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Jonathan P. Edwards	Dr. Jonathan P. Edwards is a social scientist working at the intersection of public health, social work, and organizational development and brings more than 30 years of experience as a consumer, provider, architect and visionary of mental health and substance use services. In addition to his breadth of lived experience and credentials as Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Peer Specialist, Certified Personal Medicine Coach, Peer Supervision Professional, and Leadership Coach, Jonathan serves on the faculty of Columbia University School of Social Work, holds affiliate faculty status as a clinical instructor at Yale School of Medicine Program for Recovery and Community Health, and is currently employed by New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care, and Treatment as a Program Consultant. Jonathan has made significant contributions to workforce development in behavioral health and the recovery sector overall; led one of the largest peer support programs within the New York City Hospital system; published numerous peer reviewed articles and book chapters, and the co-authored "What It Takes: Wisdom from Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors"; enhanced the development of National Practice Guidelines for Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors; served as a technical expert to inform National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification and a Recovery Research agenda; presented nationally and internationally; and has received numerous awards and acknowledgements. Dr. Edwards received his M. Phil and Ph.D. in Social Welfare from CUNY Graduate Center; MSW from Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College; and BA in industrial/organizational psychology from City College of CUNY. He serves on the Boards of New York Peer Specialist Certification, Friends of Recovery-New York, Mental Health News Education, and the Academy of Peer Services Advisory, Rutgers University.
Matthew Federici	Matthew R. Federici, MS, CPRP, is Chief Executive Officer of the Copeland Center for Wellness & Recovery. Matthew came to the Copeland Center in 2010 from the Institute for Recovery & Community Integration where he served as Program Director to create systems transformation through the implementation of a certified peer specialist training program across Pennsylvania. Matthew is an internationally recognized speaker, trainer, and consultant on recovery, wellness, community inclusion and peer support. He has served on the board of directors for the International Association of Peer Support and the National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery. In 2015, he was awarded by San Diego County the National "This Person" award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the hope and wellness of people in recovery. Matthew has provided keynote presentations, training programs, and webinars on recovery, community inclusion, and peer support in over 45 different states in the US as well as in Japan, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands. Matthew is an Advance Level Facilitator through the Copeland Center for Wellness & Recovery. Matthew's personal and professional journey in wellness and recovery includes involvement as a family member and a mental health consumer advocate for over 20 years. He has also been involved in promoting Psychiatric Advance Directives through local, state, and



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	national consumer and provider conferences and is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner. He received his BA from Alvernia University in Psychology and Communications and MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Rutgers University. He was awarded the Distinguished Advocate Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services in 2002 and the Exemplary Practice Award in 2007 from the Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA Board of Directors.
Michael King	Michael King is the Director and Creator of The Communities Project, an initiative aimed at expanding the leadership capacity of individuals and organizations to effectively tackle issues critical to the communities they serve. He is also the Managing Principal of Impact Leadership Training & Coaching, LLC. Michael is the former Director of Outreach & Engagement for Facing Addiction with NCADD. He spent over a decade in the political arena, working on Presidential, Gubernatorial, U.S. Senate and local campaigns, from county to state legislative efforts. He is a past Campaign Director, Field Director, and Communications Director for the Washington State Democratic Party, and the former Executive Director of the Washington State Senate Democratic Campaign Committee. A 2018 alumni of JustLeadershipUSA's Leading with Conviction program, and a graduate of the Rockwood Leadership Institute's Virtual Art of Leadership program. Michael has studied solution focused coaching, and currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Peer Recovery Center of Excellence.
Eric Larson	Eric Larson has worked on his wellbeing and recovery for over 20 years. His expertise stems from understanding the collective state of his humanity on his own recovery path from emotional torrent, type 1 Diabetes and hearing voices. Eric works with the Copeland Center facilitating Online Workshops. Honing his empathetic abilities and structuring caring communities is his passion. Eric plays his music in his projects Midnight Garden, Wounding of the Bright, and self-publishes his poetry. Some of his main wellness tools besides Taking Action and music also include meditation, cats and reading.
Amethyst Lee	Amethyst Lee has been part of the grassroots movement of peer support since the age of 16. Early on, Amethyst became empowered to take personal responsibility for her wellness and recovery when she learned about action planning at a workshop. As she applied the principles she learned to her life, she began to support family and friends by sharing what she learned. Amethyst continued this work into high school when she began working with Youth and Family Services and other young people to create the first youth and young adult Peer Support program in DE. As a senior at the University of Delaware, Amethyst continued to support the peer workforce and advocate for people with lived experiences in Delaware while working at the Mental Health Association of Delaware. Recently, she became the Peer Empowerment Specialist at the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery where she continues to advocate through education, providing Certified Peer Specialist Training and the youth empowerment workshop Peer Generation. While facilitating these growth and exploration opportunities, Amethyst has worked hard to create safe spaces to converse about mental health, wellness and personal identity. Throughout her experiences and conversations with people in the field, one



