

BUILDING BRIDGES AND CONNECTING COMMUNITIES:
Peer Leadership Development through Statewide Networks

Peer Support Coalition of Florida, Inc.
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

May 2020 Update



<u>PROJECT OVERVIEW</u>			
Program Name:	Statewide Consumer Network Program (SCN)		
Funding Source(s):	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)		
Project Name:	Building Bridges and Connecting Communities: <i>Peer Leadership Development through Statewide Networks</i>		
Project Director:	Cheryl Molyneaux		
Project Staff:	Network & Outreach Coordinator		
Project Period:	Sunday, September 30, 2018 – Wednesday, September 29, 2021		
<u>PROJECT PURPOSE</u>			
To measurably increase the levels and quality of peer support across the state of Florida for persons experiencing severe mental illnesses by increasing the capacity for consumer leadership and the creation of consumer operated organizations.			
<u>PROJECT GOALS</u>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the quality of and access to statewide peer support and recovery-oriented, integrated, and coordinated treatment services and supports. 2. Emphasize and build statewide consumer leadership within consumer-operated organizations and in the community. 3. Build capacity and sustainability of statewide consumer networks. 			
<u>PROJECT REGIONS & ASSIGNMENTS</u>			
<p>The project has been strategically aligned with the six (6) regions established by Florida’s Department of Children & Families (DCF) with a focus to support and work with the seven (7) Managing Entity’s (ME), the regional systems of care agencies DCF contracts for behavioral health services. For more information, please refer to Exhibit A – Map of DCF Regions & Managing Entity’s; Exhibit B – Breakout of Regions by County; Exhibit C – Role of the Regional Network and Outreach Coordinator (RNOC), Exhibit D – Role of Collaborating Partners; and Exhibit E- Florida’s Regional Peer Network Contact List.</p>			
Project Regions	Assigned Staff	Email	Phone
Statewide	Cheryl Molyneaux	cheryl@peersupportfl.org	(407) 793-0038
Statewide	Cameron Wood	cameron@peersupportfl.org	(407) 793-1139

