The Future of Peer Support: Careers in Private Practice

Patrick Hendry
The Future of Peer Support: Building a Career in the Private Sector
Time Travel

....Let’s go way back!
And Where Did Organized Peer Support Come From?

France-1700’s
Moral Treatment Comes to America

Benjamin Rush
1746-1813
Descent into Darkness
Byberry Hospital PA 1946
Closing the Asylums

Causes and Consequences of the Deinstitutionalization Movement

George Paulson, M.D.

Foreword by John C. Burnham
The Consumer Movement

1st Drop-In Center: On Our Own MD 1983
Working Inside the System
The Consumer Movement
Georgia Created the 1st Peer Certification in 2001
Peer support has found a home in the community mental health system. Peer specialists now perform a number of different roles.

There are now approximately 30,000 Certified Peer Specialists plus ≈ 10,000 in states without certification.
So far, we have largely been met with closed doors when we attempt to introduce peer support to private practice.
Funding Barriers

- Inconsistent standards across state lines
- Lack of reliable information
But the door is beginning to open. As new research validates peer support, and funders begin to realize the benefits, interest is growing.

Higher quality of life  
Increased treatment outcomes  
Lowered re-hospitalization rates  
Lowered ER usage  
Decreased costs to funders  
  • Allowing more people to receive services
In our own unique way we are professionalizing peer support.

- Increased knowledge
- Higher standards
- Experience
- Constantly evolving
Active Listening
Building Trust
Relationships
Decision Making
Goal Setting
Navigation
Advocacy
Activation
Ethics & Boundaries
Professional Training
2017

MHA Advanced Level National Certified Peer Specialist

A single high standard
### Projected workforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period of Time</td>
<td>5-10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total BH Workforce</td>
<td>420,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of Peers</td>
<td>20-25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Workforce</td>
<td>84,000-105,000</td>
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Manderscheid, R. PhD
And that is just behavioral health!

Many people receiving services for all types of healthcare issues can benefit from peer support.
The Future Holds Countless Opportunities
The Need for Peer Support Throughout Healthcare is in the Millions
Careers, Not Jobs
Imagine what that would look like.

Opportunities for career advancement and upward mobility.
Work, Learn. Grow, Flourish

Flourishing:
“a state where people experience positive emotions, positive functioning and positive social functioning, most of the time; living within an optimal range of human functioning.

Correy Keyes, PhD

Patrick Hendry
Vice President, Peer Advocacy, Supports & Services
phendry@mentalhealthAmerica.net