



Certified Recovery Peer Specialists

Promoting Hope . . . Demonstrating that Recovery Is Possible

Peer Specialists have walked the path of recovery and assist others in their journeys to recovery. They use their lived experience and skills learned in training to help others achieve and maintain wellness from mental health and/or substance use conditions. They support, mentor, advocate for, help, and empathize with others.

A Certified Recovery Peer Specialist (CRPS):

- Self-identifies as a person who has direct personal experience living in recovery from mental health and/or substance use conditions
- Has a desire to use their experiences to help others with their recovery
- Is willing to publicly identify as a person living in recovery for the purpose of educating, role modeling, and providing hope to others about the reality of recovery
- Has had the proper training and experience to work in a provider role

Why Do We Need Certified Recovery Peer Specialists?

- Florida is experiencing an increase in opioid addictions, many of which prove fatal.
- To provide effective support services because they share common life experiences with the persons they assist.
- To promote a sense of community among those in recovery.
- Research has shown that peer support facilitates recovery and reduces health care costs, by avoiding hospitalizations and acute care crises.
- Sometimes, *only* the certified recovery peer specialist can be effective.

In Florida:

- CRPS is a designation awarded to individuals who demonstrate competency in the field of peer-to-peer recovery support through the Florida Certification Board (FCB)
- Competency is gained through a combination of education and experience; earning a professional credential is a multi-step process.*

*<https://www.peersupportfl.org/who-we-serve/peer-specialists>

Who Hires Certified Recovery Peer Specialists?

- Behavioral Health Providers
- Health Insurance Companies
- Hospitals/hospital Outpatient Behavioral Health Centers
- Child Welfare Centers
- Peer Recovery Coaching Centers
- Community Health Centers
- Behavioral Health Drop-In Centers
- Non-Profit Advocacy Organizations Such as NAMI and Mental Health America
- City and County Governments (for jail diversion programs, for example)

LEGISLATIVE ASKS: Support HB 795 and SB 282.

***Modify Background Checks** for persons otherwise qualified to serve as peer specialists and provide the right to appeal for those who may have a criminal history that prevents them from meeting background screening requirements.

***Establish Certified Recovery Peer Specialists as essential** to the

recovery-oriented system of care. Ensure they are not utilized inappropriately as clinicians.

***Ensure CRPS are paid a Living Wage** with benefits, to expand and support a stable workforce.



FLORIDA MENTAL HEALTH
ADVOCACY COALITION

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