



PEER SUPPORT
Coalition of Florida, Inc.

Peer Specialist Certification 101



**Becoming a National Certified Peer Specialist
(NCPS)**



07/30/2018

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A COUPLE THINGS BEFORE WE BEGIN...



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If you have any questions during the presentation, please type them into the question box in your Zoom control panel. I'll bring them up during the presentation and we will also have time for questions at the end.



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Today's Guest...

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National Certified Peer Specialist

Patrick Hendry

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**Show the world you have the
skills & experience to set you
apart.**



Become a MHA National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS) Today!



Conceived, Designed and Implemented by Peers

- Mental Health America's advanced level National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS) Certification was designed to recognize peer support workers with advanced knowledge and experience working in the public and private sectors.
- Having a national certification assures employers that they are hiring individuals with a uniform high standard of experience and knowledge.

The Credential



- This certification is specifically designed to qualify peers to provide peer support specialist services as an effective adjunct to the individual's physical and behavioral healthcare team(s)
- It is provided with the express purpose of assisting the individual to achieve recovery and activate self-management of their whole health goals.

The Credential

It is not designed to replace current certifications but to build upon and enhance current programs. This means adding additional competencies to ensure peers are able to meet the demands of a changing workforce and increasing opportunities. The public and private health sector offers a wide array of work opportunities for qualified peer support workers including:

- Working in private practice alongside psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed mental health therapists
- Working in primary care, emergency departments, and inpatient settings
- Working as members of Whole Health Care Teams
- Working in supervision roles

The Credential

- By recognizing the most highly skilled, experienced peer support workers and by promoting an increased knowledge base for peers we seek to create new career paths in the public sector and to open the door to jobs in the private sector.



Maintaining the True Spirit of Peer Support

- Within the peer communities there has been much concern that professionalizing peer support will take away from its true nature. We believe that increasing our knowledge base and skillsets only works to improve the quality of the work we do.
- True to the spirit of peer support, the credential does not support peers as clinicians. It emphasizes and expects that all duties reflect the principles, guidelines, and core values of peer support. In a peer support relationship the person receiving support and the person providing support are equals.

Peer Support is Coming into its Own

There are close to 30,000 certified peer specialists in the United States.

Recently on a single national job search website there were over 700 peer support positions listed.

As more and more peers find work in peer support they are beginning to think of ways to build career paths with the possibility for advancement.



The Expanding Role of Peer Support

As these organizations grow and refine the scope of their services it becomes necessary to grow the infrastructure to support them.

Not only would this include administrative infrastructure but also full programmatic management including:

- Departmental management
- New program development
- Project managers
- Supervisors
- Multiple levels of peer support workers
- Training

The Expanding Role of Peer Support

As individuals expand their career skills they open up new possibilities for advancement in management.

- Contract management
- Development & fundraising
- Human resources
- Communications and media
- Financial services
- Agency management



It is Time to Recognize the Value of Opportunities for Career Advancement

As we expand our knowledge and skills, we expand our potential for advancement, and we expand our value to the behavioral health system of care.

For too many years we have lost many of our best peer supporters because of lack of opportunity for advancement and livable wages.

The Rapid Growth of Peer Support

The peer support workforce is growing quickly.

- In 2014 there were an estimated 10,000 certified peer specialists in the U.S.
- In 2016 that number was expanded to over 24,000. Peer Specialist Training and Certification Programs: A National Overview
- These numbers do not include states without certification including California where very large numbers of peer supporters are employed.

NCPS: National Recognition of Advanced Abilities and Experience

Mental Health America is working with national and regional healthcare organizations and insurance plans to recognize the NCPS credential as a symbol of the highest certification standards that remain constant across the country.

MHA's National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS)

The examination-based certification requires:

- 3,000 hours documented experience;
- Knowledge across 6 Domains of Practice; and
- State certification with a minimum of 40 hours training OR completion of an MHA approved training.

MHA's National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS)

Becoming an **MHA NCPS** demonstrates that an individual is at the top of their field. It requires a higher level of skills, knowledge and experience than any other certification.

Apply to become a MHA National Certified Peer Specialist today!



Apply For the NCPS Credential Today!

Visit our certification website today and start the process:

www.nationalpeerspecialist.org

Or visit The Center for Peer Support at:

www.centerforpeersupport.org

For up to date information

Contact Us



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Q & A



Connect with the Peer Support Coalition of Florida!

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PSCFL Membership is 100% FREE!
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*Thank you for joining
us today!*



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