

Alternatives Conference 2017



Building Healing Communities Together

Boston · August 18-21

Call for Presentations

Proposals Deadline Extended - March 24, 2017

The National Empowerment Center, a National Consumer Technical Assistance Center, announces that Alternatives 2017, the national mental health conference organized by and for mental health consumers/survivors, will be held in Boston, Massachusetts at the Boston Park Plaza.

We invite everyone to consider becoming a presenter. **First-time presenters are especially welcome.** Learning from each other is a clear example of self-help, mutual support, and the principles of recovery in action!

Each Alternatives Conference offers in-depth technical assistance on peer-delivered services and self-help/recovery methods. The Alternatives 2017 Conference Committee, which includes consumer/survivor/peer leaders from across the nation, is seeking proposals for presentations. The Alternatives Conference is interested in including diverse perspectives that will provide critical leadership in every category.

This year, Alternatives is taking the opportunity to renew its commitment to diversity and highlighting the intersection of our movement with so many others. Writer and activist, Audre Lorde once said, "There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives." We know this to be true. We know that individuals who've been given psychiatric diagnoses, experienced trauma, and/or otherwise received mental health services are a varied group made up of many strengths, backgrounds, and a multitude of experiences. We believe we are stronger for those differences.

As a step toward demonstrating our commitment, we will be paying extra attention to representing different faces and experiences and people of color in every aspect of this conference. We invite you to help us by completing the attached voluntary demographics with your proposal application, and letting us know if you identify as being a part of any one of a number of groups that have historically been marginalized or under represented.

Workshops will be selected from the following categories:

Diversity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality

Diversity and culturally-responsive healing approaches (race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, disability, size, appearance, sexual orientation, class, geography, culture, etc.); inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged groups; intersectionality (the interconnected nature of social identities such as race, class, and gender, especially as they relate to overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage)

Bridging the Gap Between Mental Health and Substance Use Concerns

Learning from and working together with people in recovery from addictions; role of medication in recovery; integrative approaches; harm reduction; addressing prejudice and discrimination; peer support for substance use; promoting rights, dignity, and health around substance use

Promising Practices in Peer-Run Programs and Peer-Delivered Services

Culturally-specific programming (i.e. veteran to veteran, youth to youth, etc.); innovations and evidence-based practices within the field; strategies that promote peer service; peer-run organizational development; peer specialists; and other peer workforce development

Leadership Development

Non-profit management; board of directors development; building and sustaining your 501c3; promoting individual leadership; organizational, and leadership sustainability

Healing Through the Arts

Artistic expression as it relates to healing such as drawing, painting, poetry, sculpture, dance, etc.

Holistic Health, Wellness, and Recovery

Culturally responsive health and wellness strategies; holistic nutrition; healthcare integration and understanding and improving your physical health and overall health; wellness practices for recovery such as mindfulness, meditation, massage, exercise, artistic expression, companion animals, yoga

Rights Protection

Social issues that affect the peer community; history of peer and civil rights movements; effective advocacy practices

Youth and Young Adult

Innovations in youth and young adult programs; promoting youth/young adult leadership

Using Technology in Support of Recovery

Using social media assistive technologies to promote inclusion; utilizing technology to promote recovery

Multigenerational Learning

Learning from and dialogue between older and younger generations; generational or age-related issues; age-related discrimination; promoting family supports

Economic Health and Recovery

Employment; financial self-sufficiency; overcoming poverty and income inequality

Selection Criteria

Peer reviewers from the Alternatives planning committee will evaluate proposals according to the following:

- Diversity, cultural leadership and responsiveness will be honored as core content of any presentations
- Presentations emphasizing the participation of attendees and ability to replicate ideas will be given priority consideration
- Relevance of the presentation to the conference theme “Building Healing Communities Together” and suggested categories
- Expertise and experience of presenters
- Opportunities for participants to develop new skills and/or replicate a successful program
- Indication that the lead presenter is a consumer/survivor/peer
- Indication of partnerships with providers, family members and/or others
- Clear outline of the purpose and learning objectives of the presentation
- Completion of all related sections in the application

2017 Application For Workshops

Please note: if you will be submitting your proposal online you may use this form to complete the necessary information prior to starting the online submission process.

- I understand that all presenters must pay the full conference registration fee and are also responsible for all travel and lodging expenses.
- I understand that if my proposal is selected, wording may be edited for publication.

Title of Presentation (must be 25 words or less):

Please indicate format: 45-Minute Workshop 90-Minute Workshop

Category of presentation (choose from list on page 2): _____

Please provide a description of how cultural issues relate to the topic you plan to discuss: _____

Does the lead presenter identify as a consumer/survivor/peer? Yes No

Lead presenter Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Have you presented at an Alternatives Conference previously? Yes No

If yes, please specify topic(s) and year(s) _____

Please list any other conventions or gatherings at which you have presented this topic:

Co-presenter(s)

What group do you identify with? Please mark all that apply.

THIS SECTION IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY

- Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Person who experiences/has experienced problems with substance use Youth/young adult Latino Asian/Pacific Islander
- African-American Native-American/Alaska Native LGBTQIA Veteran
- Person with a physical/sensory disability Person who experiences/has experienced homelessness Other: _____

*Alternatives 2017 will not provide LCD projectors or laptop computers; however, presenters are welcome to bring their own or borrow from other presenters.

All session rooms will come with a basic AV support package (includes: screen, connections for equipment, and basic AV table with electrical connections.) If you do not need AV support for your session please indicate "NO" in the additional AV requirements section below:

Does your presentation require Audio/Visual Equipment? Yes No

Microphone

Flip chart/markers

I will bring MY OWN Laptop

I will bring MY OWN LCD projector

I will need to BORROW a LCD projector

I am willing to share my equipment with other presenters.

Additional AV requirements: _____

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Apply online or by e-mail, or mail one (1) copy of:

- Completed application form
- 50-word session description for the presentation
- One-page outline of presentation (include learning goals and objectives)
- Brief biography (no more than 50 words for each presenter) to include your cultural lived experience as it relates to the topic you plan to discuss.

Online: [CLICK HERE](#) to access the submission site. You will be asked to create a username and password to enter the site.

Mail to: Alternatives 2017 Presentation Proposals
Horizon Meeting Management, LLC
P.O. Box 2178

Pflugerville, TX 78691

Fax: 877-318-2309

E-mail: Paula.Sasser@horizonmeetings.com

Phone: 877-843-6265, Ext 700



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