



## E-News | January 2023

### Interview with Adrienne Brown

ASAP-NYCB President, ASAP-NYS Board Member, ASAP-CBH Transitional Board member

*"I identify as a woman in long term recovery for over 38 years. In addition to my commitments at ASAP, I'm active in the recovery community and I serve in a retirement community. I'm open to whatever the universe presents."*



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### The ASAP merger with CBH is big news. What does this merger mean for ASAP-NYCB?

The merger is a huge undertaking for both organizations and a great deal of the preliminary work was completed, and the merger moved forward, when I joined the ASAP-NYS board as a "member at large" in July 2022. From my past experiences, mergers can be beneficial when well thought out and all voices are heard, and both ASAP Executive Director, **John Coppola**, and CBH's CEO **Amy Dorin** have been doing a tremendous job facilitating this process. As we move forward, I'm honored to serve on the Transitional Board. I believe the merger reflects those benefits, as well as inclusivity and better use of our resources. It's a win!

### Can you tell us what does the ASAP-NYCB Board President do?

As Board President, I work with a board of 17 members – all community ambassadors and advocates of the value of peer recovery certification. A Board as diverse as the population we serve.

Working closely with the Director of Certification, **Elisabeth Kranson** and her team, I chair the monthly Board meetings where we review and approve candidates for our growing portfolio of professional peer recovery certifications. These certifications validate the Peer Recovery workforce as competent, transparent, ethical and accountable.

As a Board, our responsibilities include candidate vetting and ethical oversight, and ensuring that training offered in the community meets the competencies of the certifications. Some of these responsibilities are vested in Board committees composed of Board members, and I work to bring those committee reports to the Board as a whole – for example, our Ethics Committee investigates any complaints under the ASAP-NYCB Code of Ethical Conduct and brings recommendations for follow-up action to the Board. Board and Committee members are volunteers who are deeply committed to the field. It's a pleasure to work with them.

Our larger mission at ASAP-NYCB is to support and encourage peer workforce development. As Board President, I provide a platform to explore ideas of how to improve outcomes for our certificants and in the field.

In my role, I also sit on the executive ASAP-NYS Board, acting as a direct two-way communications channel. **Roy Kearse**, our President Emeritus, served before me and was a tremendous support to me in pivoting to these expanded commitments. I'm very grateful to him for all his great work.

### What was your route to ASAP-NYCB?

In 1988 I left banking to "make a difference in a child's life" and spent 8 years as a child protective services worker, family preservationist and supervisor of the first paralegal unit to facilitate kinship/foster care adoptions. Having obtained my MSW from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service in 1996, I accepted an offer to work as an Administrator at AA World Services providing services for AA members, groups and friends. I retired in 2013 and to remain connected to the recovering community, I took the Recovery Coach Academy. Having met **Lureen McNeil** at a Recovery Month planning meeting in Washington DC, I began attending quarterly Recovery Implementation Team (RIT) and monthly Alumni Association meetings at OASAS. It was at that time I was invited to join the ASAP-NYCB Board. I was elected Board President in 2022, our ten-year anniversary.

### What are the major milestones for you of ASAP-NYCB's ten-year legacy?

There's a lot to choose from but, for me, I'm delighted that Elisabeth Kranson was appointed ASAP-NYCB's first full-time Director of Certification in 2020. And I think the Board's committing to Medication Supported Recovery (MSR) as a pathway of recovery and mandating foundational MSR training for all initial certificants is really important.

Of course, we're only just starting!