



Snapshot of Potential Workforce Development Opportunities for Program Participants and Graduates

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Questions



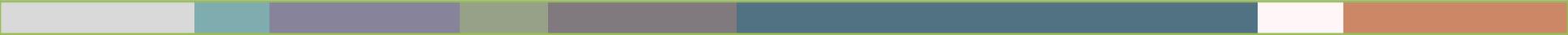
- What if any role should JDTR Projects have in assisting program participants and graduates learn about and pursue employment opportunities as Peer Specialists, Recovery Coaches and Wellness Coaches?
- What if any role should the JDTR Projects have in ensuring that State Certified Peer Specialist Training Programs are open to veterans?

Workforce Development



- Many program participants/graduates may be unemployed/underemployed
- Many program participants/graduates may be interested in pursuing other education or other careers
- Many program participants may be interested in being trained as Peer Specialist, Recovery Coaches, Wellness Coaches or other positions providing services to peers

Peer Specialist



“Peer Specialist” - provide information, support, assistance and advocacy for recipients, and/or caregivers/family members of consumers of mental health services (Allen et al., 2010 (NASMHPD) . “

Recovery Coach

- **“Recovery Coach”** –help individuals gain access to needed resources, services, or supports that will help them achieve recovery from their substance use disorder.
- Help individuals address multiple domains in the their life that have been impacted by their substance use disorder, but are difficult to address within the structure of most addiction treatment programs (i.e., returning to employment or finding stable housing).
- Help individuals transition through the continuum of addiction treatment (i.e., from detox to aftercare).
- Help individuals sustain their recovery after the formal addiction treatment component has been completed through consultation, skills training, and, of course, coaching (Allen et al., 2010 (NASMHPD) .”

Wellness Coach

- **“Wellness Coach”** –a wellness coach is a person trained to help peers establish a link to primary health care and health promotion activities. The wellness coach assist peers in reducing high risk behaviors and health risk factors through a strength based focused on wellness (Allen et al., 2010 (NASMHPD)) .

Overview of Training/Certification Programs

- Currently 30 State Certified Peer Specialist Training Programs
- Currently only one State Certified Recovery Coach Training Program
- Most State Certified Peer Specialist Training Program have either added wellness modules to existing training curricula or developed specialized trainings

Advantages of Taking Advantage of Existing Training Programs

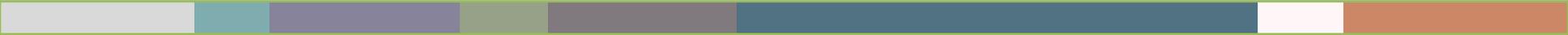
- Most are free
- Delivered in the community
- Assistance with permanent placement
- Job retention support and other services
- Network and community building
- Opportunities to work with veterans in the communities where they live and work

Challenges



- Need to make trainings are culturally competent to make sure that military culture and unique issues experienced by veterans are incorporated into the training
- Limited experience by many training programs providing training and services to veterans
- Limited capacity
- Impact of Healthcare Reform

Environmental Mapping of Training Programs



Connecticut

Certified Peer Specialist Training Program-
Advocacy Unlimited

Recovery Coach Training- Connecticut
Community for Addiction Recovery

Next Steps

- Make workforce development one of the priorities in your work (including referrals for entitlement counseling)
- Learn as much as you can about different job titles
- Identify and support individuals who may be interested these fields of practice
- Identify training programs in your communities
- Reach out to training programs invite them to recruit at your projects (how about an open house for training programs?)
- Seek to influence training curricula and recruitment of veterans
- Partner with training programs