

Mental Health Peer Specialist Certification Stakeholder Meetings

Friday, November 18, 2022

Meeting Six of Six

Wilda L. White Consulting, Facilitator

Zoom Protocol



Questions	Raise hand, actual or virtual; write question in Chat; or shout it out
Comments	Zoom Chat
Slides	Link to PowerPoint slides is in Zoom Chat
Recording	All meetings are being recorded

Meeting Process



Description of six stakeholder meetings

1

Overview of mental health peer specialist certification

- The purpose of the meeting is to educate stakeholders about peer certification programs in other states, the terminology used, and how programs in other states are structured

2

Peer support, peer support services, and assessment-based versus professional certification program

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the definition of peer support and peer support services and whether Vermont should adopt an assessment-based certification program or a professional certification program

3

Screening

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the minimum standards that an applicant must meet before applying for certification and creating a process to determine whether those minimum standards have been met.

4

Training

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on required competencies, training length, approved training vendors, fees, and types of certifications to be offered (e.g., veterans, gender identity, sexual orientation, forensic, whole health, peer support supervision, family peer specialist, substance use recovery, etc.)

5

Certification

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the process for certifying whether the applicant has met the requirements for certification. Sub-topics include the type of certifying body; re-certification; continuing education; reciprocity; grandfathering of current peer support specialists; fees; and investigation and revocation.

6

Integration

- The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on what steps will be necessary to incorporate peer support specialists into the continuum of care, including outreach, training, supervision, and costs.

Previous Slide Decks, Recordings, and Surveys

Meeting	Slide Deck	Recording	Survey
1 – Sept 9, 2022	http://tinyurl.com/2vhb3s2z	https://vimeo.com/748397123#t=0	None
2 – Sept 23, 2022	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/2p8t3ep9	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/murpb63h	https://tinyurl.com/2p8rwe
3- October 7, 2022	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/2p92sdud	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/yckm97jx	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/2p999p6w
4- October 21, 2022	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/2p8rp2v3	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/4fmn6hhc	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/bp5nfaf
5– November 4, 2022	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/ycksbhah	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/yc4zjkpk	https://peercertification.wildalwhite.com/2p8fsrj8

Peer Certification Stakeholder Meetings Web Page

<https://wildalwhite.com/certification>

Today's Agenda

- Review recommendations, to date, and unresolved issues
- Next Steps
- Open Discussion (unaddressed concerns, integration into the continuum of care)

Recommendations and Unresolved Issues, to Date

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Type of Certification Program— Professional vs. Assessment-Based

Professional Certification

The organization that provides the training would be different from the organization that administers the test

Screening and Eligibility Requirements

Criteria	Recommendation
Minimum Age	18 for adult credential; no minimum age for youth credential
Minimum Education	None
Lived Experience Required	Yes
Attest to Recovery?	No
Minimum Period of Recovery	No
Residency Requirement	No
Personal Statement Required	Yes
Criminal History Disqualifying	No
Who performs screening	Peers

Unresolved Eligibility Requirements

Criteria	Unresolved Issue
Criminal History	Process to determine on an individual basis whether a criminal conviction is disqualifying
Whether relevant work experience should be required	Most felt that a minimum number of relevant work hours would be beneficial but also felt it would limit the pool of applicants because of the lack of opportunities to meet the minimum requirement for relevant work experience
Whether references should be required	Responses were mixed; some cited the lack of opportunity for some prospective applicants to obtain references; some thought it should be optional
Should applicants be interviewed	Responses were mixed; issues raised included the amount of work required to interview applicants and what procedure would be used to make decisions;

Competencies and Training

Issue	Recommendation
Who should provide training?	A single, approved vendor (for state-specific curriculum)
What core competencies should be adopted?	Re-write to reflect peer values
What should training encompass?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Intentional Peer Support▪ Wellness Recovery Action Plan▪ Alternatives to Suicide▪ Hearing Voices (Listening across Alternate Realities)▪ State-Specific Curriculum

Unresolved Competencies and Training Issues

- Finalizing the list of core competencies
- Finalizing what the state-specific curriculum should cover
- Adopting a Code of Ethics that is consistent with core competencies

Certification

Issue	Recommendation
Reciprocity	No
Grandfathering	No; screening and testing should be required
Period of Certification	Two years
Certifying Body	Bifurcated; peer-organization or peer body and the Office of Professional Regulation split responsibilities

Unresolved Certification Issues

Requirements for re-certification (whether re-testing should be required)

Peer and Peer Support Definitions – main themes

- Remove references to “recovery”
- Use “lived experience” rather than “personal experience”
- Remove references to “mental illness” (e.g., lived experience of mental illness)
- Include substance use or substance use condition in the definition
- Remove “psychiatric disability”; use mental health challenge, mental health crisis, trauma experience
- Remove references to “addiction”

Next Steps

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Next Steps

- Submit Report
 - Recommended design of a statewide, peer support worker certification programs
 - Summary of issues and concerns in need of resolution
 - Work plan identifying next steps
- Phase Two
 - Via Zoom, convene working group with broad, stakeholder representation to finalize plan for developing and implementing statewide certification plan

Integration into the Continuum of Care

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Open Discussion Topics

- Unaddressed concerns
- Costs – what hourly wage, what reimbursement rate
- Employer Training to learn how to incorporate certified peer support workers into the continuum of care
- Supervision – whether peer specialist should be supervised only by certified certified peer support worker supervisor

Concerns, Comments, Feedback?

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