

Facts about Peer Support Service

- Peer support service is provided to self-identified individuals in recovery from mental illness, substance abuse, or both.
- Individuals who receive the peer support service are committed to their own recovery.
- Peer supporters encourage, inspire, and empower peers to reach recovery goals through modeling the recovery way of life.
- A peer supporter is known as a Certified Peer Supporter (CPS) in Ohio and is certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.
- Certification for CPS requires individuals to provide declaration of being in recovery with a lived experience of mental illness, substance abuse disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Ohio Citizen Advocates (OCA) and Ohio Empowerment Coalition (OEC) coordinate training for peer supporters using an integrated model curriculum which consists of 12 webinar and 40 in-class hours.
- CPS training is offered to individuals who complete and pass OCA/OEC application and screening.
- Candidates that complete the training must pass the Ohio Certified Peer Supporter exam with 70% accuracy or more to be granted certification from the state.
- CPSs are required to complete 30 continuing education units every two years to maintain certification.

See reverse side of this sheet for more information about the role of the CPS.

What is the Role of the CPS?

CPS Role is...	CPS Role is not...
...to inspire hope of recovery from mental illness, drug addiction and co-occurring disorders.	...to provide clinical care.
...to share lived experience in an appropriate manner to foster connectedness and build relationships with peers.	...to replace case managers.
...to listen to and understand peers' pain and isolation while exhibiting empathy and support as they move forward in recovery.	...to simply fill a room rather than offer true peer interaction.
...to assist peers in exploring options and overcome barriers preventing them from moving forward in recovery.	...to pass medications to clients.
...to provide person-driven support that taps into peer strengths related to illness self-management.	...to tell peers "what to do."
...to assist peers in developing strategies to communicate with and advocate for themselves.	...to provide janitorial or cleaning services.
...to support peers in implementing a relapse prevention plan.	...to provide taxi services.
...to assist peers in adopting a proactive role in their own behavioral and physical health.	...to be advertised as a service offered by an organization that does not provide opportunities for peer interaction.