Promoting and Sustaining the “Meaningful” Involvement of Peers in BHTCC Collaboratives

SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Court Collaborative Cross Site Technical Assistance Event
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Suggestions to Guide this Discussion

- Be open and honest about your about questions, challenges and concerns
- Participants are encouraged to offer examples of how they have successfully addressed challenge/issues/concerns raised during presentation or by other attendees
- Consider what types of technical assistance from the GAINS Center may be most helpful to your project in overcoming the challenges that collaborative is experiencing with respect to involving peers in on advisory committees and as dedicated staff
Who is a Peer within the Context of BHTCC?

• Peer/person with lived experience in the following areas:

✓ Personal experience with behavioral health system
✓ Personal experience with the criminal justice system
✓ Other experiences that mirror those of the targeted populations
Language in the RFA Referring to “Peer Involvement”

• Persons in recovery and consumers involved in assessing, planning and implementing program

• By 6th month of the grant- Peer recovery services and support are integrated into the services system
What Constitutes “Meaningful Involvement”

• Peers fully understand the goals of collaboratives
• Partners understand the roles and responsibilities of peers
• Wide range of opportunities for peer involvement
• Peers fully integrated in all grant activities
• Successfully partnering with peer run organizations in your area
• You know it when you see it!
Dimensions of Recovery

- **Health**: overcoming or managing one’s disease(s) as well as living in a physically and emotionally healthy way;
- **Home**: a stable and safe place to live;
- **Purpose**: meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society; and
- **Community**: relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope

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Recovery Principles

• Recovery emerges from hope
• Recovery is person driven
• Recovery occurs through many pathways
• Recovery is holistic
• Recovery is supported through relationships and social networks
• Recovery is culturally based and influenced
• Recovery is supported by addressing trauma

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Examples of Recovery Support Services

• Building Community
• Resource connecting
• Facilitating and leading recovery support groups
• Peer Specialists, mentoring and coaching
Most Frequently Asked Questions By BHJTC Grantees

• What are the express grant requirements and SAMHSA Expectations Regarding the Involvement of Peers/Persons with Lived Experienced in the Grants?
• Who is a Peer/Person with Lived Experienced Within the Context of the Project?
• What Are Specific Roles that Peers have played in previous projects?
• `How do I reach a consensus with other partner’s about role and responsibilities of peers?
• How do I find qualified Peers to fill positions on BHJTCC and as dedicated staff?
• What essential policies and practices should be in place to ensure success of peer leadership in the project?
Consensus Building in BHJ TCC Projects

• It’s important that treatment collaboratives come to a consensus about who will be considered a peer in each of the collaborating courts

• Staff training on recovery, recovery supports and best strategies for integrating and retaining peer staff/volunteers

• Clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of peers should be part of the planning process

• Identification and mitigation of policies and practices that may inhibit the engagement, recruitment and hiring of peer staff

• Implementation of policies and practices that promote and support the inclusion and integration of peers
Historical Roles that Peers Have Played in Treatment Collaboratives

• Peer Specialist
• Recovery Coaches
• Mentors
• Peer Case Managers
Organizational Readiness

- Leadership support for integration of peers and recovery support services
- Organizational assessment
- Staff training (including peers and peer organizations) on recovery support services
- Supervision and mentoring of peer staff
Engaging and Recruiting Peer Staff

- Job description clearly stating skills needed and essential job functions
- Make it clear that lived experience is an asset/requirement for position
- Explore applicability of transferable skills
- Previous training
- Reach out to peer organizations and training programs in your community
- Have program graduates participate in interview process
- Offer competitive compensation packages
- Build in time for orientation process
Confidentiality of Communications Between Peer Staff and Program Participants

• Memorandum of Understanding between treatment providers and criminal justice providers
• Informed consent by program participant
• Staff training

• It’s important to note that issues of confidentiality are not unique to peer staff!