



Louisiana Peer Support Specialist (PSS) RFI - Question and Answer Session

Tuesday September 8, 2020 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Zoom :

<https://ldhobhasstsecofc.zoom.us/j/93847188953?pwd=V0M1dUN1aUI2aktOQjE1VXFpay9LZz09>

Vision

- ▶ The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)/Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) recognizes the importance of Peer Support Specialists in the engagement and recovery process for behavioral health treatment
- ▶ The use of trained, certified peers is a critical component to a recovery-oriented system of care and results in improvements in client engagement, treatment outcomes, and recovery
- ▶ As an enhancement to traditional treatment services, peer support services allow for more effective and targeted interventions, resulting in improved care and an increased capacity of the system to serve a broader array of individuals

Purpose of RFI

- ▶ The LDH is seeking input from a broad range of stakeholders interested in developing and implementing peer support specialist training program and a peer support specialist certification process that is fully integrated into the Louisiana system of behavioral healthcare and Medicaid delivery system and consistent with values outlined in RFI document

Purpose and Goals

- ▶ Establish standardized training processes that allows for multiple avenues to obtain required trainings that meet required core components
 - Recovery Oriented; Person-Centered; Voluntary; Relationship-Focused; Trauma-informed (link on page 1 Paragraph 4 of RFI Document)
- ▶ Establish a method for periodic updating of trainings and standards of practice
- ▶ Allow for better oversight and public protection
- ▶ Provides Peers with enhanced training opportunities

Purpose and Goals

- ▶ Establish regular certification and recertification standards/requirements to maintain skills and keep up with evolving standards of practice
- ▶ Expand training opportunities to meet the needs of the growing profession

History and Background

- ▶ As the state moves towards developing a formal certification/credentialing process for Peer Support Services, our goal is to ensure the voice of the Peer Support Specialists (hereafter referred to as Peers) and community are heard and a are part of this process
- ▶ The OBH seeks to enhance the credentialing and certification process for qualified Peers with the emphasis on:
 - Education
 - Practice
 - Ethics
 - Accountability

History and Background

- ▶ 2018 OBH contracted with an independent consultant, to facilitate focus groups with Peer Support Specialists throughout the state
- ▶ 2018 State of Louisiana entered into Agreement with the federal Department of Justice, which requires enhanced use of Peer Services
- ▶ 2019 OBH surveyed Peer Support Specialist who have been trained in Louisiana
- ▶ 2019 With the passing of Senate Concurrent Resolution 84, in the 2019 legislative session, LDH is required to take all necessary steps to assure that peer support services are covered as a Medicaid billable service

History and Background

▶ 2019 and in to 2020 OBH has had several discussions with national subject matter experts on the topic of Peer Support, as well as other states, to develop an outline of what training and certification in Louisiana should look like. Some states include:

- ◆ North Carolina
- ◆ Pennsylvania
- ◆ Georgia
- ◆ Texas
- ◆ Oklahoma
- ◆ Arkansas
- ◆ New Mexico

History and Background

- ▶ PSS Stakeholders Workgroup Meeting held March 2020
- ▶ RFI published September 1, 2020, Closing September 13, 2020
- ▶ State Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) Budget includes the addition of Peer Support services as a Medicaid reimbursable service for select providers

Current Structure Training/Certification

- ▶ The OBH has an established statewide training for Peer Support Specialists with the curriculum developed by RI International of Arizona, includes:
 - 2 Week, 76 hour Training
 - ◆ Role-play
 - ◆ Written-Mid Term
 - ◆ Written and Practical final exam
 - ◆ Upon successful completion, Peers receive a certificate of completion
- ▶ Cost for training on average can be about \$1200/per person

Current Structure Training/Certification

- ▶ In the past this training has been offered 4 times per year, rotating between the following cities New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Shreveport
- ▶ Since COVID19 This training has been held virtually with trainings in June, July and August
 - These trainings allow for the training of 10 -12 Participants per training
 - 120 – 144 trained peer support specialist within a year's time to meet the expected demand
- ▶ Virtual Trainings are expected to continue monthly though the end of the year

Current Structure

Continuing Education

- ▶ Each calendar year each Peer Support Specialist must complete a minimum of 10 Continuing Education Units (CEU) to maintain an “active” status
 - 3 of these CEUs must be in the area of Ethics
 - 7 must be in the competencies related to tenets of peer support
 - ◆ Wellness and Recovery Cultural Competency, Person Centered Care Mutuality, Advocacy, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Trauma Informed Care, Integrated Care, Partnering with Other professionals
 - ◆ Additional examples of acceptable CEUs include: WRAP, Peer Support Whole Health, Target Health, Intentional Peer Support, Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention, Treatment/discharge planning, HIPPA, Mandated Reporting

Current Structure Continuing Education

- CEUs must be reported on or before December 31st each calendar year
 - Peer Support Specialists are not required to report CEUs until the year following their initial training
 - CEUs should be recorded using the CEU Reporting form and emailed to the Peer Services and Consumer Affairs Coordinator

Proposed Structure

- ▶ Expansion of the number and types of training to meet the expected growth of the profession
- ▶ With oversight from OBH, Peer Employment trainings would be outsourced to multiple providers of the training that will operate in state
- ▶ PSS Credentialing Process and Training curriculums must adhere to core competencies for Peer Support from SAMHSA and CMS Guidance Document
 - Curriculums will require prior review and approval by LDH/OBH
- ▶ The oversight of credentials would be monitored by an outside agency or organization who reports to LDH/OBH

Next Steps

- ▶ Peer Service framework scheduled to be rolled out late 2020
- ▶ Potential RFP for Peer Support Training and Certification tentatively scheduled to be published late 2020
- ▶ To implement Peer Services as Medicaid reimbursable service in early 2021
 - Roll out will start with the 10 LGE's

Response Submission/Additional Questions and/or Comments

- ▶ Responses to questions will be posted to the Peer Support website (<http://www.ldh.la.gov/lapeersupport>) by close of business Friday, September 11, 2020
- ▶ Questions must be received in writing by Wednesday, September 9, 2020
- ▶ Responses are due (in writing via email) by **11:59pm CST on Sunday, September 13, 2020**
- ▶ Please submit Questions and Responses to: Ricardo.Williams2@la.gov. Please include **“Peer Support RFI”** in the subject line.

Questions and Answer

Response Submission/Additional Questions and/or Comments

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OBH Peer Services & Consumer Affairs Coordinator

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- ▶ Please include “Peer Support RFI” in the subject line
- ▶ Please provide the name, organization, address, contact number, and email address of the respondent.