

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Certified Peer Specialist Advisory Committee Employment Sub-Committee			Attending: See narrative below
Date: 1/22/2020	Time Started: 11:00 am	Time Ended: 1:00 pm	
Location: Wisconsin Department of Health Services 1 W. Wilson Street – Room 951 Madison, WI 53703			Presiding Officer: Joyce Allen, Bureau of Prevention Treatment & Recovery Director

Minutes

Members present: Paul Anderson; Caitlin Clifford (IPO Autumn Shaffer); Nicole Gurnoe; Deb Ramacher; Heidi Roettger; Tim Saubers; Corbi Stephens; Michelle Uetz

Members absent: Andrea Bartels; Tammy Bergum; Roger Frings

Staff: Cory Flynn, Joann Stephens

Guests: none

Call to Order: Paul Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Co-Chair selection:

- Deb Ramacher moved to approve Michelle Uetz and Paul Anderson as Co-Chairs.
- Heidi Roettger seconded the motion.
- Motion carried unanimously, motion approved.

Welcome and introductions

Announcements:

- Caitlin Clifford stated she will be attending in the place of Autumn Shaffer for 3 months.
- Joann Stephens announced 16th Annual Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference is in October and is currently seeking proposals. The due date is February 22, 2020. More information can be found on the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point website.
- Tim Saubers announced that the 2020 Wisconsin Peer Recovery Conference in August is currently seeking proposals. The due date is February 20, 2020.
- Tim Saubers announced that Whole Health Clinical Group is hiring five certified peer specialists.

Public comment: No public comment

Review and approval of minutes: There are no minutes as this is the first meeting.

Review action items from last meeting: There are no action items.

Review employer toolkit on CPS website: wicps.org:

- Tim Saubers summarized changes and updates made to the employer toolkit that is now posted on the CPS website, wicps.org.
- The document is now called the CPS Employer Guide.

- There are two guides. One guide is for employers of certified peer specialists and the other is for employers of certified parent peer specialists,
- Feedback was gathered from stakeholders and trainers.
- The guide is a living document and will be updated as needed.
- Tim is meeting with human resources teams around the state to inquire about what supervision is given to certified peer specialists.
- Language in the guide was updated and clarified. Language is now strengths-based and person-centered.
- The focus of the guide is that certified peer specialists are valuable professional assets and should be treated the same as any other employee (same benefits, vacation time, and so on).
- The person's recovery shouldn't have any bearing on their employment. There can't be discrimination.
- Onboarding a CPS is a larger agency culture shift. The relationship between the supervisor and CPS should be supportive and not punitive.
- The role of the CPS is expanded and clarified in the new guide.
- There is a new section about CPS as change agents.
- The new guide covers different ways employers can engage in systems change.
- Tim Saubers is planning to talk to Scott Caldwell about using implementation science and helping employers onboard CPS.
- The new guide covers what makes CPS unique in Wisconsin compared to other states (integrated training curriculum and so on).
- There is a new chart that compares informal peer support, CPS support, and clinical roles.
- There is an added "Common Myths and Misconceptions" section.
- The living wages and benefits section will be clarified after more information is gathered.
- In the section about supervising a CPS, a potential meeting format is provided.
- Other updated sections include the history section and the interview and best practices in hiring section.

Review employment data on CPS website: wicps.org

- The largest barrier to employment is that there are no jobs in the area where the CPS lives.
- Educating county providers of Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), Community Support Programs, and Community Recovery Services statewide needs to be done.
- Funding structures need clarification to encourage hiring CPS.
- Michelle Uetz will be speaking at the CCS conference.
- Tim Saubers stated that the employment survey didn't have a good response rate.
- The next step is to add employment questions to the CPS recertification application to gather data.

Certified parent peer specialist (CPPS) employer toolkit update and input

- There is a separate guide for employers of CPPS.
- Similar changes were made to this guide as noted above regarding the guide for employers of CPS.

Identify current employment agencies in areas around Wisconsin and potential employment agencies/opportunities

- Paul Anderson stated medication assisted treatment services in Kenosha include Clean Slate, West Grove Clinic, and Professional Services Group.
- Caitlin Clifford stated in Dane County there are CCS providers as well as Solstice House, the Wellness Studio, and Tellurian.
- Tim Saubers mentioned Urban Ministries and the Department of Corrections has a program and they need a CPS by June.
- Dry Hootch is in Madison for veterans.
- Parachute House is contracted with Milwaukee County.
- Milkweed Connections & Wisconsin Milkweed Alliance (WIMA) is in Menomonie.
- Joann Stephens mentioned the Fox Valley peer group.

- Family Ties is statewide and parent-run.
- Peer recovery centers: The Friendship Connection in Adams; Cornucopia in Madison; Genesis 1990 in Ashland; Horizons of Jefferson County; Recovery Avenue in La Crosse; NAMI Welcome Center of Washington County; The Gathering Place in Green Bay; and the Wellness Shack in Eau Claire.
- Peer run respites include: Iris Place in Appleton; Solstice House in Madison; Monarch House in Menomonie; and the R&R House opening soon in Pewaukee.

Proposed agenda items for next Certified Peer Specialist Advisory Committee Employment Sub-Committee meeting

- Discuss the idea of changing the name CPS to certified peer support specialist (CPSS).
- Discuss how to hear from CPS working in the field and employers.
- Discuss reasons why some CPS are not recertifying.
- Review Access to Independence pamphlets called “What is a CPS?” and “What is a CPPS?”

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m. by Heidi Roettger, seconded by Tim Saubers. All approved.

Prepared by: Cory Flynn on 1/23/2020.

Approval by the governmental body on: 5/8/2020