

Individuals and Families Who Discontinue Early Psychosis Services - We Need Your Help!



Connection Learning Healthcare System is a group of researchers, service providers, people with lived experience, and family members in Maryland and Pennsylvania who are working to better understand and support individuals navigating unusual experiences, such as altered perceptions, beliefs or states, that are sometimes referred to as early psychosis.



Interested?

If you are interested in participating, please click on the link below. It will take you to a registration form that includes focus group dates and instructions for how to sign up.

Registration link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/D30jezRBP2>

Thank you for considering sharing your experiences to help shape more responsive and respectful services!



Whats the Process

Participation is virtual. Each group lasts 1.5 hours

You will be asked to introduce yourself and share your experiences/suggest improvements that could be made.

You'll be provided with a \$50 gift card for participation.

Notes will be taken, but your identity will be anonymous. *Name & Email is only used so you may receive payment



Why we need you

Many individuals and families enrolled in First Episode Psychosis/ Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) programs leave before completion for various reasons. In order to help ensure that your voices are being heard in treatment, we need to learn more from people who left without completing and understand why

What we need from you

Your voice and your time for participation in focus groups in which we will ask for input regarding a new lived experience co-designed and co-led service to support individuals to stay in CSC.

This project is based at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and designated as Not Human Subjects Research (IRB# HP-00114719)

Questions? Email Sean our Peer Advocate at
Sdriscoll@som.umaryland.edu

Know who you're working with. Here's our team!

Shannon Pagdon

Shannon Pagdon (she/they) is an MSW/PhD student in Social Work and a lived experience researcher and advocate focused on transforming mental health systems and policy. Drawing on direct experience of psychosis and extreme states and a background in peer support, Shannon's work centers those most impacted by coercion and diagnostic harm. They are committed to participatory methods that challenge hierarchy and reimagine care through collective knowledge, structural change, and a deep respect for dignity and self-determination.

Nev Jones

Nev Jones is a psychologist and faculty in the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a long-time activist and organizer. Her work has focused on social justice in the context of mental health, including efforts to transform the conventional ways that voices, visions, and extreme states are understood and support meaning making. She has worked to curtail coercive practices in inpatient and outpatient psychiatry.

Alicia Lucksted

Alicia Lucksted is a clinical-community research psychologist at the University of Maryland Baltimore and the U.S. Veterans Health Administration. She is working to help improve people's experiences with mental health services and developing and testing resources for navigating problems caused by mental health conditions. Current projects include tools to reduce person-level harms of societal stigma, hearing from young adults about what helps vs. hurts when interacting with early psychosis services, and what supports their desired participation in communities of their choice.

Sean Driscoll

Sean "Scoe Romero" Driscoll is a 29-year-old multifaceted mental health professional, advocate, musician, and entrepreneur. He works at the University of Maryland Baltimore as a Peer Support Specialist Trainer for Maryland's early psychosis intervention programs, one of which Sean attended as a patient at age 16. Sean is a living example that recovery looks different for all. When advocating, he uses his story in managing bipolar holistically (after being affected by a medication lawsuit and minimized by his prescriber at the time). Much of Sean's work is devoted to bridging gaps between professionals and patients to ensure that fewer people feel the painful effects of not being heard and not being taken seriously because of being a participant in a system that is supposed to help us heal.

Peter Phalen

Peter Phalen is a mental health services researcher at the University of Maryland Baltimore. His work in services for early psychosis focuses on helping people who struggle with suicidality. In addition to research, he is a licensed psychologist and currently facilitates a Dialectical Behavior Therapy group for people with early psychosis at an early psychosis clinic in Baltimore.

Melanie Bennett

Melanie Bennett is a psychologist and faculty at the University of Maryland Baltimore. She works to better understand the ways that mental health services can be most effective for people who experience early psychosis. A large part of her work is training mental health professionals in best practices in delivering early psychosis care that is person-centered and in line with the needs and preferences of individuals.

Enough about us. Looking forward to connecting with you!