

Bulletin Number: MSA 16-39

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

Issued: November 30, 2016

Subject: Peer Mentor Training

Effective: January 1, 2017

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan

Purpose

This policy will ensure that all Peer Mentors who provide services to beneficiaries will be trained in the manner established by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Peer Mentoring Services

Peer Mentoring services provide adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with opportunities to support, mentor and assist beneficiaries to achieve community inclusion and participation, independence, and productivity. Peer Mentors are individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have a unique skill level from their experience in utilizing services and supports to achieve their goals. Peer Mentors offer the benefit of their personal experiences, passing along encouragement and support to help others construct their own advocacy. Beneficiaries utilizing Peer Mentor Services must freely choose the individual who is providing Peer Mentoring Services from available trained Peer Mentors.

Activities provided by Peer Mentors are completed in partnership with beneficiaries for the specific purpose of achieving increased beneficiary community inclusion and participation, independence, and productivity by:

- sharing personal stories of advocacy for the purpose of supporting self-advocacy and independence, person-centered planning goals, and arrangements that support self-direction;
- navigating transportation systems;
- building bridges to people and resources within the community;
- identifying recreation opportunities;
- providing information on entitlements;

- assisting beneficiaries to move towards independence;
- providing housing information by helping to identify affordable and accessible housing for achieving independent living; finding and choosing roommates; applications for Section 8 Housing vouchers; managing budgets;
- providing vocational information to beneficiaries seeking post-secondary education and/or training opportunities, finding a job, achieving successful employment

Requirements

Individuals who are functioning as Peer Mentors serving beneficiaries with intellectual and developmental disabilities must:

- be 18 years of age
- have an intellectual/developmental disability
- attend the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's Peer Mentor 101 training by referral from their local CMHSP
- complete a supervised 90-120 hour internship at their local CMHSP. The CMHSP is expected to hire the individual after certification
- share their personal experiences to guide and support beneficiaries
- participate in annual continuing education trainings to maintain skills and expand knowledge base

The use of the Peer Mentor Code for billing purposes is permissible only after the individual is certified by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.

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 1-800-292-2550.

Approved



Chris Priest, Director
Medical Services Administration