

# Voice and Dialogue Training

*Wakefield, MA 2010-2011*

Do you want to help create the **environments**,  
**relationships** and **opportunities** for peers to develop  
the lives we want in Massachusetts?

## We need *you!*

**Massachusetts needs more consumer/survivor advocates – people to support our choices and decisions at an individual level and at a mental health system level. We can improve our knowledge and skills in order to impact how fast this process of transformation moves. **Voice and Dialogue Training** empowers us to act.**

Voice and Dialogue Training improves our effectiveness in transforming the current mental health system through productive communication among those involved by:

- empowering ourselves and our peers to speak out for what we want
- learning to advocate for ourselves and others
- converting our anger and fear into productive passion
- gaining skills for identifying and articulating issues

- going from “talking at” each other to a real transformative dialogue
- making practical plans through strategic dialogue

The North East Recovery Learning Community (NERLC) of the Northeast Independent Living Program and the National Empowerment Center are partnering to present a training for persons who would like to learn to conduct the Finding Our Voice and Using it in Dialogue Groups. We are seeking people who have one or more of the following:

- identify as mental health services clients/consumers/survivors
- come from diverse backgrounds
- have lived experience of homelessness, the criminal justice system, being in an inpatient facility, and/or co-occurring conditions (substance abuse)
- display qualities of leadership in their local self-help/peer support organizations and/or have been involved in planning and policy-making for the various mental health system components
- have experience conducting training through workshops and conferences

The first session will take place on Tuesday, November 23, 9:30am – 11:30 am at the Wakefield Public Library in Wakefield, MA. The remaining 8 sessions will take place at the same time and place on Tuesdays, including November 30, December 7, December 14, December 21 and January dates to be announced.

Twenty-five participants will be selected for this unique training. If you would like to attend and can meet the time commitments, please fax a completed application to **978-689-4488** to the attention of Karen Kieffer.

You may also email applications to [kkieffer@nilp.org](mailto:kkieffer@nilp.org) or mail applications to:

Karen Kieffer  
NERLC/NILP  
20 Ballard Rd  
Lawrence, MA 01843

**The application includes:**

- ✓ the application form
- ✓ a resume
- ✓ references from two people who know your work

**All completed application materials must be received by 5 pm on November 1.**