

Before Leaving for the Five Day CPS Basic Training...

Is it ok for the trainee's case manager/ attendant care worker/ job coach/family members or friends to make inquires about support needs and options on behalf of the employee?

The US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services Association (USPRA) recently completed a national webinar on maximizing the effectiveness of consumer providers in the mental health system and the role of supervision and the role of support to these consumer employees. We have learned that these two relationships are distinctly different; each has its own goal in mind. You as supervisor are concerned about your agency meeting state requirements for certification and licensure, as well as maximizing the resources available to meet the needs of the consumers served by your agency. We support you in this endeavor and therefore anticipate that the supervisor and not supporters (case manager, therapist, other) will contact us for any technical/implementation needs you encounter, and preferably with the training participant whom you supervise. We will not address issues about the trainee without the trainee present.

Do you (the training process and examination) acknowledge ADA requirements for accommodations?

Yes, by law, all state and federal agencies are required to provide reasonable accommodations. Keep in mind that the most important requirement for KS consumer employees is their self-identified status as a person living with (past or present) a severe and persistent mental health issue and his or her ability to role model strategies overcoming barriers and moving on with one's life. We expect that all training participants will be able to attend and participate in the 5 day training, not miss more than 3 hours for any reason, and will be able to meet reading comprehension and written communication standards that will not impede their ability to take the pen and paper exam. If the consumer employee does identify a need for reasonable accommodations, you and the person requesting accommodations can give us a call. Because we honor consumer empowerment and know that every human being is the expert of his or her own experience, it is imperative that support needs and questions are addressed with both you and your employee together. We will be happy to arrange a conference call to meet with your both to discuss any needs, concerns or questions. Supporters should not call in place of the supervisor.

Can the job coach/case manager/or attendant care person accompany the training participant and remain during the 5 day basic training? What about family members?

Please do not send agency personnel with the training participant. We cannot provide meals, sleeping rooms and meeting space for any non-training persons. 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. Too, 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 as opposed to staying overnight at the training facility?

The entire training experience is bigger than just the five days of classroom work. While we recognize that it can be uncomfortable to be away from home for an extended amount of time, we hope that the overall training experience 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.

What are the expectations for successful completion of the CPS Basic Training?

The following are the expectations for training participants:

- 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.
- Participants agree to uphold the Kansas CPS Code of Ethics.
- Participants are currently employed by a Medicaid provider .
- Participants have a High School diploma or GED
- Participants attend the full five day basic training and do not miss more than three hours of the entire training for any reason. Missing more than three hours of training requires that training participants attend the next session to make up any time lost *before* taking the certification exam.
- 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.

If you have any questions or are unclear about these expectations please call or email Beth Filson, CPS Peer Educator 316-978-3468 or beth.filson@wichita.edu.

We welcome calls and questions from training participants about any aspect of the training!