

CPS Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes *Thursday, June 8, 2017*

Old Business

- The notes and minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.
- The updates for Policy and Procedures Manuals are complete. The new *Policy Manual* is posted on the Transformation Center website; the new *Procedures Manual* has been distributed internally and is in use.

CPS Program Update: The current class finished last Friday June 2. Of the 34 candidates who started the class, 32 completed it. To date, 686 people have achieved certification through the program, so this class is expected to push the program over 700 CPSs.

“State of the Program” Review: This section of the meeting was devoted to a discussion with the CPS Program Coordinator on the occasion of her final meeting with the committee.

- DMH is informed about the program and fully on board with program goals and plans.
- The CPS program shifted from an oral and essay exam to multiple choice. Results suggest the test is neither harder nor easier, which was the goal.
- Improvements in curriculum aligned learning objectives, review questions, and the exam. Training and certification were cross-walked to SAMHSA competencies. Continued improvements are ongoing.
- A system of feedback for trainers has been put in place.
- The previous 15 classes, of the 43 conducted since the inception of the CPS program, account for more than 47% (325 of 686) of the successful graduates. The average completion rate went from 85% before 2013 to 90% now. Currently 96.5% of candidates take the test after training, up from 85% before 2013. On average, 89.44% pass the test now, compared to 67.85% before 2013.
- The Oversight Committee provided support for updating the optional self-assessment, reviewing the three core competencies, responding to appeals and grievances, meeting with and recognizing the contributions of the Training Team.
- Committee members were unanimous in praising the CPS Program Coordinator.

Program issues for further development and consideration:

- Trainers could benefit from being more familiar with the particular challenges of working as a peer specialist in programs such as PACT or CBFS.
- Greater diversity among participants would be helpful.
- The CPS program might be evaluated against established certification program guidelines.
- Membership of the Oversight Committee needs more Certified Peer Specialists.
- Where and how CPS and Recovery Coaches overlap in practice and training needs.

New Business

- *Recovery Coaches:* The Transformation Center has applied for 54 CEU credits for the CPS program to count towards requirements for Recovery Coach certification
- *Certification Training, Certification, and Practice:* Ongoing issues include maintaining rigorous training and high standards in the future of CPS as an emerging profession, educating the field on the role of the CPS, training supervisors, advocating for CPSs as supervisors for peer specialists, need for a list of where CPSs work now.
- The Eastern Mass Peer Network is being started by members of the just-completed class.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 13, 2017