



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

February 14, 2020

RE: Peer Support Specialist Training

The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) would like to take this opportunity to inform all Healthy Louisiana MCOs of the application deadline for the upcoming Peer Support Specialist (PSS) training scheduled to occur **March 23-April 3, 2020**, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Please note, the **deadline to submit applications is Monday, February 24, 2020**. *Please share with your provider networks*

Peer Support Specialists are self-identified individuals 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 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 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 Services Provider Manual in which PSS are identified as a qualified staffing type.

Louisiana currently 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 have any questions, please contact George Mills at [george.mills@theextramileregioniv.com](mailto:george.mills@theextramileregioniv.com) or Ricardo Williams at [ricardo.williams2@la.gov](mailto:ricardo.williams2@la.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Williams".

Ricardo Williams

Attachment: Training Application