What's in a Name: The Roles of Peer Support
Resource Links

<u>Articles</u>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2015). *Core Competencies for Peer Workers in Behavioral Health Services.* Rockville, MD. Retrieved from https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/brss_tacs/core-competencies_508_12_13_18.pdf.

In 2015, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) led an effort to identify the critical knowledge, skills, and abilities (leading to Core Competencies) needed by anyone who provides peer support services to people with or in recovery from a mental health or substance use condition. Core Competencies are intended to apply to all forms of peer support provided to people living with or in recovery from mental health and/or substance use conditions and delivered by or to adults, young adults, family members and youth. Although not a complete set of competencies for every peer support context, they serve as a foundation and are indicative of the variety of roles that peer workers have in a variety of settings.

Davidson, L., and Rowe, M. (2008). *Peer Support Within Criminal Justice Settings: The Role of Forensic Peer Specialists.* Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237481697_Peer_Support_within_Criminal_Justice_Settings_The_Role_of_Forensic_Peer_Specialists/download

The past decade has witnessed a virtual explosion in the provision of peer support to people with serious mental illness, including those with criminal justice system involvement. While people in recovery can provide conventional services, peer support *per se* is made possible by the provider's history of disability and recovery and his or her willingness to share this history with people in earlier stages of recovery, which differs from other types of support.

Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services and Achara Consulting Inc. (2017). *Peer Support Toolkit.* Philadelphia, PA: DBHIDS. Retrieved from: http://dbhids.org/wp-content/uploads/1970/01/PCCI_Peer-Support-Toolkit.pdf

Designed for behavioral health organizations that are integrating peer supports, this toolkit is divided into four modules: Preparing the Organizational Culture, Recruiting and Hiring Peer Staff, Effective Service Delivery, and Supporting, Supervising, and Retaining Peer Staff. Module 2 discusses the roles of peer staff and contains sample job descriptions and interview questions.

<u>Sample Job Descriptions</u>

Magellan Health:
https://www.magellanhealth.com/training2/peersupport/magellanmodule1/graphics/job.pdf