

**“The struggle continues,
victory is certain.”**

Roland Lamb, Deputy Commissioner
City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral
Health and Intellectual disAbility Services

VISION

To develop community partnerships promoting pathways to wellness.

MISSION

The mission of the Peer Culture and Community Inclusion Unit is to lead, promote and support system transformation with the guiding principle that people with lived experiences are paramount in affecting change to others in recovery. In order to realize this mission, the Peer Culture and Community Inclusion Unit actively engages, supports and role models the promotion of hope, wellness and empowerment throughout the behavioral health system of Philadelphia and beyond.

GOALS

- Assuring representation of people in recovery and family members at all levels of the system
- Workforce development and occupational wellness of individuals as Certified Peer Specialists and other recovery-oriented positions
- Execute transformation; efforts that will establish a wider and deeper adoption of peer culture, leadership, and support through the system and community.

OUR TEAM

Sean Brinda
Peer Culture & Community Inclusion Manager
215-685-4748 • Sean.Brinda@phila.gov

Jazmin Banks
Family & Community Inclusion Coordinator
215.685.4989 • Jazmin.Banks@phila.gov

Kenny Biggs
Employment Readiness Specialist
215-685-4894 • Kenneth.Biggs@phila.gov


Richard Drain
CPS Training Co-coordinator &
Professional Development Monitor
215-685-4984 • Richard.Drain@phila.gov

Kenya Smith-Johnson
Interdepartmental Program Assistant
215.685.5469 • Kenya.Smith-Johnson@phila.gov

Cathy Washington
CPS Training Coordinator & Curriculum Monitor
215-685-5415 • Cathy.Washington@phila.gov

CONTACT US

1101 Market Street, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-685-5400
DBHIDS.PeerCulture@phila.gov
DBHIDS.org

 @PeerCulture
 DBHIDS.PeerCulture

City of Philadelphia
DBHIDS
DEPARTMENT of BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
and INTELLECTUAL disABILITY SERVICES
888-545-2600



Planning and Innovation Division

PEER CULTURE & COMMUNITY INCLUSION

City of Philadelphia Department of
Behavioral Health and Intellectual
disAbility Services

Certified
Peer Specialist
Training



CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALIST

A Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) is a paid staff person who is willing to self-identify as a person who has 1) received mental health services for a serious mental illness or co-occurring challenges 2) has lived experiences. To be certified, the person must have received specific training in the role, functions and skills of the CPS position.

The purpose of this position is to aid, teach and support others in their recovery process. This relationship between peers is characterized by mutual trust and respect, sharing of experiences, learning about the recovery process, supporting the peer in multiple settings, achieving goals and moving toward a more meaningful life in the community.

“Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life.”

Wade Boggs

Major League Baseball
Hall of Famer



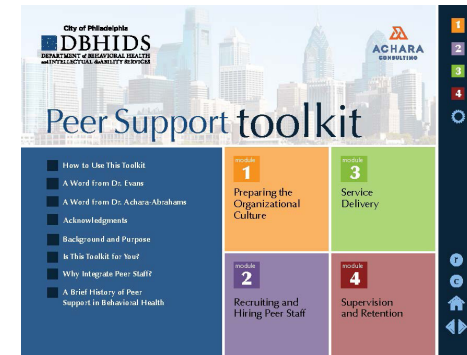
TRAINING & SUPPORT

- **Certified Peer Specialist (CPS)**
Learn to assist people with behavioral health challenges become reaccumulated to the community
- **Story Telling Training**
(Prerequisite for CPS Training) Personal and family member training, offering helpful tools which encourages the sharing of personal and challenging experiences with others
- **Recovery Advocates Initiative**
Provides people with lived experience, employment and confidence while supporting DBHIDS community events
- **First Friday Series**
Monthly networking and resource sharing event
- **Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)**
An evidence-based, structured, self-help training program promoting health and self-awareness. Introduction and facilitator trainings available
- **Peer Culture Technical Assistance**
Provides employment assistance to CPS graduates including resume, cover letter, interviewing skills, and linkage to employers with available CPS positions
- **Certified Peer Specialists Supervisor**
A course to develop supervisors' skills, knowledge and beliefs to ensure the growth and development of Peer Support Specialists as they serve in the peer environment
 - Open to CPS Supervisors in Community Behavioral Health funded programs in Philadelphia County
 - Completed within 6 months of assuming a position as peer specialist supervisor
 - Quarterly meetings are offered to provide support and information to CPS Supervisors

PEER SUPPORT TOOLKIT

An interactive, web-based PDF presenting practices and tools that will help agency leaders bring peer support services to their treatment organizations or increase the effectiveness of their current peer support services.

Visit DBHIDS.org/peer-support-toolkit



CPS QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants wishing to become certified as a CPS must meet the criteria listed below:

- A self-identified current or former user of mental health or co-occurring services who can relate to others who are now using those services
- Within the last three years has 12 months (not necessarily consecutive) full or part time, paid or volunteer work experience; one year of college or other educational experience (within the last three years) can be substituted for the work experience
- High school diploma or GED
- Demonstrated proficiency in reading and writing
- Ability to establish trusting relationships and with their peers
- Commitment to recovery, choice, empowerment, and the ability of people with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders to find meaningful lives in the community