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	thing has remained true: Everyone wishes they had access to peer support earlier in their lives. While it is never too late to start the journey to recovery and wellness, she now aims to create safe spaces for youth, young adults, parents and allies to acknowledge and address the needs of youth today. An ally to all with lived experience, Amethyst aims to create more spaces for productive collaborative conversations around mental health, substance use, and trauma. Amethyst enjoys a life filled with art and creativity. She is a talented sculptor, illustrator, and writer. She enjoys playing her guitar and saxophone. Amethyst also has a passion for plants, with a collection of over 20 plants. In addition, she is the proud mom to two rescued cats, Bean and Raj.
David Measel	David Measel holds a degree in Political Science from Wayne State University (Detroit, MI) and is a Pennsylvania Certified Peer Specialist (CPS). Since 2015, he has served as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition (PaPSC), working to advance and strengthen peer services across the state. Under his leadership, PaPSC has spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing the professional role of peer specialists. One of David's most notable achievements includes leading the development of the Certified Peer Specialists in Crisis Services training, in collaboration with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) and Temple University. Launched in 2015, this three-day training continues to be facilitated by David and others he has mentored. David remains deeply committed to the mission of PaPSC and the advancement of professional peer support throughout the state. He lives in Strasburg, PA with his husband Ken, their 14-year-old son Sam, and their two dogs, Fritz and Eli.
Michael Nelson	Mike Nelson has conducted a variety of trainings and workshops throughout Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas - He had worked with the Copeland Center at its first Forensic summit as well as supported the Certified Peer Specialist training since its conception. Michael has conducted training behind the prison walls as well as spoke on various panels regarding recovery and transformation - Michael is on the board of the Montgomery County Mental Health services along with developing a think tank for IDEYA training Academy of Pa.
BeaJae North	BeaJae North is an inspiring and influential leader who currently serves as the Executive Director of the Western region at the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery. BeaJae has outstanding skills in training, facilitating, consulting, and connecting with people, empowering them to embrace their perspectives and respect those of others. BeaJae's approach nurtures personal growth and collective understanding, laying the groundwork for meaningful and transformative experiences. Having traveled worldwide, BeaJae has conducted workshops and shared impactful stories, urging individuals to explore their experiences and understand how stories shape their connections with others. BeaJae's workshops are



