OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Certified Peer Specialist Advisory Committee			Attending: Members: Amy Polsin, Amy Yonker, April Luderus, Catherine Oreto, Chrystal Kuzel, David Stanley, Deanna Cobun, Emma Duchrow, Jesse Jonesberg, Mary Cerretti, Michelle Fox, Oleka Parker, Shelley DeSmith, Tanya Kraege, Tiffany Koch, Terry Crawford, Todd Campbell State and Contract Staff: Kenya Bright, Marguerit Galindo, Ann Kelley-Kuehmichel, Joanette Robertson, Julie Nalepinski, Leanne Delsart, Lynn Maday, Acienda Yang, Gaochi Vang, Kaeden Watford, Jessie Andrews
Date: 3/13/2026	Time Started: 12:33 pm	Time Ended: 2:58 pm	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Deanna Cobun

Minutes

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Deanna Cobun at 12:33pm.

2. Zoom Logistics - Deanna Cobun, Co-chair of CPSAC reviewed Zoom Logistics

- Voting will be conducted using the "Raise Hand" function.
- Members should remain muted unless speaking and raise their hand to contribute.
- Speakers should state their name before speaking.
- Closed captions are available.
- Public guests may not vote or participate in discussion verbally or via chat but may share comments during the Public Comment section.

3. Welcome and Introductions

- Members and DHS staff introduced themselves.
- Public guests introduced themselves in the chat.

4. Announcements - No announcements.

5. Approval of March 13, 2026 minutes

- Motion to approve: Todd Campbell
- Second: Oleka Parker
- Vote: Unanimous approval

6. Peer Values – Tanya Kraege, co-chair of CPSAC shared reflections on the importance of empathy and listening as foundational values of peer support.
Key points included:

- Empathy and listening help build trust, connection, and healing.
- Many individuals accessing peer services have experienced stigma, trauma, judgment, or systems where they felt unheard.
- Genuine listening communicates that a person's experiences matter.
- Peer support is rooted in mutuality and shared humanity rather than fixing or directing others.
- Empathic listening creates space for individuals to share their stories in their own words and at their own pace.

- Feeling heard and validated can reduce shame, isolation, and stigma while restoring dignity and belonging.
- Practicing empathy strengthens peer providers through humility, curiosity, compassion, and connection.
- Empathy and listening embody the heart of peer support by honoring each person's unique recovery journey and reminding them they are not alone.

7. Break

8. Public comment – No public comments were made.

9. Peer Voice - Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 Implementation and Impact

The Peer Voice discussion focused on members' experiences, perceptions, and questions related to the implementation of Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 and Peer Recovery Support Services.

Initial Reactions to Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72
Members expressed appreciation for the opportunities Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 creates while acknowledging ongoing uncertainty as implementation continues.
Discussion included:

- Excitement about increased recognition of peer support services and opportunities for Medicaid reimbursement.
- Appreciation for DHS listening sessions and stakeholder engagement.
- Recognition that implementation remains an evolving process with many details still being clarified.
- Hope that Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 will strengthen sustainability for peer-run organizations and the peer workforce.

Concerns About Reimbursement Rates
Members discussed concerns regarding reimbursement rates and workforce sustainability.
Key points included:

- Concerns that reimbursement rates may not adequately support peer-run organizations.
- Comparisons were made to Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) reimbursement structures.
- Concerns that lower reimbursement rates could negatively impact wages and workforce retention.
- Discussion regarding cost-of-living differences across regions.

Clarification from DHS
Joanette Robertson provided clarification that:

- Peer Recovery Support Services reimbursement rates had not yet been released and would be available when the Medicaid benefit launches on April 1, 2026.
- DHS has been advised that rates are intended to be comparable to CCS base rates.
- Counties may negotiate rates differently within CCS, creating variability across programs.
- DHS recognizes ongoing concerns regarding peer workforce compensation and values continued advocacy efforts.

