

Peer Support

Making Community Connections



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What is a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS)?

- A **Certified Peer Specialist** also known as a **Certified Peer Support Specialist** is a person with significant life-altering experience. This is also referred to as lived experience. These **specialists support** individuals with struggles pertaining to mental health, psychological trauma or substance use.



Job Description

- Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) will provide behavioral health services that foster supportive peer relationships.
- CPS should demonstrate a personal belief in recovery and will utilize his or her own experience to install a sense of hope and optimism for persons in recovery.
- CPS should foster a personal belief in recovery and will demonstrate ability to engage and serve clients and contribute to their overall success in the recovery process.



Job Description Continued...

- CPS will complete detailed and accurate case notes and other reports.
- CPS will conduct peer support groups to assist persons enrolled in services.
- CPS will offer support to individuals in recovery seeking employment, education, volunteer opportunities, or other personal goals.
- CPS will be actively involved in community outreach programs (i.e. wellness checks, working with the homeless, etc.)



Job Description Continued...

- CPS will aid in transport of individuals to AA meetings, groups, probation, and other circumstances related to their recovery.
- CPS will attend meetings, trainings, and other official matters required.
- CPS will safeguard confidential information.
- CPS will comply with company and State policies



Job Description Continued...

- CPS will comply with applicable local, state, and federal licensing.
- CPS will project a positive image for their program and the community.
- CPS will work cooperatively with program participants, staff, and volunteers
- CPS will be able to work independently and as a member of a team.
- CPS will be able to work evenings and weekends



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Qualifications needed to be a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS):



- Complete Required training.
- Self identify as a current or former user of mental health or co-occurring services and able to relate to others who are using these services.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the recovery model.
- Possess a high school diploma or GED.
- Commitment to recovery, choice, empowerment, and the ability of people with mental illness and/or substance disorders to find meaningful lives in the community.

Qualifications Continued...

- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to establish a trusting relationship with peers.
- Good writing and organizational skills with an eye for detail.
- Ability to network within the community and work with diverse populations.
- Valid Drivers License.



The Following Services are Considered Billable:

Billing for CPS services is provided by the following HCPCS Codes -

- **H0038 - Self-Help/Peer Services:** Self-help/peer services provided to an individual person for a short period of time (up to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours).
*Billing Unit: 15 minutes
- **H0038 HQ - Self-Help/Peer Services - Group:** Self-help/peer services provided to a group of individuals and/or their families.
- **H0038 GT- Self-Help/Peer Services (Peer Support) - Telephonic**
*Billing Unit: 15 minutes
- **H2016 - Comprehensive Community Support Services (Peer Support):** Self-help/peer services provided to a person for a period of time, 3 or more hours in duration.
*Billing Unit: Per Diem



References



- Wikipedia Definitions
- Colorado River Indian Tribes Certified Peer Specialist job description.
- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) <https://www.azahcccs.gov>