

PEER SUPPORTER CODE OF ETHICS

- Attention to self-recovery is critical to the performance of duties as a Peer Support Specialist(s) (PSS). When changes in recovery occur, the Peer Support Specialist will take personal responsibility to seek support.
- PSS are honest in their interactions; keeping it simple, keeping it real.
- PSS relationships are mutual learning experiences.
- PSS have a responsibility to help individuals find their own voices and to advocate for the principles of human dignity, self-determination, and empowerment.
- PSS honor commitments made to peers.
- In dealing with peers, PSS strive to always explore and ask open ended questions rather than making assumptions. PSS explore alternatives and options with peers rather than giving advice.
- PSS support people to make their own choices, honoring self-determination. The PSS does not put his/her agenda ahead of the peer's agenda.
- PSS negotiate within the relationship with peers in order to facilitate peer choice and shared power.
- PSS avoid power struggles and favoritism.
- PSS will not exploit, devalue, manipulate, abuse, neglect, or ignore a peer.
- PSS and peers will not loan or borrow anything from each other; especially not money.
- PSS will not establish romantic relationships with peers and will refrain from intimate or sexual activity with peers.
- PSS avoid dual relationships; when they are unavoidable, appropriate boundaries are established within the relationship with the support of the supervisor.
- PSS will not violate a peer's confidentiality except when required by law.
- Accepting or giving gifts, if allowed by the agency, must be clearly related to the peer's recovery process.
- PSS do not take peers to their homes; any exception to this must have written agency approval.
- PSS do not hire peers to work for them if they are currently

receiving services from their agency.

- PSS's documentation in the agency record is person-centered and done with the peer whenever possible.
- PSS take responsibility for their own professional development and are proactive about expanding their knowledge and honing their skills with continuing education and training.
- PSS have a responsibility to educate themselves about available community resources and to establish helpful contacts in the community.
- PSS do not make medical diagnoses.