

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Certified Peer Specialist Advisory Committee			Attending: Members present: Vic Welle, Michelle Uetz, Todd Campbell, Toni Chambers, Alysha Clark, Kimberlee Coronado, Ellie Jarvie, Sara Eckland, Deb Ramacher, Christine Richardson, Paula Verrett, Rob Kaminski, Kyle Wicks Members absent: State staff present: Carmella Glenn, Teresa Steinmetz, Kenya Bright, Chelsea Myhre Foster, Jason Cram, Joannette Robertson, Lynn Maday-Bigboy, Tiffany Nielson, Amy Cottingham, Andrea Turtenwald, Anne Vulpas, Jennifer Roberts, Wes Van Epps, Jacob Nielson WIPSEI staff present- Gaochi Vang, Marguerit Guests: Annette Crowder, Brittny Calyx, Wayne Sorenson, Rebecca McAtee, Jamie Smidt, Kaylin Shampo, Lisa Marie Auter, Katie Petska, Tim Saubers, Jane Mose, Nick Utter, Shannon Starr, Nze Okoronta, Andrea Turtenwald, Michelle Gilank, Sara Eckland, Mj Griggs
Date: 9/9/2022	Time Started: 12:35 pm	Time Ended: 3:22pm	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Vic Welle
Minutes			

Zoom logistics- Members asked to us the rename feature in Zoom to identify that they are a voting member. Members of the public welcome to participate in public comment section where they will have three minutes to offer public comment. The rest of the time is meant for participation by the voting members and DHS staff participating by offering information and answering any questions related to agenda items that the members are discussing. Members of the public are welcome to stay for the full meeting and listen in or just stay for the public comment section and log off. Voting by voting members will be completed by using reactions feature in Zoom.

Introductions – Voting members and DHS staff introduced themselves. Members of the public asked to introduce themselves in the chat, stating their name, location, and role related to peer specialist work.

Announcements –

- Kimberlee Coronado announced the following:
 - September 13-15, 2022 is the [Wisconsin Child Welfare Conference](#) which will be hybrid and will include some amazing speakers. It is free to join virtually.
 - [National Association of Peer Supports \(N.A.P.S.\) Conference](#) is October 19-21, 2022 in Dallas Texas.
- Deb Ramacher announced that the [Children Come First Conference](#) with Wisconsin Family Ties will be held November 7-8, 2022.
- Annette Crowder is seeking volunteer opportunities as part of the Human Service associate program she is completing through MATC. Lives in Baraboo but will travel to Madison. Contact her at annettecrowder@gmail.com with any opportunities.
- Mental Health America of Wisconsin is developing a statewide warmline. There is a [survey](#) seeking input. Deadline is September 19, 2022.
- [Rally for Recovery](#) with Wisconsin Voices for Recovery will occur September 10, 2022.
- Peer Recovery Center of Excellence is offering [Skill Development Series](#) for people in direct service peer roles. The goal of the series is to support the development of fundamental skills for peer workers,

Public Comment –

- Brittny Calyx – Discussed overall function and practices for certified peer specialists, advisory committee and Department of health Services oversight of peer support. Level of coordination is a problem of systemic nature. This CPSAC was developed to further transparency and provide opportunities for those with lived experience to provide feedback. At this time, it appears that the Internal Executive Committee largely shapes the agenda and

scope. Often it is perceived that viewpoints come from a liability perspective and may contradict vision for mental health and substance use efforts across the State regarding peer specialist roles, equity and data collection measures, public meeting notices, compensation, and participation by those most marginalized.

Recommendation: Have another structure with more flexibility and more aligned to peer support with community-based oversight rather than State oversight.

- Tim Saubers- Oversight of committee has been in disarray for close to two years. It has been difficult to get answers and progress is often obstructed. The internal advisory committee includes individuals who are not engage in peer work and lack the understanding of peer work yet are making decisions without transparency. In addition, role of recovery coaches is often conflated with peer support even though recovery coaching is not peer support, has different requirements and different levels of oversight. It is suggested that of recovery caches need regulation, that should occur outside of the Certified Peer Specialist Advisory Committee. Creating a separate substance use certification is not in alignment with national trends. Conversations are occurring with legislators and committee members need to be aware and have voice at the table to avoid items being forced through like Act 122 without regard to impact on peer workforce. Recommendation: Refresh of the staff and advisory committee members. While there is value in historical context and experience, make space for new voices or for people with different viewpoints, including those from marginalized populations.

Co-Chair Election - Item on draft agenda was an error. There is no item to be discussed at this meeting.

Meeting Minutes Approval –

- Todd Campbell moved to approve minutes. Rob Kaminski seconded.
- Open discussion on meeting minutes – Kimberlee Coronado commented on lack of clarity overall, incoherent statements. Difficult to make sense of what happened by reading minutes,
- 1:09pm call for votes approving meeting minutes- Seven in favor, one abstained. Motion to approve minutes passes.

