

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Certified Peer Specialist Advisory Committee			Attending: Members: Kara Gaspervich, Charline Hart Sheehan, Shelley DeSmith, David Stanley, DeAnna Cobun, Catherine Oreto, Tiffany Koch, Tanya Kraege, April Luderus, Terry Crawford, Oleka Parker, Morgan Potter, Lynette Zarcone, Amy Yonker, Otis Winstead, Alysia Mullins, Ellie Jarvie, Todd Campbell, Kimberlee Coronado, Christine Ullstrup, Sara Eckland and Christopher Zahn State and Contract Staff: Kenya Bright, Marguerit Galindo, Kaeden Watford, Amy Cottingham, Jason Cram, Joannette Robertson Julie Nailpinski, Lynn Maday-Bigboy, Katie Sparks, Leanne Delsart, and Ann Kelley-Kuehmichel
Date: 3/14/2025	Time Started: 12:35 pm	Time Ended: 3:21pm	
Location: Join the meeting now			Presiding Officer: Tanya Kraege
Minutes			

Call to Order: Tanya Kraege, CPSAC co-chair, called the meeting to order at 12:35pm.

Teams Logistics: Marguerit Galindo, CPSAC lead staff goes over the Teams logistics,

- when members are voting they use the Raise Hand function to vote yay and to vote no or abstain do not raise their hand at all
- Please remain muted while in the meeting and raise your electronic hand when you want to contribute to the meeting
- When speaking, please state your name so everyone knows who is speaking
- Closed captions are available for those who are interested in utilizing them
- Public guests are not allowed to vote or contribute neither verbally or in chat to the meeting discussion but will be provided 3 minutes during Public Comment portion of the meeting to share their concerns, thoughts, insights and/or ideas with the committee.

Welcome and Introductions: Members and DHS Staff introduced themselves and public guests were asked to introduce themselves in the chat.

Announcements:

- [Wisconsin Peer Recovery Conference](#) : April 15-17, 2025, at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. Registration is open.
- [Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals 2025 Statewide Conference](#): April 23-25, 2025, at the Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Registration is open. Lodging block closes on March 21, 2025.
- [NAMI Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) Friday, April 25 & Saturday, April 26, 2025 Madison Marriott West- registration closes April 1, 2025
- [Drug Take Back Day](#) is April 26, 2025 – to participate, just stop by a collection site and drop off your unused or expired medications into a bin. Click the link to locate your nearest collection site.
- [Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit](#) is May 6-8, 2025 at the Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI – Registration deadline is May 6, 2025 at noon.
- [Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Annual Conference](#): over Zoom Wednesday, May 14 - 16 (8am to 1:15pm). A preconference in person gathering will take place on Tuesday, May 13 (9am-3pm) in-person in Milwaukee. Registration is open.

- Alysia Mullins CEO of Kant Make Up Inc and peer-support organization has a shared living housing space, long term, and case management services for individuals in need. For more information please contact Alysia Mullins by email kantmakeupinc.com or by phone at 414-712-6717

Review and approval of March 14, 2025 minutes: Charline Hart Sheehan motioned to approve the minutes. Christopher Zahn seconded the motion. Minutes were approved on unanimously.

Peer Values: David Stanley shared on the peer value of self-determination.

- Self-determination is one of the core peer values. It is the right to make one's own decisions and have freedom from coercion or having someone else making decisions for them. Peer specialists support the facilitation and creation of an environment where people can feel free to tap into their inner motivation. Peer support specialists don't fix or save, we create space for one to tap into resilience and their inner wisdom.
- David shared an example of self-determination in action which included the peer participant an opportunity to participate in decision making concerning his recovery without the peer specialist enforcing rules. Self-determination is asking, "what steps or actions do you want or are you able to do right now? Are you truly ready for this change?"

Peer Presentation: Katie Sparks, Crisis Services Peer Coordinator, DHS presents the 2023 DHS Peer Crisis Work Survey Results and Insights. The survey was released in October of 2023. Please see the attached PowerPoint presentation and the full report can be accessed here: [Peers in Crisis Services: Results of a 2023 State Survey](#).

