

Office of Behavioral Health - Recognized Peer Support Specialist

Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education

As continuing education events vary, the appropriateness of considering them as acceptable continuing education also varies. An event must receive a total score (combination of all three sections) of at least 10 to be “clearly acceptable” for continuing education for Peer Support Specialists. If any one category receives a zero, the education offering is not acceptable for continuing education, regardless of the total score. Should an individual Recognized Peer Support Specialist (RPSS) make the determination that an education offering which is not pre-approved has content applicable to work as a Peer, then the RPSS may submit this form and all supporting documentation with the annual renewal documentation.

Per the guidelines, Peers shall complete a minimum of **ten (10) Continuing Education Units (CEU) per calendar year** to continue to be a Recognized Peer Support Specialist (RPSS). Three (3) of these CEUs must be in the area of Ethics. The other seven (7) shall be in the core competencies related to peer support (<https://www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs/recovery-support-tools/peers/core-competencies-peer-workers>). Courses which are mandatory job trainings, such as blood borne pathogens, sexual harassment, prohibited political activity, etc. are not considered to be recovery oriented and not acceptable towards the minimum continuing education requirement.

Core Competencies, Principles and Values Core Competencies for peer workers reflect certain foundational principles identified by members of the mental health consumer and substance use disorder recovery communities. These are:

RECOVERY-ORIENTED: Peer workers hold out hope to those they serve, partnering with them to envision and achieve a meaningful and purposeful life. Peer workers help those they serve identify and build on strengths and empower them to choose for themselves, recognizing that there are multiple pathways to recovery.

PERSON-CENTERED: Peer recovery support services are always directed by the person participating in services. Peer recovery support is personalized to align with the specific hopes, goals, and preferences of the individual served and to respond to specific needs the individuals has identified to the peer worker.

VOLUNTARY: Peer workers are partners or consultants to those they serve. They do not dictate the types of services provided or the elements of recovery plans that will guide their work with peers. Participation in peer recovery support services is always contingent on peer choice.

RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED: The relationship between the peer worker and the peer is the foundation on which peer recovery support services and support are provided. The relationship between the peer worker and peer is respectful, trusting, empathetic, collaborative, and mutual.

TRAUMA-INFORMED: Peer recovery support utilizes a strengths-based framework that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety and creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

Please complete and submit the following form with all other required documentation at the time of annual renewal.

If any assistance, guidance or additional information is needed, please contact OBH.Peers.Programs@LA.GOV.

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RPSS Name: _____

Program Name: _____

Sponsoring Organization _____ **Date of Event:** _____

Please select which Peer Core Competencies, Principles & Values were addressed during this training (**check all that apply**):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery Oriented | <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship Focus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person Centered | <input type="checkbox"/> Trauma Informed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary | |

PROGRAM CONTENT:

(Clearly Acceptable)

- 6) Mainstream peer support knowledge, skills and values
- 6) Specialized peer support knowledge, skills and values
- 4) Information from related fields that is useful for peer support practice
- 2) Developing areas that may lack strong research, support or clear application
- 0) Content that is specifically not acceptable or not related to peer support practice

(Clearly Not Acceptable)

PROGRAM PRESENTER:

(Clearly Acceptable)

- 5) Peer supporter with appropriate expertise in content area
- 4) Related professional with ability to connect content to peer support practice
- 2) Lay-person (e.g. client) on the impact of needing/receiving services
- 0) Presenter with no apparent professional qualifications nor link to peer support practice

(Clearly Not Acceptable)

PROGRAM AUDIENCE:

(Clearly Acceptable)

- 4) Peer support practitioners/students
- 4) Interdisciplinary professional audience that may include peer supporters
- 3) Audience presumed to be primarily from another profession (e.g. nursing)
- 1) Audience open to the general public
- 0) Audience presumed to be primarily the general public

(Clearly Not Acceptable)

Total Score _____ (add score from each section to get Total Score)

RPSS Signature: _____

Date: _____