

Wales Education Services, PLLC.

Texas Peer Specialist
Certification Board



Mental Health Peer Specialist Renewal Application

January 2019

Recertification Requirements

The MHPS certification shall be issued for a period of two (2) years, therefore requiring an individual to recertify every two (2) years in that same month. The requirements for recertification shall be as follows:

1. Absent of any ethical or malpractice violations.
2. Completion of twenty (20) hours of Mental Health Peer Specialist continuing education, including three (3) hours of ethics training by an approved provider.
3. Submission of an application including a signed copy of the ethical standards for Recovery Support Peer Specialist.
4. Proof of background check from the Texas Department of Public Safety or IdentoGo within 30 days of application.
5. The fee for recertification shall be \$60.00.
Late fees are \$15 for under 3 months late, \$25 for over 3 months late.

Submission Checklist

Please Submit the following items to recertify your credential:

- _____ Documentation of 20 continuing education hours pertaining to Mental Health Peer Specialist
- _____ Completed recertification application form
- _____ Proof of background check from the Texas Department of Public Safety or IdentoGo within 30 days of application.
- _____ Recertification Fee(s)
- _____ Signed Code of Ethics (*see attached*)
- _____ Signed Assurances and Releases (*see attached*)

Releases and Disclaimers

- ___ I affirm that the information provided in this application packet is correct and that I believe myself to be eligible and qualified for the certification I am seeking.
- ___ I give permission for WES to review and further investigate my information as it pertains to my background check and any information requested for the certification I am seeking. I understand that providing intentionally false or misleading information or intentional omissions, will result in denial or revocation of certification.
- ___ I understand that WES may request additional information from persons listed in my application packet in order to verify employment, training, etc. Additional information obtained will not be shared with others outside of WES without separate written consent to disclose.
- ___ I consent to the information in my application and data collected as part of my certification process to be reviewed by the employees, board and officers of WES.
- ___ I agree to hold WES and its, officers, board members, and employees free from civil liability for damages or complaints realted to the duties they perform in connection with this application process, assessments or denial of certification issuance.

Applicant Signature

Date

Return Completed Application to:

2000 E Lamar Boulevard, Suite 530
Arlington, TX 76006

Mental Health Peer Specialist Code of Ethics

The principles in the following Code of Ethics guide Texas Certified Peer Specialists in their roles, relationships, and levels of responsibility in which they function professionally.

1. The primary responsibility of Certified Peer Specialists is to help individuals achieve their own needs, wants, and goals. Certified Peer Specialists will be guided by the principle of self-determination for all.
2. Certified Peer Specialists will maintain high standards of personal conduct. Certified Peer Specialists will also conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own recovery.
3. Certified Peer Specialists will openly share their recovery stories, and will likewise be able to identify and describe the supports that promote their recovery.
4. Certified Peer Specialists will, at all times, respect the rights and dignity of those they serve.
5. Certified Peer Specialists will never intimidate, threaten, harass, use undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to the individuals they serve.
6. Certified Peer Specialists will not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical disability, military status, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or state.
7. Certified Peer Specialists will advocate for those they serve that they may make their own decisions in all matters when dealing with other professionals.
8. Certified Peer Specialists will respect the privacy and confidentiality of those they serve.
9. Certified Peer Specialists will advocate for the full integration of individuals into the communities of their choice and will promote the inherent value of these individuals to those communities. Certified Peer Specialists will be directed by the knowledge that all individuals have the right to live in the least restrictive and least intrusive environment.
10. Certified Peer Specialists will not enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they support.
11. Certified Peer Specialists will not engage in sexual/intimate activities with those to whom they are currently providing support, or have worked with in a professional role in the past two years.
12. Certified Peer Specialists will not provide services to another when under the influence of alcohol or when impaired by any substance, whether or not it is prescribed.
13. Certified Peers Providers will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues.
14. Certified Peer Specialists will not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve.

A peer specialist may not:

- a) practice psychotherapy, make clinical or diagnostic assessments, or dispense expert opinions;
- b) engage in any service that requires a license;
- c) falsify any documentation related to application, training, testing, certification, or services provided under this subchapter;
- d) retaliate against any person who, in good faith, makes a complaint or files a grievance against the peer specialist regarding services provided under this subchapter;
- e) engage in conduct that is prohibited by state, federal, or local law, including those laws prohibiting the use, possession, or distribution of drugs or alcohol;
- f) participate in, condone, or promote discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical disability, or economic status in the performance of peer specialist services or training;
- g) delay or fail to report suspicion of abuse or neglect to the proper authority;
- h) violate law, rule, or policy related to a recipient's privacy and confidentiality;
- i) violate professional and personal boundaries, including having sexual contact with a recipient;
- j) have a dual relationship with a recipient.

Procedure For Code of Ethics Complaints

If a person (a “complainant”) has a substantial complaint about a person holding a certification as a peer specialist, peer supervisor, trainer or training entity, the complainant may submit a formal grievance in writing, via certified mail (or other delivery service offering delivery confirmation).

If a person wishes to submit an ethics complaint they may do so by including:

- The full name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail contact information for the person filing the grievance
- The signature of the person filing the grievance
- A description of the nature of the grievance, including the desired resolution
- Name and role of the person the complaint is regarding

Ethics complaints should be addressed to the WES CPS Oversight Officer at this address:
2000 East Lamar Blvd, Suite 530, Arlington Texas 76006

The CPS Oversight Officer will ensure that the grievance is reviewed, within 15 business days of receipt of the grievance and reply in a written letter to the complainant outlining what, if anything, will be done to address or resolve the grievance or explain why WES considers the grievance to be unfounded.

Decisions may be appealed via the established process and will also need to be submitted in writing to the above address.

I have read, understand and commit to the preceding Mental Health Peer Specialist Code of Ethics as it applies to my role.

Signature

Date

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Arlington, TX 76006