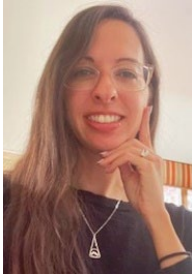




## E-News | December 2022



### **Interview with Ashley Behrle**

ASAP Chief Operating Officer

*“A Chief Operating Officer can fulfill many roles/needs for an organization based on its structure and culture, but mainly serves to help execute the overall mission and vision of the organization, oversee in-house operations, and ensure timelines and targets are met. ASAP has not previously had a COO position, with many of the responsibilities of that role falling to our Executive Director and various staff as needed, adding more work to already full plates. I’m happy to be here in this role helping to move ASAP forward!”*

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### **What’s the job like, Ashley?**

The most challenging part of this job is really focusing on building this role as we go! When I came on in late summer, there were several areas that leadership and staff identified where it would be helpful to have additional support or oversight, and it’s been wonderful to learn about all of the worthwhile initiatives ASAP has spearheaded or been a partner on in recent years.

### **You have a history with ASAP. What was your path to your present position?**

I worked at ASAP nearly 10 years ago, focused mainly on public policy and overseeing grant projects. I served in that role for over 5 years and in that time learned so much about ASAP’s members, partner organizations, and the field of addiction services and supports. In the interim I took on various government relations roles and most recently worked with the office of Assemblymember John McDonald on constituent services. During my time away from ASAP, I also spent some time out of the workforce to be a stay-at-home parent, which was a wonderful time in my life.

### **To what extent are you involved in the work of ASAP-New York Certification Board and ASAP-Peer Workforce Initiative?**

I’ve learned so much about ASAP-NYCB and ASAP-PWI in my time back at ASAP, as the Certification Board was really just getting organized when I worked at ASAP previously, and the ASAP-PWI wasn’t launched until years later. I’m involved with these projects because I help to oversee our current contracts focused on offering CRPA Family and Youth trainings online and developing new specialty credentials focused on the Criminal Legal System and Peer Supervision, all coming in 2023. I’m helping to ensure we adhere to contract timelines, reporting requirements and work plan goals, while supporting our team’s work on these projects going forward.

### **What ‘s in the future for ASAP and, especially, for our services to the peer recovery workforce?**

The future for ASAP holds a lot of change and, I think, a lot of promise. We are in the very beginning stages of a merger with the NYC-based Coalition for Behavioral Health, which will take place over the course of the next year (2023-2024). A lot of work lies ahead to realize that merger, and all the details involved. Our commitment is to continue to serve the interests and needs of our members faithfully.

The peer recovery workforce similarly has so much potential and promise as those who choose that career path bring so much passion and deep commitment to helping improve the lives of those they work with, and the systems they work within. I hope we continue to see the peer workforce as an integral and irreplaceable part of the behavioral healthcare system, and I know the ASAP-NYCB and ASAP-PWI will continue to provide stellar credentialing, training and networking opportunities in the years ahead!

### **Do you have time for extracurricular activities?**

My two kids are the light and joy of my life and spending time with them is a blessing. Most of my time outside of work is spent cheering on my kids in their many activities including horseback riding, soccer, dance, running and basketball! Over the last year I have started figure skating lessons which has been a lot of fun, and incredibly challenging! I love to cook and have a growing list of books I’m hoping to read in the new year!