Exhibit A – Map of Florida’s Peer Networks Regions

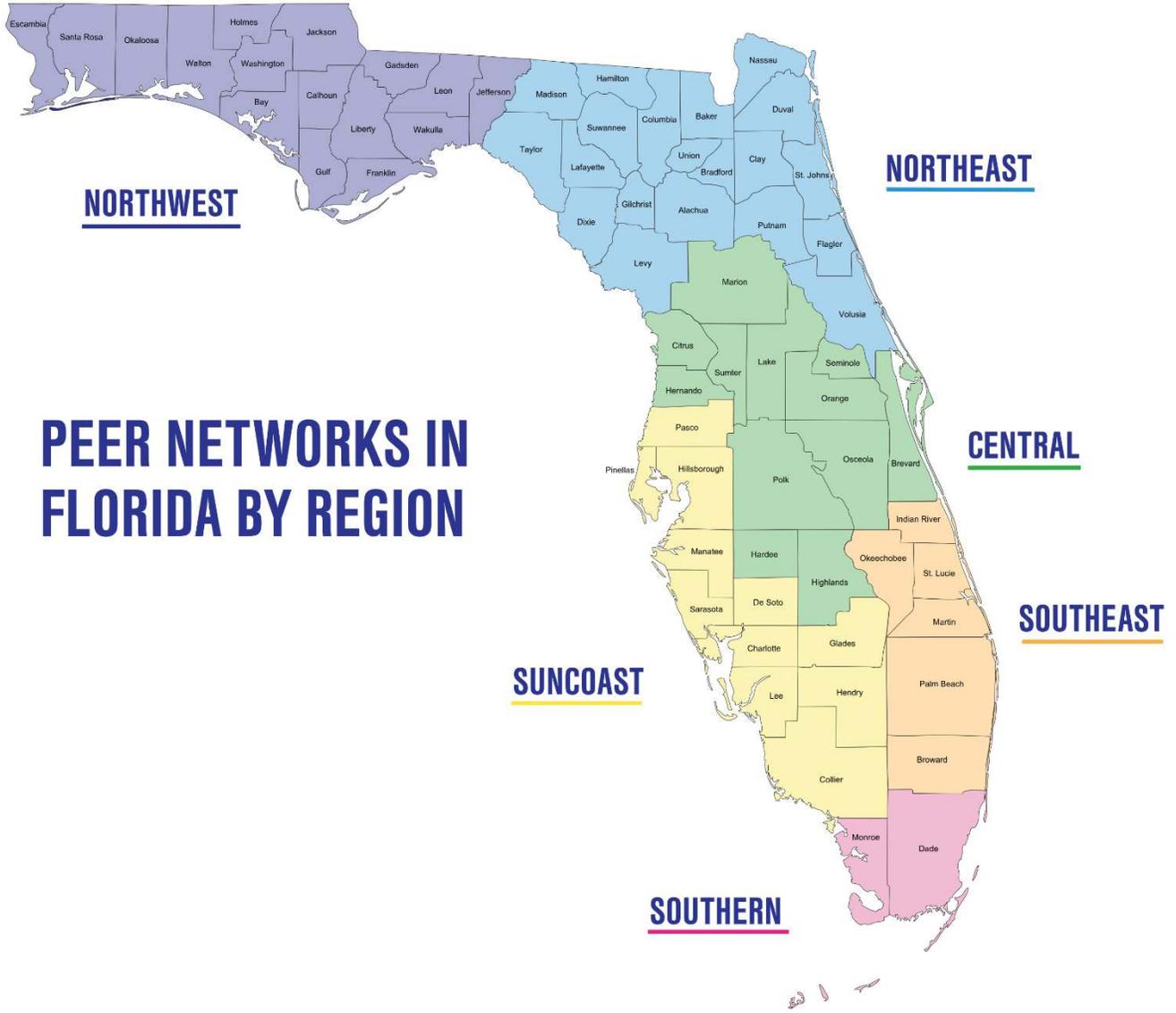


Exhibit B – Breakout of Regions by County and Managing Entity

<i>Region</i>	<i>Counties</i>	<i>Managing Entity</i>
Northwest Regional Network	Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington counties	Big Bend Community Based Care <i>Circuits: 1, 2, 3 & 14</i>
Northeast Regional Network	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lake, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia counties	Lutheran Services Florida <i>Circuits: 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8</i>
Central Regional Network	Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties	Central Florida Cares Health System <i>Circuits: 9 & 18</i>
Suncoast Regional Network	Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Hendry, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota counties	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. <i>Circuits: 6, 10, 12, 13 & 20</i>
Southeast Regional Network	Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties	Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network <i>Circuits: 15 & 19</i>
	Broward county	Broward Behavioral Health Coalition <i>Circuit: 17</i>
Southern Regional Network	Miami-Dade and Monroe counties	South Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. <i>Circuits: 11 & 16</i>

Exhibit C – Role of the PSCFL Network Outreach Staff

Regional Networks

- Establish a working relationship with existing PSCFL regional networks.
- Through research and outreach determine if other networks exist and build a relationship with them to become PSCFL Bridges project networks.
- If no networks exist in your region create the framework to establish a network and assist in securing MOU with PSCFL.

Outreach

- Support peer networks to hold a minimum of 1 focus group/town hall meeting each year.
- Support peer networks to attend a minimum of 1 health fair or similar community events.
- Engage peer networks to submit peer recovery stories to be featured on the PSCFL website.
- Engage peer networks to become familiar with peer related events in their regions and report events that they become aware of.
- Provide information on PSCFL.
- Provide information on the Peer Experience Hotline and capture peer experiences.

Capture Demographic Information

- Manage regional peer networks capturing and submission of membership/demographic information.
- Capture and submit membership/demographic information at all attended events.
- Become familiar with regional demographics especially as related to under-represented populations.
- Recruit network members from under-represented populations.

Collaboration

- Foster collaborative relationships with organizations and agencies that promote the mission of PSCFL in carrying out the grant. For example, other nonprofits, regional DCF agencies, managing entities, provider organizations, etc.

Reporting

- Provide monthly/quarterly reports on regional activities.

Exhibit D – Role of Collaborating Partners

Regional/Local Networks

- Communicate with PSCFL information on existing networks.
- Communicate with PSCFL information on potential networks.
- Share information on Regional/Local Networks and PSCFL.
- Maintain active membership in Regional Networks and PSCFL.

Outreach

- Inform Regional Network members, RNOG, PSCFL of community events happening in your region.
- Provide membership information to peers and CRPS on Regional Networks and PSCFL.
- Pass along information on available toolkits to community partners.
- Submit peer recovery stories to be featured on the PSCFL website.
- Engage peers to report events that they become aware of.
- Provide information on PSCFL's resources.
- Provide information on the Peer Experience Hotline.
- Include PSCFL project information in provider and ROSC interactions and events.

Peer Leadership Academy

- Volunteer for Peer Leadership Academy Advisory Committee.
- Recommend participants for the Academy.
- Share information on trainers, trainings, and training resources in your region.
- Recommend trainings for the Academy and peer development.

Collaboration

- Provide information on, introductions to, and foster collaborative relationships with organizations and agencies that promote the mission of PSCFL in carrying out the grant. For example, other nonprofits, regional DCF agencies, managing entities, provider organizations, etc.
- Inform PSCFL of formal or informal groups interested in providing community resources

Exhibit E – *Florida's Regional Peer Network Contact List*

Florida's Regional/Local Peer Networks

Please see our website for updated information on Peer Networks

<http://peersupportfl.org/what-we-do/peer-networks/>



Florida Peer Networks Primer

Peer Support Coalition of Florida, Inc.
1200 SR 434, Suite 202
Longwood, FL 32750
www.peersupportfl.org

Statewide Peer Support Network:

Peer Support Coalition of Florida, Inc. (PSCFL) is the statewide peer network dedicated to advancing peer support in Florida. If you think of Florida as a bicycle wheel, PSCFL is the hub at the center of the wheel. When you think of Florida however, given the size and variations in the areas that span out from the hub, we need a way to reach the rim areas with the same level of service and support that is available close to the hub. The vehicles we chose to travel from the hub to the rim of our bicycle wheel, are networks both regional and local.

