

Peer Support Team Code of Ethical Conduct

As a member of an agency peer support team I am committed to the highest standards of peer support. I knowingly accept the responsibility associated with being a member of a peer support team.

Peer support team members:

1. engage in peer support within the parameters of their peer support training.
2. specify when they are functioning in their peer support role, and if uncertain whether an interaction is peer support, they inquire to clarify.
3. keep themselves current in all matters of peer support confidentiality.
4. disclose peer support information only with appropriate consent, except in cases where allowed or mandated by law; and if uncertain whether disclosure is appropriate, consult with their clinical supervisor prior to disclosing information.
5. clearly specify the limits of peer support confidentiality prior to engaging in peer support.
6. remain aware of potential role conflicts and are especially vigilant to avoid role conflict if in a supervisory position.
7. make a reasonable effort to attend scheduled team meetings and programs of in-service training.
8. make referrals to other peer support team members, their clinical supervisor, and others when appropriate.
9. are careful providing peer support for persons with whom they have a troubled history. If the history cannot be overcome, they provide appropriate referral.
10. comply with peer support team statutes, policies, and operational guidelines.
11. do not utilize their peer support role for personal gain or advantage.
12. do not engage in inappropriate behaviors with those for whom they are providing peer support.
13. contact their clinical supervisor immediately with any perceived role conflict, ethical issue, or possible conflict of interest arising out of peer support.
14. seek immediate clinical supervision and consultation in any circumstance that reasonably exceeds the assessment and parameters of peer support.
15. reach out to others they know or suspect may benefit from peer support.
16. make reasonable effort to respond to individual requests for peer support and to respond to critical incidents as needed.
17. seek support from other peer support team members, their clinical supervisor, or other support personnel when stressed or otherwise in need of support.
18. are committed to helping other peer support persons to become better skilled. They do this by readily sharing their knowledge and experience when it does not conflict with the standards of peer support confidentiality.
19. endeavor to maintain a positive relationship with their clinical supervisor and other peer support team members, and make an effort to resolve any issues of conflict that may arise in these relationships.
20. understand that they are perceived as role models and that their actions reflect upon the entire team.
21. utilize self-enhancement peer support concepts in their personal lives.