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	well-regarded for providing unique opportunities to build confidence and cultivate essential skills, enabling participants to achieve and experience the life they aspire to.
Nze Okoronta	Nze is an advocate, writer and community organizer currently residing in Madison, WI. They are known for work surrounding mental health crisis services, peer run respites, peer support warmlines, crisis hotlines, suicide prevention, harm reduction and transformative mental health. Nze has worked within and alongside numerous organizations doing work around alternative responses to mental health crisis, harm reduction and drug user support, alternatives to policing, mobile crisis teams, civil and human rights protections, disability justice, and policy advocacy and reform. They have extensive knowledge in peer support spanning areas including fidelity and practice, national standards, statewide certification processes, program implementation, workforce development, supervision and leadership, peer support curriculum writing and development, and peer support training and facilitation in the US. Their past experience includes designing and uplifting community-based projects connected to racial health equity, housing and houselessness, public health, disability access, clinical substance use counseling, and population-specific substance use care and program development for Black and Brown communities. Currently, they serve as Peer Respite Director for Solstice House and Co-Director of SOAR, a grassroots organization located in Wisconsin. They offer training, technical assistance and consultation for organizations and the general public related to crisis service transformation and redesign, and respectful applications of lived experience across various settings and disciplines.
	Throughout his 30+ year career in the consumer products, durable and consumer goods, and healthcare industries Julius Rhodes has helped myriad leaders, and organizations; “BRAND: YOU.” His extensive experience in public service, associations, several leading-edge Fortune 100 firms and as a business owner, author, and trusted advisor has allowed him to support various entities in times of transition and change. Julius believes “Invest in Your People, and Your Business Will Prosper.” Based in Chicago, Illinois he is a much sought-after speaker, presenter, trainer and thought leader who has national exposure throughout the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, and he has facilitated sessions internationally in Canada, England, Mexico, and Nigeria. His group interaction has been described as ‘approachable, relevant, and applicable.’ His mission is to ‘engage, support, and inspire his partners through the application of practical and sustainable practices which create improved process efficiency, talent development, integration, and utilization. He speaks to thousands annually at conferences, conventions, and on-site covering topics such as human resources, environmental, health and safety, leadership development, emotional intelligence, health and well being, change, diversity, equity and inclusion, future trends, and positive disruption, among



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Julius E. Rhodes	others.
Arthur Shanks	Arthur Shanks is a community leader, advocate, and change-maker dedicated to healing, empowerment, and second chances. With lived experience in reentry, he understands the challenges of returning home from incarceration and the importance of holistic support in building sustainable futures. Guided by the Copeland Center's values, Arthur integrates the Eight Dimensions of Wellness emotional, physical, occupational, social, spiritual, intellectual, environmental, and financial into his work. Rooted in the belief that recovery and reentry are collective journeys, Arthur champions people's strengths and stories to break cycles of harm and build resilient, thriving communities.
Ryan Tempesco	Ryan Tempesco (he/they) is a transgender individual who has found peace and wellness through community support, connection, and understanding. He is currently the Program Manager for Doors to Wellbeing National Consumer Technical Assistance Center. Ryan brings years of experience in facilitation, youth peer support, and curriculum development. He advocates for wellness and equal rights in his community, and always brings a friendly smile with him wherever he goes. Ryan is a big fan of adventure, and you'll always catch them somewhere new, but right now, you'll catch them in Chicago!
Elizabeth Thomas	Dr. Elizabeth Thomas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Temple University's College of Public Health. She serves as co-Director of the Community Inclusion and Reflective Collaboration Center and an investigator within the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion. Her research focuses on promoting mental health and community participation among young adults with serious mental health conditions, with a particular emphasis on peer support and self-determination. Her work has been funded by NIMH, NIDILRR, and SAMHSA. She also serves as an associate editor for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal.
Katie Wilson	Katie Wilson, MS, serves as Chief Operations Officer at the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery. She collaborates to support systems and organizations in implementing the Copeland Center's evidence-based peer group model. Katie produces the popular Doors to Wellbeing monthly Peer Specialist Webinar Series, reaching over 30,000 professionals annually. She regularly presents at national conferences and has worked with Marlboro College's MBA program and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. Her educational background includes a BA from Bennington College and an MS from New York University's Center for Global Affairs, focusing on international human rights and mental health.
	Jane Winterling is Director of the Vermont Recovery Education Project for the Copeland Center. Previously, she served as Grant & Education Director for Vermont Psychiatric Survivors and as a consultant to Vermont Blueprint for Health Project. Jane is one of the original group of people responsible for the idea and development of WRAP. These roles have given her a unique perspective and the



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Jane Winterling	ability to share a long history of peer advocacy nationally and internationally. Jane has experienced both sides of the mental health system and is a strong advocate for both peers and professionals and the need to be able to reach out to each other to create systems change. Jane has also developed and offers one of our Copeland Center training's, the WE Training. WE stands for Wellness Engagement and is a new course for those seeking to provide 1:1 and group peer support that enhances our engagement in creating a wellness lifestyle and keeps us engaged in creating self-directed structure and plans to stay well! She is an international trainer of the Taking Action Curriculum.
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