

ME02131001

**PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE**

Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose:

To work collaboratively to continue the OMHSAS approved Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) trainings to meet the challenge of meeting the needs of customers of mental health services.

Award to:

Name and Address:

**PA Department of Labor and Industry
Bureau of Policy, Planning & Program Development
Labor and Industry Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120**

Federal ID Number: 23-6003107

ME02/3/001

Memorandum of Understanding

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

And

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made this ___ day of ___, 2009, by and between the Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS).

WHEREAS: the administrative agencies of the Commonwealth have the responsibility to develop practical and efficient means for coordination of their work pursuant to Sections 501 and 502 of the Administrative Code of 1929, 71 P.S. §§ 181, 182; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor & Industry is the agency responsible to promote the employment of individuals with disabilities by providing vocational rehabilitation, job training, and placement services pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (29 U.S.C. §§ 701- et seq.) and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1988, (43 P.S. § 682.1 et seq.);

WHEREAS; the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services has primary responsibility for the planning, policy development, program development and financial oversight of the Behavioral Health System in the Commonwealth which includes mental health treatment services and supports as well as designated substance abuse services.

WHEREAS; in 2003 the President of the United State's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health recommended that the nation needed to fundamentally transform the mental health care system's approach to providing mental health care and that the transformation occur in the direction of actively facilitating recovery; and

WHEREAS; the Pennsylvania Recovery Workgroup generated the following definition of recovery to guide service system transformation in the Commonwealth: "*Recovery is a self-determined and holistic journey that people undertake to heal and grow. Recovery is facilitated by relationships and environments that provide hope, empowerment, choices and opportunities that promote people reaching their full potential as individuals and community members;*" and

WHEREAS; OMHSAS gave full endorsement to the definition and committed to transforming the Commonwealth's mental health system, which included the development of services that facilitate and support recovery. Peer Specialist Services have been defined in Pennsylvania as one of these services.

WHEREAS; OMHSAS desires to provide consistent training opportunities across Pennsylvania for Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) in order to work with individuals to inspire

hope in recovery, promote empowerment, self-determination, understanding, coping skills and resilience through mentoring and service coordination supports that allow individuals with severe and persistent mental illness and co-occurring disorders to achieve personal wellness and cope with stressors and barriers encountered when recovering from their disabilities.

WHEREAS; OMHSAS previously funded training for CPS, but the need for CPS training continues; and

WHEREAS; OVR and OMHSAS desire to work collaboratively to continue the OMHSAS approved CPS trainings to meet the challenge of meeting the needs of customers of mental health services;

Now, therefore, the parties to this memorandum of understanding set forth the following as the terms and conditions of their understanding:

I. Financial Responsibility:

- OVR may provide partial funding for customers who are both OVR and OMHSAS eligible customers to participate in OMHSAS approved CPS training programs in order to assist those customers in becoming competitively employed.
- Funding by OVR is optional. OVR's participation may be limited by factors which include but are not limited to the following:
 - Determination of eligibility for OVR services
 - Available employment opportunities for CPSs
 - Available local MH funding
 - Available local OVR funding
 - Customer interest in CPS training
- OVR will develop letters of understanding with OMHSAS approved vendors to establish a set statewide daily fee for OVR's share of the CPS training program tuition. OVR will pay the fee for a maximum of 10 days.
- The remaining funding for the program must be obtained from other MH funding sources such as Managed Care Organizations, County MH/MR offices and /or other local-level funding sources of MH services.

II. Training Services:

- OMHSAS shall approve vendors to provide CPS training in Pennsylvania. Currently two vendors are approved by OMHSAS; Recovery Innovations (RI) and Mental Health Association of Southeast PA.
- OMHSAS shall approve all CPS training curriculums.

- OVR is responsible for determining the eligibility of individuals who are referred for or are applicant for services. Eligibility determinations are governed by the provisions of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, *as amended*, and its governing regulations.
- An eligible individual must develop an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) with his/her vocational rehabilitation counselor which establishes CPS as the employment goal.
- OVR will consider eligible individuals for the CPS employment goal provided that the individual is not working full-time, the individual commits to working at least 20 hours per week, and the individual displays a willingness and motivation to work with OVR to achieve the employment goal.
- Referrals to OVR for consideration in the CPS training shall include the individuals name, address, city, zip code and phone number.
- After receipt of a referral, OVR will determine the eligibility of the individual to participate in the VR program.
- If OVR determines ancillary support services are necessary, OVR will contact local MH partners to secure those services.

III. Post Training Job Supports


- Upon completion of the CPS certification, OVR shall determine whether job placement or job support services are required by the customer. If such services are required, OVR has the discretion to provide up to 36 hours of job supports from an appropriate service provider approved by OMHSAS.
 - Rates for job support services shall be set forth in a Letter of Understanding between OVR and the service provider.
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- Job support services beyond the approved 36 hours shall not be the responsibility of OVR.
 - Long term supports shall be provided either by an MH partner and/or through natural supports and the CPS trained supervisor.

IV. Conditions

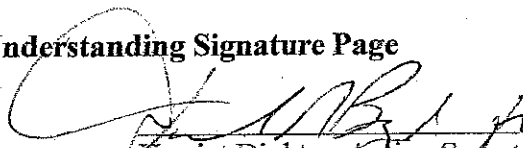
- A. This memorandum is not intended to and does not create any contractual rights or obligations with respect to the signatory agencies or any other parties.
- B. Any dispute arising here under shall be submitted to the Office of General Counsel for final resolution
- C. This memorandum of understanding may only be amended by written consent of all parties.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this memorandum of understanding:

Memorandum of Understanding Signature Page



Sandi Vito, Secretary
Department of Labor and Industry

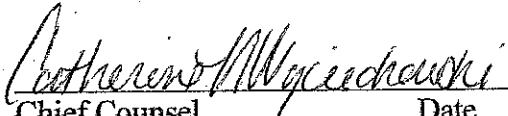


Harriet Dichter, Acting Secretary
Department of Public Welfare

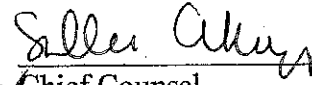
Date: _____

Date: 2/23/2010

Reviewed and approved for form and legality:



Catherine M. Wyciacho, Chief Counsel
Department of Labor and Industry
Date: 7-15-10



Saller Akh, Chief Counsel
Department of Public Welfare
Date: 3/2/10



Office of General Counsel
Date