

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of Rutgers University. The seal contains the text 'RUTGERS UNIVERSITY' and 'THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY' around its perimeter. The word 'RUTGERS' is prominently displayed in red at the top left of the slide.

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National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) Annual 2017 Meeting

Forensic Peer Bridger Program

Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions

Forensic Peer Bridger Training

What: Created a workforce innovation “a Forensic Peer Bridger Training & Internship opportunity”

- **Recruitment** of individuals living with mental illness and justice (criminal) involved histories
- **Enhanced Workforce** to include people in recovery as collaborators and partners

Forensic Peer Bridger Training

Why: Peers may be able to better meet the needs of others who have managed similar challenges

- **Discharge Planning** where peers assist in successful community integration
- **Community Linkages** of as needed natural supports and clinical services

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Forensic Peer Bridger Training/Internship

Where:

- **Academic Campus** for 42 hour weekly training program (19 out of 22 completed including 2 stopped attending). Also

7 guests

completed the training.



- **State Psychiatric Hospital** for 7 day 42 hour internship (5 completed, significant internship barriers)

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Forensic Peer Bridger Program Faculty Peer Coordinator Role:

- **Marketing**
- **Recruitment of Students** (peer trainees)
- **Applicant Interviews**
- **Trainer Recruitment**
- **Trainer**

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Forensic Peer Bridger Program

Faculty Peer Coordinator Role:

- **Mentor and supported along the way**
- **Quizzes**
- **Internship**
- **Curriculum Development**
- **Coordinated Graduation Ceremony**

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Forensic Peer Bridger Training/Internship

Outcomes of Lessons Learned

Collaborative Persistence

- NJDMAS
- State Hospital CEO's
- Rutgers Faculty
- What did the students say?



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What did the students say?

- Today is the last day at Trenton State Psychiatric Hospital I really enjoyed the experience. Thank you so much.
- Hello George thanks for the job information, I'm really hoping the certificate will get me in the door as a peer specialist. Mr. Brice can't wait for our graduation ceremony Nov 8 and get to see everybody.
- Thank you so much for the information Mr. Brice. I was wondering if there is a future in this line of work? Extra school required? If so what recommendations would you give? - **student's parent**

George H. Brice, Jr., MSW

2014 Alan Lunt Consumer Advocate Award by the New Jersey Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (NJPRA)

- Swarbrick, M., & **Brice, G.** (2006). Sharing the message of hope, wellness and recovery with consumers and staff at psychiatric hospitals. *American Journal of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*, 9, 101-109.
- **Brice, G. H. Jr.** (2011). My journey to work. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*. 35, (1), 69-70.
- **Brice, G.**, (2014). In P. B. Nemec, Editor & K. Furlong-Norman,(Eds.), *Practices in psychiatric rehabilitation* (2nd ed), Mclean, VA: Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association

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- **Brice, G.**, Swarbrick M., & Gill, K. (2014). Promoting the wellness of peer providers through coaching. *Psychosocial Nursing Journal*. Vol. 52(1), 41-45
- Burns-Lynch, B., Gill, K.J., Murphy, A.A., & **Brice, G., Jr.**, (2014) Persons in recovery, family members, and staff perspectives of psychiatric crisis needs. *American Journal of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*.

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