



Wisconsin Certified Parent Peer Specialist Scope of Practice

Summary: The primary function of the Wisconsin Certified Parent Peer Specialists is to provide peer support and promote the well-being of the families with whom they work. Certified Parent Peer Specialists also promote family-driven and youth-guided practices that focus on strengths as part of the solution and ensure families and youth participate as partners in all aspects of their care.

Essential Functions

Providing Support

Certified Parent Peer Specialists will:

1. Identify with lived experience in parenting a child with mental health and/or substance use concerns and successfully navigated systems of care for that child.
2. Be mindful of the ethics, boundaries, power, and control issues inherent to the Certified Parent Peer Specialist role.
3. Use active listening skills.
4. Foster a collaborative partnership with the child, family, and service systems.
5. Provide culturally sensitive and age-appropriate services.
6. Establish supportive relationships with families with whom they work.
7. Support families in exploring options that may be beneficial to returning to emotional and physical wellness after a crisis.
8. Strategically share own story, as appropriate, for the benefit of the family served, providing hope and strengthening resiliency.
9. Assist families to understand the purpose of peer support.
10. Encourage and assist families to promote wellness and thrive as a family.
11. Discuss boundaries with the families on an ongoing basis.
12. Work with people in a way that reflects an understanding of trauma and the fact that it can impact all aspects of a person's life.
13. Assist families in identifying their strengths, natural supports, goals, and support community connection.

Communicating with Supervisors and Interacting with Staff

Certified Parent Peer Specialists will:

1. Communicate needs and ask questions, especially about ethics, boundaries, and confidentiality, and know when to mention concerns to supervisors.
2. Be knowledgeable about state language regarding supervision of Certified Peer Specialists.
3. Understand his or her role and fully participate as an integral part of the professional support team.
4. Demonstrate and model that resiliency is possible and that peer support is an evidence-based practice.
5. Accurately, respectfully, and promptly complete all required documentation.
6. Work with families and staff to develop healing and trauma-sensitive relationships.
7. Report all intended, serious harm to self or others immediately to the appropriate person.

Demonstrating Confidentiality

Certified Parent Peer Specialists will:

1. Be familiar with state and federal policies relating to confidentiality.
2. Be knowledgeable of all confidentiality directives at his or her agency.
3. Maintain confidence concerning all verbal and written information, whether obtained from families or otherwise.
4. Be knowledgeable of information that is not to be kept in confidence, including intended, serious harm to self or others, and know how to handle these situations.