

Hearing Voices Support Group Facilitator Training

November 28, 2018

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to offer this exciting and important training opportunity. The Bay Area Hearing Voices Network (BHAVN) is collaborating with HealthRight360 to train up to 25 people to become facilitators for new Hearing Voices peer-support groups. This application is intended for people interested in attending a **3-day** Hearing Voices Group Facilitator Training provided by experienced facilitators who are all voice hearers.

Hearing Voices Groups originated in Europe and there are now over 160 chartered groups in England alone. Hearing Voices Groups do not pathologize hearing voices, seeing visions or other unusual experiences. Instead, group members explore these phenomena in an environment of mutual support and curiosity. They offer people who hear voices, see visions or have other unusual experiences the opportunity to share their experience and explore new ways of coping, understanding their experiences and getting support.

Currently there are a growing number of Hearing Voices Groups in the US, including here in the Bay Area. Our vision includes both supporting and bolstering the number of groups in San Francisco and in the East Bay and increasing access to these useful groups. We hope that you will join us in bringing this vision to reality!

Sincerely,

Bay Area Hearing Voices Network

Important Training Details

TRAINERS TO INCLUDE

Experienced HVN USA trainer and group facilitators, Marty Hadge and Natan Cohen.

TRAINING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATION

Dates for the training are **January 28th-30th, 2019**. Each day will run from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Reading homework may be assigned ahead of time and/or during the class. The training will be located at the HealthRight360 headquarters, 1563 Mission Street, SF. **Attendance at all 3 sessions is required to complete the training.**

TRAINING PREREQUISITES

This training is primarily intended for people who have some basic facilitation skills and/or training, though not absolutely required so long as it is understood that the training is not designed to provide these basic skills. Some awareness of and investment in the Hearing Voices Movement and approach is required, so please be sure you've checked out www.bayareahearingvoices.org and/or other sources to be sure you are familiar with the basics and still interested in

applying! You should be already be participating in, facilitating or have an active interest in starting an HVN group.

COST

There is no cost for this training; however you are responsible for costs for travel and room & board

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This training is open to people who identify as voice hearers, allies, friends and family, clinicians, peer workers and more. If you attend, you should expect that the group will include a mixture of people in varied roles. This training is designed to challenge and encourage creative thought about different belief systems, and so openness and genuine curiosity is a must! It is not intended as a 'train the trainer' model.

APPLICATION DUE DATE

Application is due December 21, 2018

Application for Hearing Voices Groups Facilitator Training Due *December 21st, 2018*

There has already been a high degree of interest in the training and spaces are limited. As a result, we are asking people to apply to do the training and we have set areas of priority which we will use when selecting participants. We will prioritize applicants who:

- Are willing and able to attend all three sessions
- Have some prior facilitation training and/or HV group experience
- Hear voices and who have a genuine interest in co-facilitating a group in SF and/or in the East Bay.

Contact Information (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone_____

E-mail_____

Agency or organization where you work (if applicable)_____

Application

1. Please indicate which of the following most applies to you: **(circle one letter)**

- a. I am a voice hearer who is interested in co-facilitating a group
- b. I work in a peer role in a mental health setting and would like to start a group there
- c. I work in a traditional role in a mental health setting and would like to start a group there
- d. Other, please specify:_____

If you have selected ‘b’ or ‘c,’ please enclose a letter of support from your supervisor or other administrator that confirms their interest in setting up a group at your organization AND addresses the following:

“Some of the values that make Hearing Voices groups so powerful are respect for privacy and creating spaces where people feel open to explore new frameworks for their experience. We have found that healing spaces are more inclined to develop when clinical note-taking or

reporting on conversations outside the group are kept to a minimum. ***Please speak to your organization's ability to create such a group environment and to be transparent to any limitations of confidentiality.***

2. I am able to attend all three training sessions to be held on **Monday THROUGH Wednesday from 9:30am to 4:30pm** on the following dates: January 28th, 29th, and 30th.

Yes No (Circle one. If no, I will not be able to attend on _____)

3. Please sign to indicate that you have read and understand the following:

- I understand that I need to complete all three days to successfully complete the training.
- I understand that while this training will offer me techniques and skills to use as an HVN facilitator, it will be up to me and/or my own organization or group to find financial and other support needed to actually start a group.
- I understand that the training group will likely include a mixture of people who hear voices, allies, people working in peer roles and people in clinical roles.
- I understand that this training focuses on facilitation skills and perspectives directly pertaining to the Hearing Voices Network approach, rather than basic group facilitation techniques.
- I understand that if I write illegibly or if my answers are only a couple of words long, my application will probably be discarded. (Nor do we need essays, but we need at least a few sentences in order to get a sense of where you're coming from!)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Please feel free to attach separate sheets if necessary)

4. In a short statement, please describe why you are interested in doing this training:

5. In your own words, explain what you think makes Hearing Voices groups different from clinical groups?

6. Describe any training or experience you have facilitating groups. If you have no facilitation experience, how will you approach building your facilitation skills beyond this training?

7. Please tell us a bit about the group you intend to start (or the existing group you are hoping to support).

8. Briefly describe the supports and barriers that will be present for you in starting/supporting this group.

9. Tell us a little bit about yourself. What are some of your accomplishments, interests, and dreams? What are the qualities you most appreciate about yourself?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. **Please return to the BAHVN by *December 21st, 2018***

Edwin Herzog
BAHVN
1012 Jones Street
Berkeley, CA. 94710
bayareahearingvoices@gmail.com

The training is presented by the BAHVN and HealthRight360.