



Massachusetts Certified Peer Specialist Training Application Packet SPRING 2015

This packet includes everything you will need to apply for the Massachusetts Certified Peer Training Program. There are several steps to this process, which are clearly outlined in the Instructions, so be sure to start there!

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Application

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Spring Calendar –We will have two classes, one in Hyannis and one in Boston

Hyannis: Classes will be at Waves of Wellness, Hyannis RCC, 45 Plant Rd, Hyannis, MA

Class 1 and 2: May 18 and 19, 10am-4pm

Retreat (Class 3,4,5): June 2-4 (Wachusett Village Inn, Westminister, MA)

Class Days 6-10: Jun 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23, 10am-4pm

Boston: Classes Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave, Boston, MA

Class 1 and 2: May 20 and May 22, 10am-4pm

Retreat (Class 3,4,5): June 2-4 (Wachusett Village Inn, Westminister, MA)

Class Days 6-10: Jun 10, 17, 19, 24, and 26, 10am-4pm

Interviews will begin in mid April. Please Email us at cps@transformation-center.org and request an interview for the Hyannis class or the Boston class.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CPS PROGRAM:

- Age is 18 or over
- Holds a high school diploma or equivalency (GED or HiSET)
- History of psychiatric diagnosis, or significant experience with emotional distress or trauma resulting in significant life disruption

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 2015

INSTRUCTIONS

Please Read All the Instructions Carefully Before You Begin

- 1. Am I ready to apply?** We recommend that you first complete the CPS Training self-assessment on our website <http://transformation-center.org/home/training/certified-peer-specialists>. The CPS training is not typically meant as an entry-level training. It is intended for people who have already done some work (volunteer or paid) in peer roles and/or taken time to explore what peer roles are and what working in a peer role would mean for them.
- 2. Download the application(if you have not done so already)** on the Transformation Center website, www.transformation-center.org/training/cps. (If you do not have Internet access, please use your local library, or ask a friend to download it for you. You will need an email account that you can access on a regular basis to participate in the class.)
- 3. Set up an Interview by email.** Email us at cps@transformation-center.org and request an interview for the Hyannis class or the Boston class. We will send you back a confirming email with your interview date and time. We will also send you information to help you prepare for your interview.
- 4. Complete the Application.** Take the time to fill out the application in a meaningful and thoughtful way. You will be asked about your responses during the interview.
- 5. Letters of Recommendation**
 - I understand that I must bring two (2) Letters of Recommendation to my interview.
 - I understand that Letters of Recommendation may not be completed by family members. Employers, volunteer supervisors, educators, friends, or other people that have a good understanding of my characteristics and skills may write a letter of recommendation.
 - I understand that one letter of recommendation must be from someone involved in peer support.
 - I have known at least one person providing a reference *for at least one year.*
- 6. Bring your completed application and 2 letters of recommendation to the interview.**

We look forward to seeing you!

Massachusetts Certified Peer Specialist Training Application Spring 2015

Name: _____ Date: _____

I am currently working / volunteering / not-working (please circle answer)

Job Title: _____ Where? _____

Hours/week: _____ How Long in this Position? _____

1. *Why do you want to be a Certified Peer Specialist?*

2. *What peer-led activities have you participated in?*

- DBSA*
- Peer Support Groups/Recovery Learning Communities*
- Latinos en Accion*
- Black Voices in Recovery*
- NAMI Connections or In Our Own Voice*
- Vet2Vet*
- Other:*

3. *What peer trainings have you completed? When?*

DATE:

- Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP - an organized course that you received a certificate in)*
- Intentional Peer Support- IPS (given by a certified IPS Practitioner)*
- Addictions and Trauma Recovery Integration Model (ATRIUM)*
- Peer Employment Training*
- CPS Prep Course*
- Massachusetts Leadership Academy*
- Peer Support Facilitator training*
- Peer Support Whole Health Training*
- Whole Health Action Management (WHAM) Training*
- Hearing Voices Facilitator Training*
- Alternatives to Suicide Facilitator Training*
- Other*

4. *As part of the training you will share a 5-minute recovery story in front of the class. How do you feel about sharing your story? Do you have any reservations about this?*

a. *What skills or resources have you used in your recovery?*

b. *Who has played an important role in supporting you to move forward, and how have they supported you?*

5. *What do you think will be most challenging for you in this training? What self-help skills do you have to help you manage these challenges?*

6. *Part of this training includes skills practice through role playing. We want everyone to participate to get the most from the training. Are you willing to do this?*

7. Like other professions, Certified Peer Specialists are bound by a Code of Ethics. Simply stated, a code of ethics is a set of principles created to provide guidelines for ethical behavior of the members. We have a code of ethics for several reasons:

1. To define acceptable behaviors
2. To promote high standards of practice
3. To provide a benchmark for self-evaluation
4. To establish a framework for professional behavior and responsibility
5. To build occupational identity

At your interview we will ask you why we have a code of ethics.

As part of the training you will be asked to sign the Massachusetts CPS Code of Ethics. You can view the whole document here: <http://transformation-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CPS-Code-of-Ethics-update-2013.pdf>.

Please review this before your interview.

Agreements for Participation (DO NOT TYPE). *Initial each statement that you agree with.*

_____ I completed this application on my own.

_____ I understand that the CPS program is not a job placement program.

_____ I understand that I will be asked to share my recovery story as part of this training and in my job/work as a CPS.

_____ If accepted, I agree to take the certification exam following completion of the training.

_____ I intend to seek paid employment as a CPS.

_____ I have a high school diploma or hold a GED or HiSET certificate. (If requested, I can provide documentation)

_____ I have been working on my own recovery or healing process **for at least one year.**

_____ I identify as having had a psychiatric diagnosis, receiving services in the mental health system, or experienced extreme emotional distress and/or trauma.

_____ I have reviewed the training dates and can attend ALL sessions.

_____ The CPS course requires homework and study time between classes. I am prepared to invest the time needed.

_____ If accepted, I understand **that I am responsible for all travel & food arrangements & costs (except food during retreat)**

_____ Will you need any special accommodations during the training - Physical, dietary, etc.? (All accommodations must be pre-arranged)

No Yes What accommodations?