

Mental Health Peer Specialist Certification Stakeholder Meetings

Friday, September 23, 2022

Meeting Two of Six

Wilda L. White Consulting, Facilitator

Zoom Protocol



Questions	Raise hand, actual or virtual; write question in Chat; or shout it out
Comments	Zoom Chat
Slides	Link to PowerPoint slides is in Zoom Chat
Recording	All meetings are being recorded

Meeting Process



Description of six stakeholder meetings

1

Overview of mental health peer specialist certification

- The purpose of the meeting is to educate stakeholders about peer certification programs in other states, the terminology used, and how programs in other states are structured

2

Peer support, peer support services, and assessment-based versus professional certification program

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the definition of peer support and peer support services and whether Vermont should adopt an assessment-based certification program or a professional certification program

3

Screening

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the minimum standards that an applicant must meet before applying for certification and creating a process to determine whether those minimum standards have been met.

4

Training

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on required competencies, training length, approved training vendors, fees, and types of certifications to be offered (e.g., veterans, gender identity, sexual orientation, forensic, whole health, peer support supervision, family peer specialist, substance use recovery, etc.)

5

Certification

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the process for certifying whether the applicant has met the requirements for certification. Sub-topics include the type of certifying body; re-certification; continuing education; reciprocity; grandfathering of current peer support specialists; fees; and investigation and revocation.

6

Integration

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on what steps will be necessary to incorporate peer support specialists into the continuum of care, including outreach, training, supervision, and costs.

Meeting One Recording and Materials

Link to Meeting One Recording

<https://vimeo.com/748397123#t=0>

Link to Meeting One PowerPoint Slide Deck

<https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/3r3mmbpb>

Assessment-based versus professional certification program

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Types of Certification Programs

Assessment-Based Certification

- Provides training and then determines whether applicants successfully met the learning objectives of that training through testing
- The entity providing the training conducts the testing
- Testing is not necessarily through a written test

Professional Certification

- Entity that administers the test does not provide training
- Testing is independent of training
- Testing evaluates applicant's knowledge, skill or competencies against a pre-determined standard usually through a written test

Certification Program Examples

Maine

Successfully complete
Intentional Peer (IPS)
Support training

New Hampshire

IPS

Wellness Recovery Action
Planning training

1.5 Hour Webinar on
resilience

Pass NH DMH
administered test

Rhode Island

Complete training with
approved vendors

Pass test developed by
IC&RC

Definitions: Peer, peer support, peer specialist, peer support services

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What is a definition?

- “a statement of the meaning of a word or word group or a sign or symbol”
- explains through clarification and further explanation what we are trying to say with one or a few short words

Why do we need a definition?

- For communicating to the public what is being offered
- For determining eligibility for certification
- For determining scope of practice for peer support specialists
- For determining eligibility for Medicaid reimbursement, if applicable

Types of definitions

- Intensional: specifies necessary and sufficient set of features or properties shared by everything to which definition applies (usually, a category, followed by a differentiator)
- Extensional: a list naming every object that belongs to the concept
- Stipulative: assign meaning to a new term
- Lexical: how the term is used in a particular community
- Partitive: explain the concept as being part of a greater whole
- Functional: explain the actions or activities of the concept in relation to a more comprehensive concept

Proposed Framework for Discussion

- What is important to include in the definition
- What is important to exclude in the definition
- Type of definition that would be most helpful, e.g., functional, extensional, etc.
- Critique of existing definitions
- Offering proposed definitions for consideration, either borrowed from other jurisdictions or created for this purpose

Possible Words to Define

- Peer
- Peer support
- Peer support specialist
- Peer support services

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Definition of “Peer”

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18 VSA §7101, subdivision (29)

“Peer” means an individual who has a personal experience of living with a mental health condition or psychiatric disability.

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Definitions of “Peer Support”

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A "Peer" Definition of Peer Support

People with lived experience supporting each other to live self-determined lives of their own choosing.

Another "Peer" Definition of Peer Support

A mutual relationship between individuals with lived experience of mental health challenges that emphasizes a non-judgmental, values-driven approach that promotes multiple perspectives, advocates for human rights and dignity, and focuses on genuine, mutual relationships that enrich the lives of those involved

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Definitions of “Peer Specialist”

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Vermont Global Commitment to Health Demonstration Project

Peer specialists use lived experience to help individuals and their families understand and develop the skills to address mental illness, SUD, and other health conditions.

Vermont Global Commitment to Health Demonstration Project (Project Number 11-W-00194/1), Attachment F, p. 123

SAMHSA Definition of Peer Specialist

Persons who use their lived experience of recovery from mental illness and/or addiction, plus skills learned in formal training, to deliver services in behavioral health settings to promote mind-body recovery and resiliency.

Definitions of “Peer Support Services”

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Vermont Global Commitment to Health Demonstration Project

Peer specialists ... [c]ore functions include providing recovery, health, and wellness supports; supporting individuals in accessing community-based resources and navigating state and local systems; providing employment supports, including educating individuals regarding services and benefits available to assist in transitioning into and staying in the workforce; and promoting empowerment and a sense of hope through self-advocacy.

18 V.S.A. §7101, subdivision (30)

“Peer services” means support services provided by trained peers or peer-managed organizations focused on helping individuals with mental health and other co-occurring conditions to support recovery.