PEER COACH/PEER SPECIALIST
TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

CMWN
COLORADO MENTAL WELLNESS NETWORK

WHAT IS A PEER COACH/SPECIALIST/PROVIDER?

A peer provider is a person who uses his or her lived experience of recovery from mental illness and/or addiction, plus skills learned in formal training, to deliver services in behavioral health settings to promote mind-body recovery and resiliency[1].

WHAT DO PEER COACHES/SPECIALISTS DO?

Peer support workers engage in a wide range of activities, including advocacy, linkage to resources, sharing of their experience, community and relationship building, group facilitation, skill building, mentoring, goal setting, and more. They may also plan and develop groups, services or activities, supervise other peer workers, provide training, gather information on resources, administer programs or agencies, educate the public and policymakers, and work to raise awareness.[2]

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEER COACHES/SPECIALISTS

Peer coaches/specialists have jobs throughout the public mental health system including mental health centers, drop in centers, and crisis services. As the importance of peer work has been demonstrated, employment opportunities at housing programs, integrated health settings, and other services have also been created.

TRAINING NEEDED TO BECOME A PEER COACH/SPECIALIST

To begin work, Peer Coaches/Specialists are generally required to have training in a set of competencies and indicators established by the Colorado Behavioral Health Council and the International Credentialing and Reciprocity Consortium. Our training exceeds the standards set by these organizations. Training topics include: trauma informed support, self-care, ethics, communication skills, recovery, resilience, and wellness. For a complete list of the core competencies and indicators, please contact us.

[1] SAMHSA, http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/workforce/team-members/peer-providers
[2] SAMHSA, http://www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs/core-competencies-peer-workers

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WHY TRAIN WITH CMWN?

- We are the only independent peer-run organization in Colorado focused on recovery and wellness for individuals with behavioral health issues.
- We have lived experience with recovery and wellness and understand the vital role peers play in assisting others.
- We are passionate about the possibility of recovery and wellness for everyone.
- Our instructors are experienced in program design, facilitation, and training
- Training is heavily focused on learning and practicing skills.
- Successful graduates are employed at Community Reach Center, ALLHealth Network, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, and Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners.

TRAINING MODEL

Our training builds on the wisdom of lived experience, helping students to deepen their understanding of recovery, and develop skills needed on the job. Activities such as roleplays and practice elements give students time to make skills their own.

Students must participate and demonstrate adequate comprehension of the course by:

- Completing assigned readings and webinar viewing
- Completing homework assignments
- Participating in classroom activities
- Attending all training sessions (in the case of a true emergency, instructors will provide one on one activities, but if a student misses the first day of class or multiple days, we will suggest they return for the next training session.)
- Taking part in three practice elements designed to demonstrate understanding of key topics
- Completing a final exam with a passing grade of 80%

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

- High school diploma or GED
- Feeling established in one's own recovery – at a minimum one year, but more time is better
- Committing to attend and participate in all days of training
- A desire to assist others in their recovery journey
- Students must have access to the internet as some training information is delivered by webinar

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STEPS IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Confirm that you meet the minimum requirements.
2. Complete the written application and expectations agreement available at our website.
3. Obtain a letter of reference from a third party who is able to comment on your interpersonal and communication skills. (Letters from treatment providers, friends and family cannot be accepted.)
4. Applications are assessed for readiness and aptitude for recovery coach/specialist work. Priority is given to applicants who are already working or volunteering in a peer capacity.
5. Applicants are notified of acceptance.
6. Applicants working with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation must sign Releases of Information for communication between CMWN staff and DVR counselors as part of the application progress. DVR counselors will request a copy of the training certificate and the final exam grade.
7. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for each training.

TRAINING COSTS

- The tuition for the training is $200, plus a refundable $25 data reporting deposit.
- We are an approved vendor for Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Students funded by DVR should work with their counselor to have authorization for payment in place prior to the training. We can assist with any program information that may be needed by the DVR counselor.
- Students who are sponsored by an agency must provide a letter of authorization from the agency. Agencies will be invoiced with payment due on the first day of training.
- For students who are self-pay, a deposit of $25 is required after acceptance to hold your position. The remaining tuition can be split into two payments to $100 when training begins and $100 the following month. Partial scholarships may be available for individuals who have been accepted into the program who have a financial need and no other funding source.

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2018 TRAINING DATES

MARCH – APRIL 2018

Week One: 4/30, 5/2, 5/4 (M,W,F)
Week Two: 5/7, 5/9, 5/11 (M,W,F)
Week Three: 5/14, 5/16, 5/18 (M,W,F)

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2018

Week One: 10/15, 10/17, 10/19 (M,W,F)
Week Two: 10/22, 10/24, 10/26 (M,W,F)
Week Three: 10/29, 10/31, 11/2 (M,W,F)

TRAINING DAY SCHEDULE

We meet from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM each day with a lunch break and shorter breaks during training sessions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Joann Calabrese, Recovery Education Manager,
joann@coloradomentalwellnessnetwork.org or 720-842-9222

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