

WILDA L. WHITE justice through
words and ideas

Phase 1 Stakeholder Meeting Report Overview and Q&A

Wilda L. White, Facilitator

Friday, June 30, 2023

11 AM

Via Zoom

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

Background

Phase 1 Stakeholder Meeting Report Overview and Q&A

What are the meetings about?

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is partnering with the Peer Workforce Development Initiative (PWDI) to identify a model and develop an implementation plan for peer specialist credentialing in Vermont.

PWDI is facilitating a series of stakeholder meetings solicit feedback about the development of a statewide peer support provider certification program in the State of Vermont. Wilda White will be overseeing these stakeholder meetings. DMH will participate in these meetings along with representatives from other Vermont stakeholders including service users and their families; peer support specialists; staff from community mental health programs, hospitals, and peer-run service organizations; family networks and organizations; the recovery community and mental health advocates; private insurers; and staff from other State agencies.

Recommendations from these meetings will be compiled by Wilda White for use in developing a peer support provider credentialing process in Vermont.

What is the PWDI

Department of Mental Health (DMH) developed the Peer Workforce Development Initiative (PWDI) grant to help the state build and maintain an infrastructure for a statewide mental health peer workforce.

Initiative goals include creating a steering committee, evaluating statewide peer workforce needs, and ensuring the availability of peer support worker training.

DMH awarded PWDI grant to Pathways Vermont.

PWDI Steering Committee

Hilary Melton Pathways Vermont	Tara Miller Lamoille County Mental Health Services
Walt Wade Vermont Psychiatric Survivors	Malaika Puffer HCRS
Dan Towle Parker Advisors	Gloria van den Berg Alyssum
Amey Dettmer Copeland Center	Ken Russell Another Way Community Center
Will Eberle Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery (VAMHAR)	Leslie Nelson Howard Center

About the Facilitator



Wilda L. White

Education:

JD, MBA

Occupation:

Management Consultant

Passion:

Justice for all

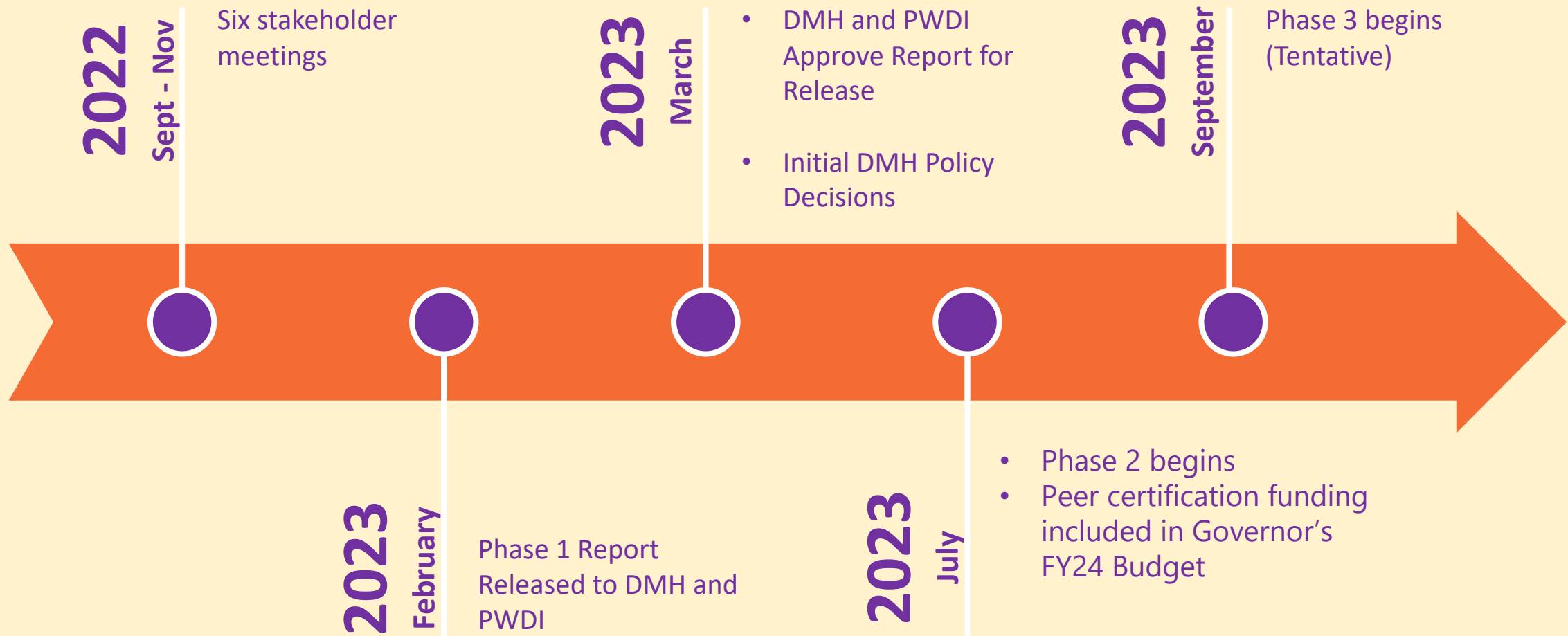
Experience

- Principal, Wilda L. White Consulting
- Founder, MadFreedom, Inc.
- Executive Director, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors
- Executive Director, Center for Social Justice, UC Berkeley School of Law
- Partner, Walker, Hamilton & White (San Francisco, CA)
- General Management Consultant, McKinsey & Company (San Francisco, CA)
- Assistant City Editor, *The Miami Herald* (Miami, FL)

Relevant Publication

“Peer Specialist Certification: An Analysis of U.S. and Canadian Efforts to Promote and Expand Mental Health Peer Specialist Workforce Capacity,”
February 2021

Peer Support Certification Timeline



Overview of Report and Recommendations

Phase 1 Stakeholder Meeting Report Overview and Q&A

About the Report



Report Title	<i>Mental Health Peer Support Certification Stakeholder Meetings: Report and Recommendations</i>
Report Description	The report summarizes the six stakeholder meetings held in fall 2022 to identify a model and develop an implementation plan for mental health peer support certification in Vermont. It includes stakeholder recommendations and identifies the decisions that policymakers must make before the next phase of the process can proceed.
To access the Report	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/23cvfx6w

Phase 1 Report Structure

Executive Summary

- Overview of Report Contents

Recommendations

- Screening
- Training
- Certification
- Type of Certification Program

Recommended State Plan Amendment

- Definitions
- Eligibility
- Qualifications
- Supervision

Policymaker Decision Checklists

- Screening
- Training
- Certification
- State Plan Amendment

Next Steps Checklist

- Screening
- Training
- Certification
- State Plan Amendment

Phase 1 Report Structure (cont'd)

Phase 2 Work Plan

- Preliminary description of Phase 2 work plan

Other Issues

- Accessibility and reasonable accommodation
- Compensation
- Supervision
- Medicaid billing

Appendix A

- Reports of each of the six phase one meetings

Appendix B

- Recommended core competencies and training curriculum
- Description of trainings
- Duration of trainings

How to read the report

The great bulk of the report consists of meetings reports, including verbatim transcripts of each of the six, stakeholder meetings held in fall 2022. Most people will not be interested in reading the meeting reports. The meeting reports are included for people who were unable to attend the meetings or view the video recordings and who may be interested in learning more about how the recommendations came to be.