Workforce Development and Career Advancement
Members highlighted positive aspects of Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72, including:

- Recognition of lived experience as expertise.
- Expanded career pathways within the peer workforce.
- Opportunities for peer professionals to advance into supervisory roles.
- Increased workforce sustainability without requiring additional academic degrees.

Background Checks and Rehabilitation Reviews
Members discussed concerns regarding:

- Background check requirements
- Lengthy and costly rehabilitation review processes
- Potential barriers for individuals with justice involvement who possess valuable lived experience
- The need to balance public safety requirements with recovery-oriented workforce development

Members emphasized the importance of reducing barriers for qualified peer professionals while maintaining program integrity.

Lived Experience and Peer Identity
Discussion explored how Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 recognizes lived experience, including:

- Personal lived experience.
- Family lived experience.
- The value of diverse recovery experiences.

Members discussed the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between certified peer specialists and other recovery support roles while ensuring peer support remains grounded in lived experience.

Stigma and Recovery
Members reflected on the ongoing impact of stigma related to:

- Mental health challenges.
- Substance use experiences.
- Justice involvement.

Several members shared personal experiences regarding self-stigma and barriers that continue to affect individuals in recovery.

Future Education Opportunities
Members expressed interest in:

- Additional education regarding Medicaid reimbursement.
- Further clarification on Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 implementation.
- Ongoing opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback.

Resources Shared
DHS staff reminded members that:

- The Peer Recovery Support Services rate had not yet been released.
- Questions regarding Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 can be submitted to: dhsdctsdhs72@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- DHS webinars and educational materials remain available to support implementation efforts at Peer Services | Wisconsin Department of Health Services

10. Subcommittee Reports

- **Employment Subcommittee –** Amy Yonker, co-chair reported:
  - She has transitioned into the Co-Chair role and is seeking an additional co-chair as she enters her third year of service.
  - Appreciation was expressed to Tiffany Koch for her leadership and service.

  - Shayla Olson joined the subcommittee.
  - The primary focus continues to be development of the Peer Professionals Employer Toolkit.
  - Members reviewed implementation science concepts incorporated into the toolkit, including exploration, preparation, and action phases.
  - The toolkit is intended to support agencies in developing and expanding peer support services.
  - Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 72 implementation continues to be a discussion topic.
- **Governance Subcommittee –** Tanya Kraege, co-chair reported:
  - BPTR leadership provided feedback on proposed bylaw revisions.
  - The subcommittee will continue reviewing and revising the bylaws.
  - A meeting with BPTR leadership is planned for May.
  - Revised bylaws are expected to be distributed before the June 2026 CPSAC meeting.
  - The committee anticipates presenting the bylaws for approval at the June meeting.
- **Membership Subcommittee –** Oleka Parker, co-chair reported:
  - Tiffany Koch and Shelley DeSmith completed two years of service.
  - Two resignations resulted in five current vacancies.
  - Two new organizational representatives joined CPSAC:
    - Mary Cerretti – Disability Rights Wisconsin
    - Emma Duchrow – Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers
  - A CPSAC informational one-pager is pending Communications approval for use at conferences and outreach events.
- **Professional Development Subcommittee –** Todd Campbell, co-chair reported:
  - The subcommittee continues exploring certification extension options for exceptional circumstances.
  - Wisconsin Peer Specialist Employment Initiative (WIPSEI) has been invited to provide information on current certification processes.
  - Members are also exploring options related to agency and county contract challenges affecting peer professionals.

11. CPSAC training workgroup updates –

- Peer centered Supervision Training Workgroup: Marguerit Galindo reported:
  - Four meetings have been held.
  - The group is adapting the Seven Fundamentals of Effective Supervision framework for peer supervision.
  - Training content will align with the Employer Toolkit.
  - Plans include seven self-paced training modules, one for each supervision fundamental.
  - Training materials will include narrated presentations and role-play scenarios based on researched case studies.
  - Workgroups are currently developing outlines, case studies, scripts, and role-play content.

