

Oryx Cohen, M.P.A., is a leader in the international mental health consumer/survivor/ex-patient (c/s/x) or mad pride movement. Currently Oryx is the Chief Operating Officer of the National Empowerment Center (NEC). In addition to organizing the national Alternatives Conference every three years and other responsibilities, he assists states that have an underdeveloped consumer/survivor voice to find that voice and then work toward transforming the mental health systems in those states to become peer-driven and recovery-oriented. Prior to joining NEC, Oryx was Co-Director of the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community. He helped to spearhead an innovative peer-run approach focusing on recovery, healing, and community. Oryx is also the co-founder of Freedom Center, the Pioneer Valley's only independent peer-run support/activist organization. Freedom Center's purpose is to empower and support people with psychiatric labels while challenging oppressive mental health policies and practices.

Oryx is the Co-Producer and is a subject in an award-winning documentary called HEALING VOICES, which was released in 2016 and has been screened in over 500 communities in over 15 different countries. Oryx serves on several boards and committees internationally, nationally and regionally, including the Hearing Voices Network USA. He speaks and conducts trainings nationally and internationally on such topics as Hearing Voices, Trauma, and Recovery. Oryx is a lead trainer for Emotional CPR, and has conducted over 20 Emotional CPR trainings around the world. Oryx volunteered for several years with MindFreedom International, directing its Oral History Project. This project involved collecting and documenting c/s/x stories of abuse, empowerment, and healing in the mental health system. Oryx is also adjunct faculty in the Westfield State College Psychology Department.