

Peer Specialist Committee of the Recovery Implementation Task Force  
CPS and PPS Coordinators Update March 17, 2017

**Exams**

There were no certification exams January – March 17, 2017

**Certified Peer Specialist Website [www.wicps.org](http://www.wicps.org)**

The total for January and February for unique visits to the website were 4,494. This means visits coming from individual IP addresses. For this 60-day period, visits averaged 74.9 IP addresses each day.

**WI-CPS Bi-weekly Updates**

Email updates are sent to WI-CPS on alternate Mondays (except holidays). These emails contain information on changes to the WI-CPS program and resources on state and national updates on peer specialist services, peer-related events and continuing education.

**Automatic Training Notification E-list**

This distribution list currently has 782 individuals /organizations interested in receiving information about the peer specialist program and peer specialist trainings.

**WI Certified Peer Specialist Employment Initiative Newsletter**

The Spring issue will be posted to the [www.wicps.org](http://www.wicps.org) website at the end of March and will be emailed to over 1,000 individuals and organizations.

**Employer Toolkit**

The draft has been send to selected external reviewers for review and feedback.

Daily coordination of the program continues as well as development, marketing and contact with CPS, individuals, employers and other states interested in the WI-CPS program.

**Peer Specialist Trainings**

The train-the-trainers (TOT) collaborative was held at ACCESS to Independence in Madison, WI March 1-3, 2017

A Listserv is being developed so that trainers can communicate with each other and share resources and documents.

Trainings can now begin and ACCESS will develop contracts for the trainings that will be held statewide. This is a two year pilot program.

# **Parent Peer Specialist**

## **Certified Parent Peer Specialist Definition**

After much discussion and work by many statewide stakeholders, the definition for a Certified Parent Peer Specialist is complete and approved by DHS. (See attached document)

## **Curriculum for CPPS**

A review team has begun work with UW Milwaukee to move forward in development of the new Certified Parent Peer Specialist training curriculum. Work is projects to be finished by the end of June and final product delivered by mid-July 2017.

## **CPPS curriculum trainers**

An application has been developed and approved by the department to be sent out to organizations and individuals to apply to become trainers in the CPPS curriculum. This is going to be a similar process used in the CPS integration project.

## **Employer Toolkit**

The draft has been send to selected external reviewers for review and feedback.

## **New Exam Study Guide**

Work continues at ACCESS, draft complete for CPPS, much like PPS draft except for questions section.

## **Activities of Coordinator**

- Attending meetings with the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health, Parent and Youth Partners, Collective Impact Partners (CIPs)
- Developing relationships with stakeholder groups in State
- Promoting and marketing CPS/PPS programs at all levels
- Providing technical assistance to organizations regarding billing/reimbursement for CPPS.
- Building data base for interested people to receive updates when appropriate, currently 59 individual and organizations on this list.
- Building data base for interested people to receive applications to become trainers for the CPPS curriculum.

Persons interested in updates are able to sign up at [www.wicps.org/parent-peer-specialists.html](http://www.wicps.org/parent-peer-specialists.html) to receive new information about PPS program as it becomes available.

Thank you for the important work you do as part of the Peer Specialist Committee of the RITF.

Alice F. Pauser

WI Peer Specialist Program Coordinator

Bob Fredericks

WI Certified Parent Peer Specialist Coordinator

# Wisconsin Certified Parent Peer Specialists

A Professional Career as an integral part of the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Recovery Process

Certified Parent Peer Specialists (CPPS) combine knowledge gained from parenting children and youth with social, emotional, behavioral, mental health and/or substance use challenges and training to increase their skills to guide and support other parents or those in a parenting role. CPPS can gain this experience in a variety of ways; it goes beyond those who are biological or legal parents. CPPS focus on maximizing parent support and growth by understanding and responding to individual family cultures, strengths, and needs.

While the role of a CPPS will vary from one family to the next, it generally includes empowering those who are parenting by:

- increasing their knowledge and skills,
- modeling behavior for others,
- holding hope for change and growth, and
- assisting in advocacy and teamwork.

Certified parent peer specialists use their experiences to assist other parents with:

- navigating service and support systems,
- encouraging and understanding the youth's voice, and
- providing peer support through the sharing of their own parenting experience.