MEDICAID-FUNDED PEER SUPPORT SERVICES AND THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF PEER SPECIALISTS

Georgia’s Foundations in Lived Experience

CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant
Care Management Entities: A Model to Improve Child Behavioral Health Outcomes
A Multi-State Collaborative of Maryland, Georgia, and Wyoming
All States Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia
March 14-15, 2012
The State of Georgia Peer Supports Project

• Acquired Medicaid financial participation in 1999
• Have a workforce of nearly 700 Certified Peer Specialists
• Promote concept of self-directed recovery
• In FY11, agencies provided more than $16M of service.
Consumer Values and Leadership

Foundation of Consumer Values and Leadership

- Advocacy
- Training in governance
- Setting Priorities
- Establishing Relationships with Key Leaders
Medicaid Overview

- funded through combined State and federal dollars (in Georgia, approximately 65% federal, 35% state)
- Medicaid federal sets parameters for programs; states define services, set rates, and implement within these parameters
- 2007 SMDL: #07-011
“Peer support services are an evidence-based mental health model of care which consists of a qualified peer support provider who assists individuals with their recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders. CMS recognizes that the experiences of peer support providers, as consumers of mental health and substance use services, can be an important component in a State’s delivery of effective treatment. CMS is reaffirming its commitment to State flexibility, increased innovation, consumer choice, self-direction, recovery, and consumer protection through approval of these services.”
SMD Requires:

- Supervision by an MHP (Supervision is state defined, MHP is state defined)
- Care Coordination
  - Must be coordinated within a comprehensive, individualized plan of care
  - Engage and empowered participants (person-centered)
- Training and Credentialing
  - As defined by state
  - “certification” required
  - Continuing Education
Training & Certification of Peers

THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF PEERS

- NineDay Training
- Consists of 42 Modules
- Certification only after passing an oral and written exam
Training & Certification of Peers

Candidates for certification training will:

- Identify themselves as former or current consumer of mental health or dual diagnosis services and are well-grounded in their own recovery
- Be well grounded in their own recovery experience with at least one year between diagnosis and application to the training
- Hold a High School diploma or GED (including diploma earned in Special Education)
- Demonstrate basic reading comprehension and written communication
- Have demonstrated experience with leadership, including advocacy and or creation/implementaion of peer-to-peer services
Training & Certification of Peers

Training includes:

• Recovery stages and process,
• Ethics and Boundaries,
• Recovery stories as Recovery Tools,
• Setting and accomplishing Recovery goals,
• Power/conflict in the workplace,
• Facilitating Recovery dialogues,
• Orientation to the Georgia system, and more…
Training & Certification of Peers

And is built upon **5 Fundamental Beliefs about the Way Life is:**

1) Everyone has the ability to learn and grow
2) People’s beliefs determine their behavior
3) People think their way through life
4) Whatever people focus on is what they give power to
5) Life’s experiences are the best teacher
Training & Certification of Peers

Other Key Components

• Code of Ethics
  • Continuing Education
    • Technology Support

• The Peer Support Institute
  • Tutoring
Overcoming Barriers
Overcoming Barriers

Changing Hearts

Changing Heads
Overcoming Barriers

Changing Heads

- Financial Support of Peer Support Services
- Policy, Rules, and Mandates surrounding Peer Support Services
  - Competent Work Force Trained
- Consumers Provided Knowledge leading to Empowerment
Overcoming Barriers

Changing Hearts

"I’m the evidence"
Modeling the Evidence
Inspiring Others’ Evidence
Sharing Recovery Stories
Demonstrated Competency
Recovery Agents

More Difficult
Contact Information

**Bob Patterson**  
Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network  
246 Sycamore Street, Suite 260  
Decatur, Georgia 30030  
Phone: (800) 297-6146

**Wendy White Tiegreen**  
State of Georgia  
Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 23rd Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Phone: 404-463-2468

* Slides based upon a framework by Fricks, Marshall, Tiegreen: 2006