



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Behavioral Health

October 22, 2019

The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) would like to take this opportunity to inform Healthy Louisiana MCOs, the application deadline for the upcoming Peer Support Specialist (PSS) training scheduled to occur January 13-24, 2020 is Friday December 6, 2020.

**Please share with your provider networks**

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 provider type. Some of 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 December 6th 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](mailto:lindabtem@bellsouth.net) or Ricardo Williams at [ricardo.williams2@la.gov](mailto:ricardo.williams2@la.gov).