



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Behavioral Health

March 16, 2019

The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) would like to take this opportunity to inform all behavioral healthcare providers that the application deadline for the upcoming Peer Support Specialist training scheduled to occur July 7–19, 2019, in Shreveport, Louisiana is Friday, May 31, 2019.

Peer Support Specialists are self-identified consumers who are in recovery from mental illness and/or substance use disorders. The role of PSS is supported on both a statewide and national level with CMS recognizing the importance of PSS as a viable component in the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders. In Louisiana, PSS work in a variety of capacities throughout the behavioral health service system. There are several rehabilitation services outlined within the Behavioral Health Manual in which PSS are identified as qualified employee type. These services include:

- Crisis Intervention
- Assertive Community Treatment
- Addiction Services

Louisiana utilizes the curriculum developed by the RI International (formerly Recovery Innovations) of Arizona as its statewide training for PSS. This is a two (2) week, 76 hour course, which is held multiple times annually in varying locations throughout the state. Please see the attached application with additional information about the training. There is a \$500 registration fee for peers who are not directly employed by LGEs or state-run hospitals. Employers are also expected to pay for travel and meals outside of the training.

If you wish to send someone to the training and cannot meet the May 31, 2019, deadline, please let us know immediately so that we can reserve a slot in the training for your employee. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Boudreaux at lindabtem@bellsouth.net.