Why are Regional and Local networks important:

- provide leadership opportunities for peers
- provide a sense of belonging for peers
- foster meaningful relationships between peers and within recovery communities
- expose peers to different ways of thinking about recovery
- provide opportunities for finding shared interests with other peers
- give peers a safe place to commune
- give peers the opportunity to belong which may not otherwise exist

Benefits of Regional and Local networks:

Certified Recovery Peer Specialist (CRPS) Networking and Support: Networks promote peer services as a career profession. Networks protect and advocate for the rights of peer professionals and connect peer professionals in their regions to the statewide and national peer network to build a statewide network of resources, support, and advocacy for peer specialists.

Identifying and Developing Future CRPS: Networks promote the growth of peer services by sharing opportunities for peers to become certified. Networks promote recovery and hope through outreach events that provide information about the path to certification and overcoming barriers to certification.

Advocating for Peers: Networks promote recovery for all and advocate for improved awareness, education and support for mental health and addiction issues. Networks advocate for public policies and strategies that support those in need of care through the model of recovery-oriented systems of care. Networks become an important voice within the region for services and supports getting the message out locally and statewide.

Training Opportunities: Networks actively seek opportunities to develop peers by providing access to skill building and educational trainings. Where possible networks promote peer members to use their facilitation skills by offering community workshops, support groups, and other learning activities.

Events: Networks host events that promote wellness and self-care, including nature walks, arts & crafts, and social get togethers.

Community Organization Incubators: Networks by their very nature gain a wealth of knowledge on overlaps and gaps in community services and become experts on their regions. Networks are logical incubators for ideas that fill the gaps in services. Networks have successfully launched peer-led, Recovery Community Organizations from drop-in centers to respites and many supports of various types and structures.

BUILDING BRIDGES AND CONNECTING COMMUNITIES – PEER NETWORKS



Steps to creating a Regional or Local Network:

- 🏡 Connect with individuals within the community to establish a core group of interested partners.
- 🏡 Once you have the core group established determine a launch event/date to present the network to prospective change champions with the community. Think outside the box and invite as many as possible. Collect contact information for network members and volunteers.
- 🏡 From the core group and individuals identified at the kick-off event identify individuals to establish leadership of the network. Typically, positions are similar in structure to board of director's positions. Determine a meeting frequency for the core group. Determine an organization structure for the network anywhere from informal network to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.
- 🏡 Determine a vision, mission, and purpose for the network.
- 🏡 Establish a relationship with Peer Support Coalition of Florida (PSCFL) for technical assistance, support and where available, stipends.
- 🏡 Market the network within the local community and through PSCFL. PSCFL provides a landing page on statewide website with links to the network's website, Facebook page, etc.
- 🏡 Select a few core network activities and establish an execution plan and schedule.
- 🏡 Engage and recruit members and volunteers for your network at events. Capture membership information for PSCFL.
- 🏡 Report to PSCFL on network activities.

Proposed Network Activities:

Networks may engage in any combination of the following activities to the level practicable with available resources and community needs. This is a dynamic list, so please send back other activities that your networks are planning to engage in.

-  Create and maintain a Facebook page and where practical a website. Provide contact information to the local, regional, and statewide peer networks.
-  Set and implement goals to increase membership within local/regional and statewide peer networks.
-  Establish formal network leadership committee(s). Consider formalizing organization structure by incorporating and seeking 501(c)(3) status.
-  CRPS support groups – for certified peers only. This may be informal groups, wellness activities, invited speaker activities, etc.
-  Outreach to potential future peers – attend or host events to reach prospective peer specialists, introducing the field and pathways to becoming certified. This may also include being a resource for guiding peers within the certification process who need help with exemptions.
-  Providing wellness activities and facilitating wellness type groups open to the community. Types of groups are based on network member skills, availability, community needs, etc.
-  Leadership and advocacy – supporting peers to have a voice within their community, organizations, with legislative bodies, on boards, on advisory councils, etc. Support peers in holding “My Story Matters” events (toolkits provided)
-  Host/co-host/facilitate trainings for certification and development such as Helping Others Heal, WRAP, etc.
-  Speakers – be available for speaking engagements at local, regional, and statewide events related to ROSC, recovery, certification, etc.
-  Resource connections – capture information on community resources and share information on PSCFL, regional network, etc.
-  Promote the use of the Peer Experience Hotline through active outreach.
-  Refer peers to attend the leadership academy. Leadership academy activities to be conducted over a year.
-  Submit or refer peer groups to submit ideas for pilot programs and receive feedback and technical assistance from PSCFL.
-  Promote PSCFL as the statewide peer network.