Break for 10 minutes

Peer Voice – Peer Survey Questions: Tanya Kraege facilitates a conversation surrounding the following questions:

- What, if any, do you think were the most valuable pieces of the survey?
 - People did not think they had the money for certification.
 - The living wage reflects the value of peer services.
 - All of it is valuable, it can be used publicly for educational and funding purposes.
 - Trainings to promote the understanding of the values of peer support for multidisciplinary teams.
- What changes would you suggest to future surveys, if any?
 - For those interested in working with involuntary hospitalizations, ask what is the motivation to work in involuntary hospitalizations – as a peer, it could be a moral injury and not necessarily align with peer values. Yet, a lot of the "other" responses in the survey were peers who wanted to work in that environment to provide the peer perspective or advocate for less intensive treatment options. Understanding the why would help create more clarity for peer responsibilities in crisis services.
 - What do peers need most from their employers is more continuing education and asking more specifically regarding what kind of continuing education or topics are peers seeking to be successful in providing services?
 - It may be helpful to disseminate the survey during recertification time to capture more peers to complete the survey.

- Produce an employer-based survey – ask questions like what do the benefits look like? For example, do they offer PTO, medical benefits and what pay do they provide? Is there funding allocated to pay for the certification/recertification or professional development of a peer specialist? Or how do they advance peer specialists within their organization?
- Take those with technology barriers into consideration when disseminating a future survey to get a good subset of our diverse experiences.
- What audiences do you think could benefit from current and future development and results?
 - Funders, healthcare providers and team members of peer providers so they can understand how to value peer specialists and county supervisors.
- Was there any language you would consider changing and why?
 - This survey speaks volumes to how DHS values how the peer support work is done, how to retain the workforce, the challenges the workforce is experiencing, and receiving feedback.

Public comment (limited to three minutes per person):

- Brian Kozala – introduced himself - He works with Rock County in the CCS Department and wants to get more involved with statewide peer work.
- Frank Zufall – a reporter for the Wisconsin Examiner wrote [an article](#) focused on peer support in the Department of Corrections and the Department of Community Corrections. He is interested in doing a part 2 and is interested in interviewing peer support specialists to advocate and bring awareness to peer services throughout Wisconsin because there are many people in the community do not know what peer specialists do.

Subcommittee Report Out:

Governance: Ellie Jarvie, co-chair reports, they have made quorum and approved the Membership Subcommittees edits to the By-laws and have moved the By-laws on to DHS for approval.

Membership: Kimberlee Coronado and Oleka Parker, co-chairs report,

- Oleka made a motion to open the membership applications to the public. DeAnna Cobun seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Kimberlee recognized Randall Brown for his service to the CPSAC as the co-chair with a certificate.
- Co-chair elections will be coming up – there will be a self-nomination ballot sent out on May 23-June 6, 2025. The election ballot will be sent out from 10am – 10pm on June 11, 2025. The co-chair will be announced at the next CPSAC meeting on June 13, 2025.
- Kimberlee reminds the committee, attendance is important in order to meet quorum. (Sub)committees cannot conduct business without meeting quorum so attendance is closely monitored.
- They are working on an orientation presentation, letters to address attendance issues and invited anyone that wants to attend their next meeting on the first Monday of every month at 12:30pm.

Professional Development: Todd Campbell, member of the subcommittee reports,

- Reiterates the participation in a subcommittee is very important to getting work done through the CPSAC.
- He invites members to participate in the next meeting to be held on March 19, 2025, at 10am.

- During the next meeting they will be working on solutions for mediating when peers are experiencing ethical issues or when agencies are having challenges with county contracts.

Employment: Tiffany Koch, co-chair reports,

- They met and made a lot of success with working on the Employer's Toolkit through the last meeting and two additional workgroups.
- They have been doing exploration on peer-run organizations and had a presentation by Chrysalis.

