

PEER COUNSELOR FACT SHEET

To be Medicaid reimbursable, Peer Support must be delivered by a Peer Counselor who is certified by the Mental Health Division.

Peer Counselors help consumers identify goals that promote recovery and resiliency and assist them in identifying services and activities to help them reach these goals. Peer Counselors share their own experiences in recovery to encourage consumers to regain hope in, and control over their own lives. They promote personal responsibility for recovery and assist consumers in learning to advocate for themselves. Peer Counselors work with consumers in groups or individually. Peer counselors are well grounded in their own recovery and model competency in ongoing coping skills.

To be certified as a Peer Counselor a person must meet these criteria:

-] self-identify as a consumer who is receiving or has received mental health services,
-] demonstrate that they have been well grounded in their own recovery for at least one year at the time of application;
-] receive specialized training provided by the Mental Health Division;
-] pass a test with both written and oral components;
-] register with the Department of Health as a Registered Counselor;
-] pass a Washington State criminal background check;

DSHS Mental Health Division **Peer Counseling Training** **2006**

The Mental Health Division is now accepting applications to attend Peer Counseling Training for 2006. You must be a consumer to qualify for this training and receive certification. Applicants should desire to seek employment in the public Mental Health System as a certified Peer Counselor after completion of the program.

The classes fill up quickly, be sure to submit your application as soon as possible.

Dates of Training

February 27 - March 3, 2006
May 22 - 26, 2006
August (Dates to be announced)

Individual applying must be in mental health recovery for a period of one year. A signed and dated application and application questions should be submitted to:

Bonnie Staples
DSHS Mental health Division
PO Box 45320
Olympia, Washington 98530-5320

Application accepted for training are prioritized in the following order:

- Individuals currently employed in the mental health field
 - Individuals currently volunteering in the mental health field
- All other applicants based on date of application submittal.

Following successful completion of the training and examination individuals will be required to register with the Department of Health as a Registered Counselor before Peer Counseling Certification is issued by the Mental Health Division.

Please Contact **Bonnie Staples at 1-888-713-6010 or 360-902-0794** for an application or further information. An application can also be found at www1.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth