



Peer Support Training Program Stakeholder Session #2

February 12, 2019

Agenda

- ▶ Summary of MA Vision
- ▶ What we heard in Session #1
- ▶ Common features of peer support
- ▶ Discussion

Summary of vision for peer support in MA

- ▶ Numerous practice settings in the Commonwealth, including general healthcare, mental health and integrated behavioral healthcare systems are moving in the direction of integrating peer support.
- ▶ Numerous funders are including peer support as a delivery system requirement
- ▶ DMH seeks a peer support training and certification program that can prepare class attendees to work in any healthcare setting in the Commonwealth

What we heard is important in the MA peer support training and certification program

- ▶ Must reflect the values, experience, local resources and healthcare system of Massachusetts
- ▶ Class attendees develop a standard set of skills to provide peer support and to be a change agent in any integrated setting
- ▶ Code of Ethics is key to maintaining the integrity of peer role.
- ▶ Continuing education is a priority
- ▶ Training program should support career development (introductory, core, advanced)
- ▶ Additional areas to consider are supervisory training and reciprocity with other states

Common Features of Peer Support

- ▶ Engages individuals in mutual relationships
- ▶ Shares lived experiences of recovery
- ▶ Links individuals to resources, services, and supports
- ▶ Provides information about skills related to health, wellness, and recovery
- ▶ Helps individuals to develop skills to manage crises
- ▶ Teaches self-advocacy skills
- ▶ Using dissatisfaction as an agent of change
- ▶ Maintains “peer-ness”
- ▶ Promotes hope

Discussion Questions

Assuming an average of 80 classroom hours:

- ▶ What are the key skills that need to be taught in the MA peer specialist training class?
- ▶ How can we prepare individuals to work in traditional behavioral health and healthcare settings?
- ▶ How can we prepare individuals to work with people with both mental health and substance addiction issues?
- ▶ How can we prepare people to be successful in class?

Discussion Questions (continued)

- ▶ What are some strategies to address the need for core competencies for all Peers Specialists, vs. the need for training in specialty areas, such as forensic peer support, older adults, young adults, vocational peer support, etc.
- ▶ What would collaboration with DMH look like, to adjust the curriculum to reflect evolving healthcare needs?

Wrap-Up and Next Session

Thank you!

Date: **Monday February 25, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Location: Worcester Public Library, Saxe Room, Main Library

Topic: Organizational qualifications, infrastructure and contract management

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