- CPSAC/Recovery Implementation Task Force (RITF) cross collaboration - Non-Peer Workforce Training Workgroup: Marguerit Galindo reported:

  - CPSAC and RITF members have met independently to discuss collaboration.
  - Representatives have been identified for joint planning efforts.
  - Initial discussions focused on:
    - Training topics.

    - Training formats
    - Meeting structure
    - Project timelines
  - The first cross-collaborative meeting was scheduled for the following week.
  - DHS staff will initially facilitate the process before transitioning leadership to the workgroup.

12. DCTS updates – Kenya Bright, Integrative Services Section Supervisor provided updates regarding WIPSEI.

WIPSEI Transition
Effective October 1, 2026:
Administration of WIPSEI will transition from Access to Independence (ATI) to the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Center for Inclusive Transition, Education, and Employment (CITEE).

DHS noted:
- ATI has been a valued partner for 16 years.
- The transition is intended to increase capacity and support continued growth of the peer workforce.
- The decision was based on capacity needs rather than concerns with ATI performance.

Current Operations
DHS confirmed:
- No immediate changes to training, exams, study sessions, or Communities of Practice.
- ATI will continue operating these activities through September 30, 2026.
- The peer-led training model will continue.
- Current trainers remain in place while transition planning continues.

Questions and Discussion
Members asked questions regarding:
- Future Train-the-Trainer opportunities.
- Trainer retention.
- Private trainings.
- Peer involvement within CITEE.
- Long-term workforce oversight and credentialing structures.

DHS indicated:
- Many transition details are still being developed.
- CITEE is committed to involving peers in the initiative.
- CPSAC and RITF involvement will remain important.
- Future updates will be provided as planning continues.

Resources shared:
- WIPSEI training information: https://www.wicps.org/events/
- DHS Wisconsin Peer Specialist webpage: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/peer-services/peer-specialists.htm

13. Certified Parent Peer Specialist (CPPS) updates – Lynn Maday, Peer Coordinator provided updates CPPS initiative.

CPPS Pilot Project

- The pilot project review process is underway.
- Feedback from contributors is being incorporated.
- DHS is considering a future presentation to summarize major revisions.

Family Support Resources
With the closure of Wisconsin Family Ties, efforts are underway to identify resources and supports for families previously served.

Tribal-Specific Trainings
- Two in-person tribal-specific trainings are scheduled for July and August.
- Trainings are open to members of all Tribal nations.
- Training content is tailored to community-identified needs.
- Additional outreach efforts are being explored in conjunction with tribal powwow events.

Additional training information is available at: https://www.wicps.org/events/list/

14. ATI/WIPSEI updates - Gaochi Vang, Program Manager of WIPSEI provided second-quarter updates.

Workforce Numbers
Current totals:
- 1,453 Certified Peer Specialists (CPS)
- 93 Certified Parent Peer Specialists (CPPS)

Trainings
Completed:
- Four community-funded CPS trainings
- One DHS-funded CPS training
- One DHS-funded CPPS training

Scheduled:
- Eight community-funded CPS trainings
- 14 DHS-funded CPS trainings
- Three DHS-funded CPPS trainings

Exam Results
CPS Exam (January 2026)
- 63 participants
- 47 passed
- 75% pass rate

CPPS Exam (February 2026)
- 28 participants
- 26 passed
- 93% pass rate

Recertification
- 21 CPPS professionals recertified this year.
- Approximately 685 CPS professionals are due for recertification in September 2026.

- The annual CPS recertification deadline has changed from August 30 to September 30.

15. Agenda items for next meeting -

- Medicaid presentation regarding Peer Recovery Support Services reimbursement rates
- CPPS pilot project review process presentation
- Peer Respite Coalition update
- Hope Haven update
- CPSAC Bylaw approval
- CITEE introduction and presentation

16. Adjourn:

- Motion: Amy Polsin
- Second: Tanya Kraege
- Outcome: Motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Prepared by: Marguerit Galindo on 5/18/2026.

They have been presented and approved by the governmental body on: 6/12/2026