



## Peer Support Services: an Emerging Resource for Health Reform

## Call to action – The evolving role of peer support services in health reform

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- In Mrs. Carter’s recent book she talks about the training and reimbursement of the Peer Support Services workforce and says, “Expanding this program nationwide must be a top priority for all who are concerned about improving the quality of care for people struggling with the most serious mental disorders. It is indeed the future these people deserve.”
- The Affordable Care Act provides a unique set of opportunities for expanding the role of Peer Support Services. For my comments today I would like to build on Mrs. Carter’s call to action and focus briefly on four areas related to the Peer Support Services workforce.
  1. The role of PSS in promoting recovery oriented services;
  2. Advancing PSS in health reform – professional standards and Level of Care Criteria
  3. The SAMHSA Recovery to Practice Initiative, and my involvement in one grantee site example – the American Psychological Association; and,
  4. The Pillars of Peer Support initiatives as a framework for advancing the Peer workforce.

## Promoting recovery-oriented services

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- The role of PSS in promoting recovery oriented services – Peers are able to provide services that are otherwise absent in most treatment services. In fact, people are often able to work with PSS in a way that is strength based and recovery oriented.

Case Example – “I want to be an Astronaut”



## Advancing PSS in Health Reform: Professional Standards and Level of Care Criteria

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- There is expanding evidence of the role of Peer Support Services in promoting recovery and improved health outcomes.
- In order for the Peer workforce to be on par with other professional disciplines a set of standards are needed. The iNAPS is currently developing standards for Peer Specialists. In addition, FAVOR is developing accreditation standards for agencies that provide Recovery Coaching. And, for Family Support Services the Federation for Families has developed a national credential.
- Optum's experience supports the deployment of this workforce in a range of services that include Peer Bridger Programs, Integrated Whole Health, Community Support, and Recovery and Resiliency Promotion.
- In order to support the role of Peer Services Optum has recently developed a set of Level of Care Criteria for Peer Services. These criteria determine when PSS are necessary and covered services

## SAMHSA Recovery to Practice

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- The **SAMHSA Recovery to Practice Initiative** is an attempt to infuse recovery oriented practice into all of the major professional disciplines.
- American Psychiatric Association (APA) <http://www.psych.org>
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) <http://www.apna.org>
- American Psychological Association (APA) <http://www.apa.org>
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) <http://www.cswe.org>
- National Association of Peer Specialists (NAPS) <http://www.naops.org>
- Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) <http://www.naadac.org>

Case Example – Consumer involvement in the American Psychological Association project

# The Pillars of Peer Support

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- The **Pillars of Peer Support** is an initiative that has been sponsored by a combination of organizations that are committed to the expanding Peer Support Services workforce.
- To date, five summits have been completed and have focused on developing a common set of principles or pillars for the PSS workforce. We have worked through the state mental health and addictions authorities to identify and select key leaders to develop this work.
- The summits have been a combination of technical assistance and open dialogue to foster this workforce and promote reimbursement for these services. The complete reports for this work are available at [www.pillarsofpeersupport.org](http://www.pillarsofpeersupport.org)



Thank You

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