Sub-Committee Report Outs-

Employment Subcommittee- Chaired by Michelle Uetz and Nze Okoronta

- Reviewed DHS 36.10(2)(g)(20). Recommendations sent to DHS included simplified definition of peer specialist to include completing the training and taking the test. Parent peer specialist included in simplified definition. High school diploma or equivalent required and suggested simplified language to include required continued education.
- Deb Ramacher suggested that definition include passed state exam rather than completed.
- Vic Welle- After hearing from Legal at DHS that it is possible to make minor edits, proposed new wording, draft language and submitted to DHS. Waiting to see if proposed new language can be included in rule.
- Suggested next steps –
 - Nze Okoronta – Delineation of peer specialist, service array, including tiers around employment, system-based and community-based work, role of peer specialist
 - Michelle Uetz- Relationships between recovery coaches and certified peer specialists; Clearly identify and outline roles of CPS and CPPS for employers; Wages for peer services, programs, funding streams, and reimbursement rates
 - Christine Richardson- Including Sarah Coyle to discuss updating policies and statute review.
 - Kimberly Coronado- Tool kit for businesses, including guidance for billing. Kenya Bright stated that one was [available](#) which includes how to bring a peer specialist into a team, role of peer specialist and different funding streams, but updates are needed. Input is needed from employers and peer specialists to ensure toolkit is helpful to employers and include service and private employers.
 - Marguerit – Workforce development
 - What skills are needed? Locations?
 - Subcontracting – CPS coordinators
 - How to begin a Peer Run Respite or peer run agency
 - Trainings, reentering into society, justice-involved training, connect DHS, DOC, and DOL

Governance Subcommittee – Chaired by Christine Richardson and Jason Cram

- Charter and Bi-law Review
 - Work in progress
 - Challenges – wording needs to be changed to include bi-laws rather than charter; bi-law structure, membership committee wording to be added

- Next meeting draft will be reviewed and voted on. Takin charter concept and use bi-law outline, highlight missing pieces and ask committee to fill in the blanks. 75-80% there and needs to be translated to right section. Remaining will need to be added/corrected to develop a governing document that will remove confusion of how things are done and include organizational chart.
- Kimberlee Coronado- Vision of peer supports are vital to navigating the system and achieving recovery. Goal was to remove barriers so that everyone who requests peer supports receives peer supports. Should ground where to go next.

1:45 Break

1:50 Meeting called back to order

Professional Development Subcommittee– Chaired by Paula Verrett

- Conducting SWAT analysis for strategic planning
- Committee not able to meet due to lack of membership not having quorum
- Vic Welle- Suggested collaboration with employment subcommittee

Membership Subcommittee- Chaired by Kimberlee Coronado

- New member application
- Met on June 6, 2022 and June 27, 2022.
- Added two people to committee, Paul Anderson (new co-chair) and Nze Okoronta
- Tasked to examine membership as a whole, including categories, developing application and filling seven vacancies. Met and set up calendar with agendas.
- Efforts put on hold due to lack of communication, transparency, and power sharing between membership subcommittee and DHS. Executive CPSAC meeting called to identify barriers and develop goals to move forward for future work.
- Recategorized seats.
- Application was approved.
- Next steps to reset, develop calendar or events and timeline to fill vacancies as soon as possible with intent to look at demographics and voices that need to be at the table, inclusive of all voices and people.
- Vic Welle- Clarification that during May meeting empowered membership sub-committee to develop application process. Anyone who wanted to be part of that could be part of that committee.
- Toni C- When looking at membership list, there are 13-16 peer support and no representation of parent peer supports. Will that be revised?
- Vic Welle- Current plan is that it be proportional
- Nze Okoronta- Intended to be proportional rather than tied to a position, distributing around lived experience and creating more equity around committee. Roles tied to agencies missing community members who may not have access to those jobs.
- Deb Ramacher- Peer support and parent peer support appear to be looked at the same which is not the case.
- Rob Kaminski- Need more parent peer support trainings to help create equity
- Kimberlee- Examining barriers in application and develop application that would help identify if applicant fits a voice needed at table. Legal review to determine what questions legally able to ask.
- Vic Welle will email application for members to review new categorization of seats. Members are welcome to join next subcommittee meeting (1st Monday of every month) or offer feedback via email.
- Kenya Bright- Suggest discussions occur in committee. Clarity needed whether leadership has approved category list.
- Vic Welle- Application ready to go, application process can begin. Looking to have full committee in December.
- Kenya Bright – Application as presented has been approved minus demographic information which was intended to help diversify committee. Legal advised that this cannot be used as there is no strict business reason needed to justify this information being asked.
- Nze Okoronta- Disappointed in this decision and look forward to future diversity and equity work
- Kenya Bright- Decision not reflective of Bureau's commitment to DEI, but a question of legality. Bureau is committed to increasing DEI and will continue to support the work in a way that is legally appropriate.

