

**Vision:**

WaPAC envisions peers being the first point of contact. We envision a respected peer workforce integrated throughout the Washington state behavioral health system.

Mission:

WaPAC's mission is to advance, recognize, engage and integrate peer support in our places of residence, work environments, communities and our state.

History:

Consumer Voices Are Born (CVAB) was rewarded the 2015 – 2018 Statewide networking grant from SAMHSA. This first grant was entitled Peer-Run Organization Alliance Project (PRO AP). The main goal was to network Peers and Peer Run Organizations across Washington State. Diana Porter was assigned by CVAB to be the project director. In January of 2017, Diana began accepting applications for an advocacy group. The hope was to invite two peers from each of the ten behavioral health regions. In March 2017 the first bi-annual meeting was held. An enthusiastic group met, and by the end of some exciting conversations around the needs of Washington State Peers, the group decided to call themselves the Washington Peer Advancement Coalition (WaPAC). The main accomplishments during the first term were networking with peers and peer-run organizations and the creation of two booklets to explain Peer Support and the Peer Support Worker.

Recently CVAB in collaboration with United Peers of Washington was awarded a second statewide networking grant from SAMHSA. For the next three years, WaPAC will have a presence in Developing Peer Support Communities in Washington. The first step is an assessment of peer services in various communities across Washington State.