

Bulletin Number: MSA 22-01

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

Issued: March 1, 2022

Subject: Peer Recovery Coach Certification

Effective: April 1, 2022

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan

PEER RECOVERY COACH SERVICES

Peer recovery coach services are provided by a person in a journey of recovery from substance use, co-occurring disorders, and/or non-substance addictive disorders, and who identifies with a beneficiary based on a shared background and lived experience. A peer recovery coach, serving in a role as a community health worker (CHW), operates as a personal guide and mentor for beneficiaries seeking, or already in, recovery from substance use disorders (SUD). 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 their own way. The peer recovery coach helps to remove barriers and obstacles, assists with practices of harm reduction, and links beneficiaries to resources in the recovery community. Services provided by peer recovery coaches 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 their path of recovery.

Peer recovery coaches embody a powerful message of hope; assisting beneficiaries to achieve goals of community inclusion and participation, independence, recovery, resiliency and/or productivity. This medical necessity criteria assists the peer recovery coach with setting recovery goals, developing recovery action plans, and supporting beneficiaries to live a full and meaningful life in the community through the individualized treatment planning process.

The peer recovery coach supports each beneficiary to fully participate in communities of their choosing in the environment most supportive of their recovery. Utilizing a strength-based perspective and emphasizing assessment of recovery capital (utilizing the total resources a beneficiary has to find and sustain recovery), services are designed to include prevention strategies and the integration and coordination of physical and behavioral health services to help attain and maintain recovery and prevent relapse. Building upon the strong foundation of a recovery-oriented philosophy and evidence-based practices (EBPs), peer recovery coaches may offer Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to a full continuum of SUD treatment and recovery supports.

Peer recovery coaches work in a variety of settings providing successful engagement in treatment and transitions across all levels of care for beneficiaries with high-risk and complex care needs. Some of the settings that peer recovery coaches may provide services include residential treatment facilities, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs, Recovery Community Organizations (RCO), hospital emergency rooms, Opioid Health Homes (OHH), housing programs, outpatient treatment and prevention, drug courts and other justice involved settings.

Individuals who have been certified by Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR), Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals (MCBAP), or Genesee Health System approved curriculum prior to January 1, 2018, may request a previous standards application.

Supervision Requirements:

The peer recovery coach shall be supervised by a Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist (SATS) or Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner (SATP) when in a setting that receives Medicaid reimbursement. Programs funded by the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) and/or Public Act 2 (PA2) funding shall receive ongoing supervision by a case manager, treatment practitioner, prevention staff, or an experienced Certified Peer Recovery Coach who has over two 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 and/or co-occurring disorders must:

- Have a high school diploma, General Education Diploma (GED), or provide college transcripts in lieu of a high school diploma or GED;
- Have a SUD, co-occurring disorder(s), and/or non-substance addictive disorder(s) and have received treatment from a public or private provider;
- Have two continuous years in recovery at some point in time after the age of 18;
- Have personal experience in navigating complex SUD, co-occurring disorder(s), and/or non-substance addictive disorder(s) treatment services (self-help groups are not included);
- Self-identify as having a SUD, co-occurring disorder(s), and/or non-substance addictive disorder(s) with a substantial life disruption and share their recovery story in supporting others;
- Be employed by a CMHSP or contract provider at the beginning of training;

- Meet the MDHHS application approval process for specialized training and certification. The process includes:
 - Completed peer recovery coach application
 - Supervisor signature and acknowledgment form
 - Two written letters of reference
 - Current job description
 - Read, understand, and agree to the MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach Code of Ethics
 - Acknowledgement of truthfulness and accuracy of application
 - Peer-to-peer interview
 - Training fee paid by the agency that employs the peer recovery coach;
- Be freely chosen by beneficiaries utilizing peer recovery coach services; and
- Adhere to the MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach Code of Ethics.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the MDHHS 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-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Typical Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550. Atypical Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-979-4662.

An electronic copy of this document is available at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Approved



Kate Massey, Director
Health and Aging Services Administration