

KENTUCKY ADULT PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINING:

DESCRIPTION, QUALIFICATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Educate, Advocate and Serve

Description (908 KAR 2:220): Peer support is the social and emotional support provided by persons with a mental health condition to others sharing a similar mental health condition to bring about a desired social or personal change. A Peer Specialist guides clients toward the identification and achievement of specific goals defined by the client and specified in the treatment plan. The job of a Kentucky Peer Specialist (KPS) is not to replace current clinical mental health staff but to offer additional and/or alternative options to help people in their efforts to recover.

Kentucky Adult Peer Support Specialist Qualifications:

- Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- Have a current or past diagnosis of a mental health, substance use, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders
- Have received or been receiving treatment
- Have a minimum educational requirement of a high school diploma or General Equivalence Diploma (GED) certificate
- Demonstrate a pattern of recovery from a mental health, substance use, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders
- Successfully complete a state-approved adult peer support specialist training

Responsibilities: An Adult Peer Support Specialist shall:

1. Use relevant personal stories to assist other consumers through experience
2. Serve as a role model to consumers
3. Encourage consumer voice and choice during development and implementation of plans
4. Support a consumer by:
 - a. Attending team meetings on behalf of or at the request of the consumer or
 - b. Accompanying the consumer to meetings upon the consumer's request
5. Empower a consumer to have the confidence to be a self-advocate
6. Help providers or other individuals understand the importance of integrating consumer voice and choice in services and support within a system of care
7. Promote socialization, recovery, self-advocacy preservation, and enhancement of community living skills for consumers
8. Complete and maintain documentation of a minimum of six (6) hours of related training or education in each subsequent year after successful completion of the adult peer support specialist training

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRAINING:

***Our next training will be held the week of Monday, March 19- Friday, March 23, 2018 from 9:00am-4:30pm.
Location is TBD, but will be in the Covington, KY area.***

The deadline for applications is Monday, March 12, 2018.

Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio's Kentucky Adult Peer Support Specialist training is a 40-hour course provided over five consecutive days. In attending the training, participants will:

- Gain new knowledge and understanding of the stages and principles of the recovery process, the shift from maintenance to recovery, behavioral health, spiritual and cultural awareness, trauma-informed services, the Wellness Recovery Action Plan, self-care, and much more.
- Develop new skills to assist in effective listening and communication, problem solving, exploring dissatisfaction and fears, establishing goals, combating negative messages/self-talk, suicide prevention, developing and sticking to ethical boundaries, and more.
- Increase personal awareness
- Enhance personal recovery

Qualification for certification includes successfully completing both a written and oral exam upon completion of the course with an aggregate score of at least 70%. If you do not pass the exam, you may re-take it up to two times within a year from the training. Absences are required to be made-up in future trainings within six months. You will be unable to take the certification exam until you have made-up the hours of curriculum instruction that were missed.

Two letters of recommendation are required to be considered for the training. These references should come from members of your treatment team (i.e. healthcare provider, psychiatrist, therapist, group leader, employer if applicable). If you are recovering from a mental illness, a reference from a psychiatrist or therapist is recommended. If you are recovering from a substance use disorder, a reference from a sponsor is recommended. *You* are responsible for giving the attached personal reference forms to the individuals speaking on your behalf.

Fees include:

Individual Application (non-agency): registration, training manual, & written/oral exam \$350.00

Agency Employee Application: registration, training manual & written/oral exam \$500.00

Agencies who register five or more employees will receive the individual rate of \$350.00.

Lunch for the week is provided and included in the cost of the training. A limited number of scholarships are available upon request and are awarded based on need and class size.

KENTUCKY ADULT PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINING:
APPLICATION

Educate, Advocate and Serve

Section 1: Applicant Information

Name: First Middle Last

Address: Street City State Zip Code

Date of Birth Phone Number Email Address

Employer (if applicable) Job Title

Employer's Address: City State Zip Code Phone Number

How did you hear about MHA's Peer Support Specialist Training? _____

Do you have any food allergies or physical disabilities that require accommodations? _____

Upon acceptance, how far will you be traveling to attend the training? _____

Section 2: Qualifications

Please confirm the following information by initialing each qualification.

_____ I am eighteen (18) years of age or older.

_____ I can provide documentation of my high school diploma or GED Certificate.

_____ I have a current or past diagnosis of mental health, substance use, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders and I have received or am receiving treatment.

_____ I understand that Kentucky Peer Support Specialists work from the perspective of their own lived experience. I agree to be open about the fact that I have been diagnosed with a mental illness and/or have a history of substance use. I understand that in doing so I help educate others about the reality of recovery.

_____ I will be respectful to fellow trainees, instructors and to all personal experiences that are shared.

_____ I will actively participate in classroom learning, group discussion, and role-play activities while utilizing my personal experiences and sharing my recovery journey.

_____ I understand that the Kentucky Peer Specialist training **is not** a job placement program. Completion of the training **does not** guarantee that I will be hired as a Peer Support Specialist.

_____ I will be on time and attend the full length of the training.

Signature

Date

Section 3: Working in Recovery

1. Do you currently hold a position in which you will use the information and skills learned through this peer support specialist training?

Yes No

a) If yes, do you receive pay for this position?

Yes No

b) Length of time employed:

Years _____ Months _____

2. If no to question 1, have you been offered a paid position in which you will use the information and skills gained through this peer support specialist training?

Yes No

Section 4: Short Answer

Please answer all questions. Your answers may be brief and answered on this form or you may attach a separate piece of paper for lengthier responses. These short essay questions are intended to assess your basic skill set and experiences in navigating recovery and working with peers.

1. Describe your recovery.

2. What does “recovery” mean to you?

3. Why do you want to become a Peer Support Specialist?

4. What makes you a good candidate to work with other peers with mental health/substance use challenges?

5. What specific experience have you had in assisting with a person's mental health and/or substance use recovery?

6. If you are applying for a scholarship, please describe your circumstances and why you should be awarded financial aid.

Thank you for your application!

Please submit to:

Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio

Attn: Kara Atwell

2400 Reading Rd., Ste. 139

Cincinnati, OH 45202

If you have any questions, please contact Kara Atwell at katwell@mhankyswoh.org.

**KENTUCKY PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINING:
PERSONAL REFERENCE FORM**

The individual named below is completing an application to be trained as a Kentucky Certified Peer Support Specialist. You have been chosen by the applicant to provide a reference for the purpose of verifying the individual's demonstrated recovery for at least the past year. Please complete the reference form below. Place the completed form in an envelope, seal it and place your signature across the seal. Please mail this reference form to the address listed below:

**Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio
Attn: Kara Atwell
2400 Reading Rd., Ste. 139
Cincinnati, OH 45202**

Name of the Applicant: _____

1. Please describe the nature of your relationship with the applicant.

2. Describe your experience with the individual that indicates his/her demonstrated recovery for the last year.

3. Please indicate any strengths or assets this individual may offer as a Peer Support Specialist.

4. If you were in the role of hiring Peer Support Specialists/placing in a volunteer situation, would you consider this person to be a viable candidate, given what you know about their recovery?

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Thank you for your honest assessment of this individual as a Peer Support Specialist Candidate.

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