

Peer Support Services

A Recovery Oriented Best Practice

With Peer Support - Recovery is Possible

SAMHSA's definition of recovery is "a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential" (SAMHSA, 2012). Peer Specialists promote recovery by applying the expertise gained from lived experience to the treatment of behavioral health disorders. Peer support, provided by a Certified Peer Specialist, has been shown to reduce inpatient hospitalization, improve social functioning and improve overall quality of life for participants (Klein, Cnaan & Whitecraft, 1998). Peer support has been identified as a best practice and is indicated as one of the Ten Fundamental Components of Recovery developed by the Center for Mental Health Services (SAMHSA, 2004).

Certified Peer Specialists

A Peer Specialist is a certified professional who has self-identified as having received behavioral health services. He or she is living in recovery, successfully managing their symptoms and has undergone certification training on how to assist others in achieving recovery and maintaining resiliency. Under clinical supervision, a Peer Specialist may perform a variety of tasks to support and guide individuals in achieving wellness.

Reimbursement for Services

Under new guidelines out-lined in the Florida Medicaid Handbook, Certified Peer Specialists can provide “Clubhouse” services (H2017) and psychosocial rehabilitation services (H2030) for individuals and groups of up to 12 participants. Cenpatico will also reimburse partner providers for direct peer support services (H0038).

Peer Specialist Certification

The Florida Certification Board administers and regulates Peer Specialist certifications. Information can be obtained on their website about the standards, the application process and the status of an individual’s certification:

www.flcertificationboard.org
1715 S. Gadsden Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 222-6314

Screening Tools/Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

www.samhsa.gov

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

www.hhs.gov

www.mentalhealth.gov

National Alliance on Mental Illness

www.nami.org

Mental Health America

www.mentalhealthamerica.net

National Council for Behavioral Health

www.thenationalcouncil.org



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