

The background is a solid teal color. In the lower half, there is a faint, semi-transparent graphic of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership. The text is centered and rendered in a bold, serif font with a slight drop shadow.

Pennsylvania

**Peer Specialist
Initiative**

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Office of
Mental Health
and
Substance
Abuse
Services

OMHSAS



Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

The OMHSAS Mission Statement:

"The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in collaboration with other appropriate state offices, will ensure local access to a comprehensive array of quality mental health and substance abuse services that are reflective of the needs of Pennsylvania citizens, effectively managed and coordinated, and responsive to a dynamic and changing health care environment. "

Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

The OMHSAS Vision Statement:

"Every individual served by the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service system will have the opportunity for growth, recovery and inclusion in their community, have access to culturally competent services and supports of their choice, and enjoy a quality of life that includes family and friends. "

Peer Support Services

- What is Peer Support?
- Brief Overview of Peer Support History/
Movement
- OMHSAS Peer Specialist Grant Project
Montgomery Co. →
PA Grant Initiative →
Medicaid Funding

Peer Support Services

- Research & Preparation for Workgroup (Georgia, South Carolina, Hawaii, & Arizona)
- CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) Service Requirements
- Workgroup Tasks & Timelines

What Is Peer Support?

Peer support is “a system of giving and receiving help founded on key principles of respect, shared responsibility, and mutual agreement of what is helpful.”

Mead, Hilton, and Curtis (2001)



Peer Support History/Movement

- Peer Support grew out of the Independent Living Movement
- It was a civil/human rights movement that grew as a reaction to social, physical and treatment barriers for people primarily with physical disabilities

Peer Support History/Movement

- It arose at a time when other movements were gaining headway in establishing rights for oppressed groups of all kinds

Sherry Mead & Cheryl MacNeil
Peer Support: What Makes it Unique?

December, 2004

Peer Support History/Movement Cont.

The Independent Living Movement
focused on three general areas:



Peer Support History/Movement Cont.

- To enforce the civil and benefit rights for people with disabilities
- To develop a way of thinking created by people with disabilities
- To create alternative services and advocacy center

Deegan, 1992 & DeJong, 1979

How We Got From There To Here...

OMHSAS

Peer Specialist Grant Project

Montgomery Co.

→ PA Grant Initiative

→ Medicaid Funding

Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Program

Certified Peer Specialists help consumers with the following:

- Skills building
- Recovery and/or life goal setting
- Problem solving

Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Program cont.

Certified Peer Specialists help consumers with the following:

- Establishing self-help groups
- Building and utilizing self-help recovery tools (such as the WRAP)
- Self advocacy

Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Pilot Program

In Montgomery County:

- Peer Support is viewed as a core element in transitioning their MH services toward a Recovery Oriented philosophy and approach
- 13 full-time equivalent positions were initially financed with county Health Choices reinvestment funds

Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Pilot Program

- Consumers who are credentialed through the CPS program must:
 - Meet the minimum employment & education standards set by the program
 - Successfully complete the training course
 - Oral & written examination

Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Pilot Program

- The CPS training course teaches participating consumers specific skills that are relevant to providing effective peer support

PA Peer Support Grant Initiative

- The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) submitted and received a 3-year \$300,000 grant award from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a Peer Support Initiative. This grant project is funded until September 30, 2007.

PA Peer Support Grant Initiative

- A training and technical assistance team from the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania has partnered with OMHSAS to develop and deliver a Peer Specialist training curriculum statewide.

PA Peer Support Grant Initiative

- On March 1, 2005, OMHSAS selected projects in three (3) regions across Pennsylvania representing the Northeast, Central and Western regions. The projects selected include Erie County in the west, a NE 7-county collaborative with Lackawanna/Susquehanna coordinating and a 5 county collaborative (CABHC) in the central region.

PA Peer Support Grant Initiative

- The goal of this project is to train 20 certified peer specialists per region and to create or transform 20 Certified Peer Specialist positions in each of the 3 county or multi-county projects
- Another component to the grant is to proceed with workgroups to explore future funding options for peer specialist positions

Research & Preparation for Workgroup

- Georgia
- Hawaii
- South Carolina
- Arizona
- Peer Support Web-cast Series

CMS Service Requirements Outline

CMS Service Requirements Outline

- Service Definition
- Service Goals
- Target Population
- Program Requirements
- Allowable Activities
- Staffing Requirements and Credentials
- Service Exclusions

CMS Service Requirements Outline

CMS Service Requirements Outline

- Place of Service Exclusions
- Documentation
- Admission Criteria
- Continuing Stay Criteria
- Discharge/Exit Criteria
- Authorization Periods
- Benefit Limits
- Code/Unit

OMHSAS Peer Support Workgroup

Objectives:

- Develop & recommend a Peer Support service that can become reimbursed through the state Medicaid program based on the identified service requirements
- Recommend statewide curriculum standards
- Develop Peer Certification/Credentialing requirements & process

THE END