2:30pm Break

2:35pm- Meeting called back to order

DCTS Report – Kenya Bright

- Act 122 passed in 2019 which allows DHS to write administrative rule and Medicaid to make changes. Submitted new scope. Changes to ACT 122 can only be made through legislators. While there may be concerns about the way Act 122 is written, DHS has to do an administrative rule that mirrors Act 122. DCTS cannot add language. During time that administrative rule is being written, DHS is limited on how much can discuss. DUTY of DHS to implement the act as it is written. Peer specialists still have to be certified, complete training and be recertified.
- Teresa Steinmetz- Act 122 did pass and we need to implement it. Submitted the scope based on what Act 122 says and Medicaid will need to write a rule that reimburses for those services. Department's vision is to make reimbursement available for all peer support areas. Department would like to see reimbursement expanded, not just in psychosocial rehabilitation benefits. Rule making rule process is available on DHS website, including laws, restrictions, and timelines. Process can change.
- Vic Welle- Question regarding Comprehensive Community Service Program. Will the peer recovery coaches be billed under the peer support service array or will there be a new service array created for them?
- Teresa Steinmetz- Two different things- Can allow for Medicaid reimbursement through the Comprehensive Community Services Program because of State Plan Amendment and allowing reimbursement through psychosocial rehabilitation benefits.
- Vic Welle- Shared that individuals have expressed a strong commitment to fidelity or peer support which includes lived experience, training and certification. Asked what advocacy efforts would be useful to DHS and meet the needs of the peer specialist workforce.
- Teresa Steinmetz- Of proposals start moving forward to expand reimbursement to all peer categories, reach out to partners and provide letters of support.
- Todd Campbell- Inquired as to whether DCTS can share cope document for administrative rule.
- Teresa Steinmetz- Once scope document is published can share it along with link to website.
- Toni C- In addition to despite to preserve fidelity of peer support (definition of peer specialist versus recovery coach), there is a position called parent coaches which no criteria for certification.
- Kenya Bright- Motion to clean up DHS 36 language which is not due to be looked at until January.
- Teresa Steinmetz- Request for rule review and any possible minor revisions will not move forward until the end of this year.
- Kenya Bright- Would like to talk to committee about what concerns are, how to work with CCS programs through CCS coordinators, technical assistance and training, as well as manual for employers.
- Kenya Bright- Staffing change due to Joanne not available. Carmella Glenn will be taking over staffing with CPSAC. Working to identify staff to support subcommittees. Will be meeting with executive committee and new staff person to identify what committee is looking for from staffing.
- Carmella Glenn- Introduced self and discussed looking forward to working with the committee on what future will look like and how voices are so important.

Peer Specialist Employment Initiative – Access to Independence (Goachi Vang)

- Team of three created for sustainable, healthy work environment to support the work (Marguerit and another person being hired)
- Privately funded training on pause. Plan to unpaue those in October.
- 1,244 certified peer specialists, 55 parent peer specialists, increase 63/82 test takers passed (78.8% pass rate)
- One more exam scheduled September 28, 2022. Registration has closed. More exams October 2022.
- Over 360 due for recertification. New recertification period and timeline with 30-day grace period built in. If not recertified by August 31, still have until September 30. If not recertified by September 30 additional steps, including extra processing fee required. Hope to get all processed in the next couple weeks once receive list of recertifications from UWM.
- CPPS recertifications who are due in 2023 are due Jan. 31, 2023 (not January 30, 2023 as previously noted on website- date has been corrected).
- This fiscal year there have been 25 trainings with one more schedule for September. Had one DHS CPPS training.
- Three trainings scheduled for month of November- one community specific (justice involved) and two region specific. Information on training is available on website.
- CPS curriculum revision is completed and in process of approval. After approval received, will update trainers examine training structure. Developing four part video training series to make training more accessible.

- CPPS curriculum still under revisions.
- Vic Welle- Commented on appreciation of efforts with providing community specific peer specialist trainings. Valuable way of learning alongside people who have an additional kind of lived experience.
- Rob Kaminski- Inquired as to whether there is an opportunity to include a CPPS in hiring process.
- Goachi Vang- Hiring process does not limit and they are open to CPPS.

Proposed Agenda Items for Next CPSAC Meeting on December 9, 2022 at 12:30pm

- Toni- Add an agenda item to respond to public comments and maintain awareness of CPPS.
- Rob Kaminski – Guidance on when do not meet quorum in subcommittees, public notice, staff meeting laws
- Nze Okoronta- Increased representation and safe space, open discussion around BIPOC subcommittee and groups around DEI, equity work group or mechanism for addressing that need
- Sara Eckland- Training on meeting process and structure

Motion to adjourn – 3:22 pm Todd Campbell. Seconded by Alysha Clark

ADJOURNED 3:22pm

Prepared by: Jennifer Roberts on 9/13/2022.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: