

Bulletin Number: MSA 17-45

Distribution: Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs)

Issued: December 1, 2017

Subject: Peer Recovery Coach Certification

Effective: January 1, 2018

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan

Purpose

This policy formalizes standards for training, certification and practices for Peer Recovery Coaches as established by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Peer Recovery Coach Services

Peer Recovery Coach services and supports were formalized in the administrative rules for substance use disorders in 2006. This policy strengthens and clarifies the role and provision of services completed by Peer Recovery Coaches as part of the continuum of peer services. In 2016, as a result of the Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) transformation, an advisory group comprised of persons employed as Peer Recovery Coaches representing all PIHPs was convened to advise MDHHS in developing standards and practices for Peer Recovery Coaches. This policy reflects the input of the advisory group and the MDHHS continued implementation of ROSC standards throughout all systems of care.

Peer Recovery Coach services are provided by a person in a journey of recovery from addictions or co-occurring disorders who identifies with a beneficiary based on a shared background and life experience. The Peer Recovery Coach serves as a personal guide and mentor for beneficiaries seeking, or already in, recovery from substance use disorders. Peer Recovery Coaches support a beneficiary's journey toward recovery and wellness by creating and sustaining networks of formal and informal services and supports while role modeling the many pathways to recovery as each individual determines his or her own way. The Peer Recovery Coach helps to remove barriers and obstacles, and links the beneficiary to resources in the recovery community.

Services provided by a Peer Recovery Coach support beneficiaries to become and stay engaged in the recovery process and reduce the likelihood of relapse. Activities are targeted to beneficiaries at all places along the path to recovery, including outreach for persons who are still active in their addiction, up to and including individuals who have been in recovery for several years.

Peer Recovery Coaches embody a powerful message of hope, helping beneficiaries achieve a full and meaningful life in the community. The Peer Recovery Coach can assist with tasks such as setting recovery goals, developing recovery action plans, and solving problems directly related to recovery.

The Peer Recovery Coach supports each beneficiary to fully participate in communities of their choosing in the environment most supportive of their recovery and that promotes housing of their choice to build recovery connections and supports. Utilizing a strength-based perspective and emphasizing assessment of recovery capital, services are designed to include prevention strategies and the integration of physical and behavioral health services to attain and maintain recovery and prevent relapse. Beneficiaries utilizing Peer Recovery Coach services must freely choose the individual who is providing Peer Recovery Coach services.

The Peer Recovery Coach shall receive regular supervision by a case manager, treatment practitioner, prevention staff or an experienced Certified Peer Recovery Coach who has over 2 continuous years in recovery and over two years in the direct provision of recovery coach services and supports.

Requirements

Individuals who work as a Peer Recovery Coach serving beneficiaries with substance use or co-occurring disorders must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have two continuous years in recovery from addiction(s) with experience in navigating treatment services and/or prevention;
- Share their recovery story as a tool in helping others;
- Experience receiving publicly-funded treatment and recovery services for addiction(s);
- Be employed at least 10 hours per week by a licensed Substance Use Disorder Treatment Organization, a PIHP, a Community Mental Health Services Program, or another organization under contract to one or more of the forgoing organizations that provides substance abuse treatment and/or recovery support services; and
- Attend and successfully complete the MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach training and certification.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-1-800-979-4662.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Stiffler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director
Medical Services Administration