

Coming Off Psych Drugs



Register for one or all three days!!

September 20 to 22, 10am to 4pm

Holyoke Community College, Kittredge Center



Registration required at 413.539.5941 x 301 or info@westernmassrlc.org

Day 1, Wednesday, September 20, with Laura Delano—Personal Exploration: Coming off psych drugs is much more than just a physical process—it's also mental, emotional, social, and even spiritual. You'll explore different aspects of your relationship with psych drugs, including your beliefs about what they are and how they work, the impacts they've had on your life, relationships, and sense of self, and what it might mean to reduce or come off them. *This day is meant for people who are taking psychiatric drugs and considering reducing or coming off them.*

Day 2, Thursday, September 21, with Laura Delano—Practical Considerations: You'll learn about various factors to consider when thinking through the safest possible psychiatric drug reduction or withdrawal, including: the impacts of psych drugs on the body and why this matters for tapering, ways of optimally preparing yourself in advance of reducing or coming off, and a high-level overview of the safest known layperson taper protocols. *This day is meant for people considering or going through drug withdrawal and/or supporters and providers interested in learning how to help.*

Day 3, Friday, September 22, with Laura Delano, Sascha DuBrul, Malaika Puffer, Marty Hadge and more—Developing Supports in Our Community: This day will include a panel of speakers representing a wide range of views, including those who have made a decision to take psychiatric drugs continuously, those who have made a decision to withdraw completely, and those who use them for short periods of times as useful. It will also include a report back from members of the Hive Collective in Vermont who have experience running support groups related to psychiatric drugs, and open space for us to talk about what supports we may want to create in our own community. *This day is open to anyone who is interested in this conversation.*

Special Guests:

Laura Delano-Laura is an activist, writer, and organizer who is in the process of launching a new initiative aimed in large part at helping individuals access reliable information on safe psychiatric drug tapering.

Sascha DuBrul-Sascha is a co-founder of the Icarus Project, a trainer and published writer, currently working as Recovery Specialist and Trainer for OnTrackNY and ACT, Center for Practice Innovations.

Malaika Puffer-Malaika is a co-founder of the Hive Mutual Support Network, currently also working as manager of peer support services at Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont.

Marty Hadge-Marty is a national Hearing Voices trainer, currently also working with the Western Mass RLC as a community bridger.

