

Position Statement on Peer Support Services

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2018

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“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue: Peer support is an essential component of recovery-oriented systems of care. It offers advantages in outreach and engagement, provision of hope, coaching and modeling, recovery skill building, and system navigation. Peer support services have been found to enhance outcomes in a wide variety of service settings and programs. APA’s formal support of the value of peer support services demonstrates the commitment of the psychiatric community to participate in the development of recovery-oriented services within systems of care.

POSITION:

The American Psychiatric Association supports the value of peer support services and is committed to their participation in the development and implementation of recovery-oriented services within systems of care. APA also advocates for appropriate payment for these services. Peer support personnel should have training appropriate to the level of service they will be providing.

Psychiatrists should be knowledgeable of the value and efficacy of the wide array of peer support services in recovery and support the integration of these services into the comprehensive continuum of care.

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