

REGISTER NOW

CAN'T MAKE IT THIS YEAR?

YOU CAN STILL BE PART OF THE MOMENT.

BECOME A SPONSOR

THRIVING TOGETHER

CREATIVITY CONTEST

Share Your Story of Recovery!

We're excited to announce the "Thriving Together" Creativity Contest, celebrating the power of connection and community in recovery.

Theme: Empowering Recovery Through Connection and Community

We believe that healing happens together. Whether it's through shared stories, creative expression, or mutual support, your experience matters—and we want to see it!

Contest Categories

- **Visual Arts:** Photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art, and more
- **Written Word:** Poetry, short stories, essays, and personal narratives
- **Performance Arts (Video):** Music, spoken word, dance, or short theatrical pieces (up to 3 minutes)

Prizes

will be awarded to the top adult and youth/young adult entries in each category, plus the winners' art will be featured in our 2026 conference branding!

All participants will be recognized across our community platforms.

Submission Guldelines

- Entries must reflect the contest theme
- Original work only
- One entry per person
- Family-friendly content

DEADLINE: OCT 31

ENTER THE CONTEST AT:
HTTP://WWW.CVENT.COM/C/ABSTRACTS/4921E943-AC48-4233-9A12-4A9FD9942428

OUR NEXT PAPRS NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2025