DCTS Update: Jason Cram, Deputy Director of BPTR reports,

- Updates: The Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting a webinar series about Governor Evers' 2025-2027 budget.
 - March 17: **Overview of Governor Evers' 2025-2027 Budget** (budget process and health-related items)
 - April 3: **Improving Mental Health and Crisis Services** (availability of behavioral health services)
 - April 8: **Access to Care** (public health healthcare coverage)
 - April 8: **Protecting Public Health** (public health system; and investments)
 - April 23: **Investing in Long-Term Care** (investments for long-term care)
 - [Go here for more information and links to register for each webinar.](#)
 - DHS Governor's proposed budget: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget/index.htm>
- Current Grant funding opportunities: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/solicitations-list.htm>
- Updates on Upcoming Events
 - **March 20-21, 2025:** [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Annual Conference](#) (Onalaska)
 - **April 12, 2025:** [Behavioral Health Initiative Wellness Day](#) (Appleton)
 - **April 15-17, 2025:** [Wisconsin Peer Recovery Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
 - **April 25-26, 2025:** [NAMI Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) (Middleton)
 - **April 26, 2025:** [Drug Take Back Day](#) (Statewide)
 - **May 2, 2025:** [Youth Canvas: Painting the Picture of Mental Wellness](#) (Brookfield)
 - **May 6-8, 2025:** [Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit](#) (Wisconsin Dells/Virtual)
 - **May 8, 2025:** [Northeast Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Summit](#) (Green Bay/Virtual)
 - **May 8-9, 2025:** [Circles of Life Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
 - **May 13-16, 2025:** [Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) (May 13 is in-person in Milwaukee, May 14-16 are virtual half days)
 - **May 20-22, 2025:** [WPHA-WALHDAB Annual Public Health Conference](#) (Milwaukee)
 - **July 16-17, 2025:** [Harm Reduction Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells/Virtual)
 - **August 7-8, 2025:** [HOPE Consortium Conference](#) (Virtual)
 - **August 21-22, 2025:** [Anesis Multicultural Mental Health Conference](#) (Madison)
 - He shares to CPSAC members to get events included in upcoming events page, just email DHS with and they will communicate all the criteria needed to post the event. Please note: the event will be sent out to a large audience so please be aware of this if seeking to advertise a smaller event.
- To sign up GovDelivery updates, click on the this link: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new>

- Federal Budget updates: In order to avoid a federal budget shut down, congress must act to provide more funding either through another short term extension or a bill that lasts through the end of the federal fiscal year in September. The federal fiscal year is October 1 – September 30, 2025. The House passed a full year continuing resolution to finalize the fiscal year 2025 appropriations ([click here for more information](#)). It is now in the Senate, where the outcome is uncertain because it needs a bipartisan support for it to pass – this means 60 Senators. If there is a shut down, the impacts on Wisconsin will depend on how long it lasts. Then, the following ForwardHealth message was shared (To sign up for ForwardHealth updates, [click here](#)):

“The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is closely monitoring all of the activities occurring at the federal level, including the possibility of a government shutdown. Our goal is to keep our partners, providers, and public informed, especially our Medicaid, FoodShare, and WIC members who receive benefits and services.

- *If the United States Congress does not pass a spending bill before midnight on Friday, March 14, there will be a government shutdown. If there is a shutdown:*
- *Members of BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid programs will still have coverage to get the care and services they need.*
- *Members of FoodShare are currently receiving their March benefits on their QUEST cards on the normal schedule. They can use any benefits that are on their card to buy food during a shutdown.*
- *WIC participants can continue to use their benefits and WIC vendors will continue to accept WIC benefits.”*

If there is a government shut down and it affects programs DHS has, we will communicate with our partners accordingly.

Certified Parent Peer Specialist (CPPS) Updates: Lynn Maday, Peer Coordinator for DCTS reports,

- The CPPS pilot is going into the program phase – DCTS is looking for peer reviewers for:
 - Code of Ethics
 - Scope of Practice
 - Core Competencies
 - CPPS Curriculum
 - Training of the Trainers curriculum
 - CPPS Employer’s Toolkit
- FY25 CPPS Trainings
 - 1 DHS-funded Training Completed & 3 DHS-funded Scheduled
 - 1 Privately funded Training Completed & 2 Privately funded Training Scheduled.

Access to Independence Contractor Report: Kaeden Watford, Peer Specialist Workforce Development Coordinator for the Wisconsin Peer Specialist Employment Initiative (WIPSEI) at Access to Independence, provides the WIPSEI Report. Please see the attached WIPSEI Report 3.14.2025

Agenda items for next meeting: an Update on the Peer Recovery Conference by Christopher Zahn, how are changes in federal funding affecting their direct work and they may support each other, continued legislative updates/status would be great. Is there opportunity and/or space to call out training information for CEU’s?

Adjourn: David Stanley motioned to adjourn at 3:21pm. Catherine Oreto seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Prepared by: Marguerit Galindo on 5/15/2025.

They have been presented and approved by the governmental body on: 6/13/2025