DMH Decisions to Date



SCREENING							
Age?	Minimum Education	Criminal Conviction Disqualifying?	Vermont Residency Required?	Personal Statement Required?	Attestation of Recovery Required?	Lived experience required?	Screening Entity
At least 18	None	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Peer-run entity

DMH Decisions to Date (cont'd)

TRAINING		
Curriculum	Who conducts training?	Is completing training sufficient for certification?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPS • WRAP • Alternatives to Suicide • Hearing Voices • State-Specific Curriculum 	<p>A single, approved peer-run vendor</p>	<p>No; applicants must pass a statewide exam administered by an independent, peer-run entity</p>

DMH Decisions to Date (cont'd)



CERTIFICATION			
Reciprocity?	Grandfather Current Peer Support Providers?	Duration of Certification	Certifying Body
No	No Screen and Test	Two years	Peer-run entity and OPR, split responsibilities

DMH Decisions to Date (cont'd)

Required Policy Decisions	DMH Decision
Whether DMH will allow draft report to be released to public as currently written?	Yes
Whether DMH will accept recommended Core Competencies?	Yes
Whether DMH will issue Provisional Certification to applicants without a minimum number of previous work experience hours?	Yes

DMH Decisions to Date (cont'd)

Required Policy Decisions	DMH Decision
Will Vermont require a minimum number of relevant work hours to apply to become a peer support provider	No
Will all applicants be interviewed?	No
Will criminal history be <i>per se</i> disqualifying	No
Will DMH accept the recommended bifurcated certification model?	Yes, and OPR will need to confirm that certification requirements have been met when it creates a public facing roster of certified peer support providers

Forthcoming DMH Decisions

Required Policy Decisions

Should re-testing be required for recertification?

Should references be required as part of the application process?

Will there be any additional requirements for certification be included in the recommended State Plan amendment, such as supervised work or volunteer experience?

What is the title and qualifications of those who may supervise a certified peer support provider?

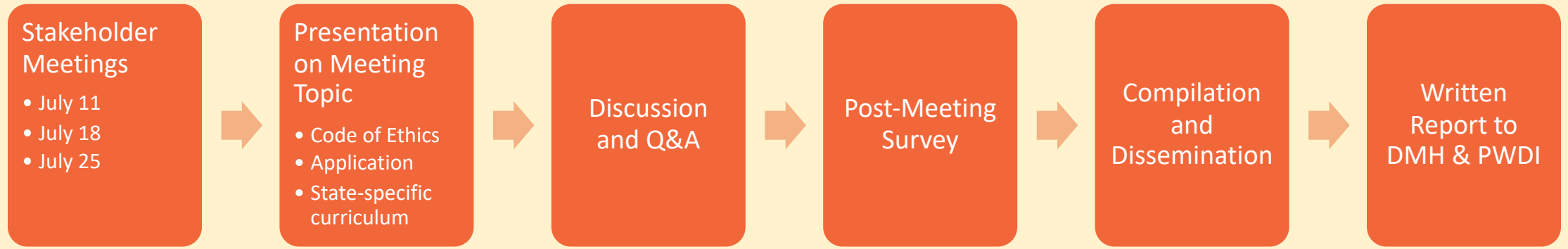
What will be the required frequency of supervision of a peer support provider and any other supervisory requirements beyond those recommended?

What will be the policy for handling applications from applicants with a criminal history?

Overview of Phase 2

Phase 1 Stakeholder Meeting Report Overview and Q&A

Phase 2 Meeting Process



Q&A and Comments

Phase 1 Stakeholder Meeting Report Overview and Q&A

Additional Resources

Phase 1 Stakeholder Meeting Report Overview and Q&A

Useful Links



[Peer Specialist Certification: An Analysis of U.S. And Canadian Efforts to Promote and Expand Mental Health Peer Specialist Workforce Capacity, Final, February 24, 2021](#)

[Vermont Mental Health Peer Support Provider Stakeholder Meeting Series, September – November 2022](#)

[Letter to House Health Care Committee, February 25, 2023](#)

[Mental Health Peer Support Certification Stakeholder Meetings: Report and Recommendations, March 2023](#)

Questions, Comments, Concerns



Wilda L. White

Wilda L. White Consulting

PO Box 502

Dorset, VT 05251-0502

T: (802) 779-0570

E: wilda@wildalwhite.com

W: www.wildalwhite.com