

Certified Peer Specialist Five Day Basic Training Schedule and Registration

Here's a reminder: There are two ways to become certified as a Peer Specialist:

- The qualified person can attend the Certified Peer Specialist Five Day Basic Training sponsored by the Wichita State University Center for Community Support & Research (formerly Self-Help Network). If you are hired as a CPS prior to applying to the CPS Five Day Basic, you will need to complete your training and pass examination within six months of your hire date. The application process and other information are available on this site.

Or

- The qualified person can complete the University of Kansas Consumers as Providers (CAP) training program. For more information about CAP go to <http://www.socwel.ku.edu/projects/SEG/cap.html>. CAP training can take place prior to hiring or within six months of the hire. **CAP graduates are encouraged to attend the CPS Five Day Basic Training** but are not required to do so. CAP will be offering regional "CAP Enrichment" courses for graduates. Go to the website above for more information.

Examination for both the CPS Five Day Basic Training participants and CAP grads is required. Participants from both trainings take the same exam. The paper exam is offered throughout the year at locations around the Kansas. Please check www.trainingteams.org for information on dates and locations.

How do I register for the CPS Five Day Basic Training?

- A paper application is required for all potential participants of the training. The paper application can be printed out from <http://www.trainingteams.org> - CPS Download Application link, or you can call the Center for Community Support & Research at 1-800-445-0116 or email Beth.filson@wichita.edu.

When and where will CPS Basic Training be provided?

- CPS training will be provided in a retreat setting to allow for full day and evening activities including opportunities for peer support and networking with future CPSs statewide.
- Training expectations and locations are listed on the application form.

- Applications can be sent to the Center for Community Support & Research at any time.

Admission Policy for CPS Basic Training:

All applicants must first meet the criteria to be certified in the State of Kansas.

Qualifications include the following:

- Is at least 18 years old, and has a high school diploma or equivalent. Additionally, the provider must be at least three years older than a consumer being served who is under the age of 18.
- Meets certification in the State of Kansas to provide the service, and must pass criminal, abuse/neglect registry and professional background checks, and completion of a state approved standardized basic training program. This is typically part of the Mental Health Center hiring process.
- The applicant must self identify as a current or former primary consumer of mental health services and freely chooses to identify his/herself as a person living with a mental illness.

Some other things to be aware of:

- The maximum number of participants at any training is 25 trainees.
- You must be hired by a Medicaid service provider before qualifying for CPS Basic Training.

How do I apply for the CPS Five Day Basic Training?

All persons interested in attending training must submit their paper application to Wichita State University Center for Community Support & Research

- The paper application can be printed out from <http://www.trainingteams.org> - CPS Download Application link, or you can call Center for Community Support & Research at 1-800-445-0116 or email beth.filson@wichita.edu. If you call, just ask to be mailed the CPS Five Day Basic Training application.

What is expected of the applicants who attend the Five Day Basic Training?

The following are the expectations for training participants:

- Participants must be at least 18 years of age.
- Participants must have a High School diploma or GED.
- Participants are hired to work as a Certified Peer Specialist.
- Participants have a desire to self disclose as persons living with a mental illness in order to demonstrate the reality of recovery from severe and persistent mental illness. Participants who have as their primary diagnosis Substance Abuse **are not eligible** to attend this training.
- All Five Day Basic Training participants will take the certification exam on completion of their training. This is schedule for approximately one month following the training.
- Participants agree to uphold the Kansas CPS Code of Ethics.
- Participants attend the full Five-Day Basic Training and do **not miss more than three hours of the entire training for any reason.**
- Participants are well-grounded in their own recovery and are able to manage their own wellness.
- Participants are willing and able to follow the “Comfort Contract” which is discussed and approved during the first day of training. This contract is established by the class to ensure a comfortable and productive learning experience for all attendees.

Can the job coach/case manager/or attendant care person or other supporters and/or staff accompany the training participant? What about family members?

- Please do not bring agency personnel with you to your training, or other staff or supporters. We cannot provide meals, sleeping rooms and meeting space for **any** non-training persons. Also, a vital yet informal component of the 5 Day

Basic Training is the opportunity for participants to create new networks of support for friendship and professional development. This is a time for all participants to experience – sometimes for the first time in years - self-directed recovery, personal responsibility, choice and independence.

Is it ok for training participants to commute daily to the training?

- The entire training is an opportunity for participants to get to know each other and create new and sustaining networks of support. For this reason, we ask that training participants plan to stay on site and make use of evening activities when scheduled. Be aware that roommates are assigned. If you have a roommate preference, please let us know by contacting beth.filson@wichita.edu.

If you have any questions about these expectations or other items, please contact Beth Filson at cps.training@wichita.edu.