

Attachment A

Peer Support

Peer Support is designed to provide targeted recovery services to older adults with behavioral health diagnoses, Peer Support includes mentoring Consumers about self-advocacy and participation in the community, including, but not limited to, such activities as accessing a senior center, getting to medical appointments or a hospital for a medical procedure, assisting with care transitions, housing paperwork, accompanying for walks to various community locations, and generally engaging to reduce isolation. Peer support may be provided in small groups or one peer providing support to another peer (i.e., the Consumer). Peer Support promotes and assists the Consumer's ability to participate in self-advocacy. Peer Support utilizes trained peers as coaches who have lived experience of behavioral health challenges, trauma, and/or substance use to promote person-centered care and attainment of measurable personalized recovery goals. Peer Support encompasses a range of activities and interactions between people who share similar experiences of being diagnosed with behavioral health conditions, substance use disorders, or both. This mutuality, often called peerness between a Peer Support worker and person in or seeking recovery, promotes connection and inspires hope.

Transportation may be authorized and provided as a separate purchased service to assist with the Consumer's access to Peer Support services; the Certified Older Adult Peer Specialists (COAPS) may accompany the Consumer.

Peer Support can be an ongoing service provided it does not exceed 16 hours per week for the Consumer.

Peer Support must be provided through Peer Support Provider Agencies, including Peer Support Providers contracting with the Department of Mental Health, and individual Certified Older Adult Peer Specialists (COAPS).

Individuals providing Peer Support must have a Certificate of successful completion of Certified Older Adults Peer Specialist (COAPS) training. Peer Support Specialists are individuals who are 50 and older with personal experience of behavioral health challenges and/or substance use and who are in recovery. Certified Older Adult Peer Specialists (COAPS) provide hope, empowerment, choices and opportunities to older adults that promote behavioral health and substance use recovery in a supportive environment through shared experience.