

Peer Support Specialists have a responsibility to help persons in recovery achieve their personal recovery goals by promoting self-determination, personal responsibility, and the empowerment inherent in self-directed recovery. Peer Support Specialists shall maintain high standards of personal conduct and conduct themselves in a manner that supports their own recovery. Peer Support Specialists shall serve as advocates for the people they serve. Peer Support Specialists shall not perform services outside of the boundaries and scope of their expertise, shall be aware of the limits of their training and capabilities, and shall collaborate with other professionals to best meet the needs of the person(s) served. Peer Support Specialists shall always preserve an objective and ethical relationship. This certification does not endorse, suggest or intent that a Peer Support Specialist will serve independently. A Certified Peer Support Specialist shall only work under supervision.

### As a Peer Support Specialist, I strive to...

1. Affirm everyone's ability to learn and grow;
2. Communicate a sense of hope and possibility;
3. Respect the rights and dignity of the individuals I serve, including any communication about them;
4. Keep the focus on the individual's strengths, assets and possibilities;
5. Accept, affirm and validate the individuals where they are and honor their decisions;
6. Appreciate and respect the cultural and spiritual beliefs and practices of peers and their families;
7. Communicate that there are many roads to recovery;
8. Keep the individual's well-being as the primary concern;
9. Give the individual as many choices and options as possible;
10. Coach the individual about how to access treatment and services and navigate systems of care;
11. Help the individual become fully integrated into the community of their choice;
12. Maintain confidentiality and not provide identifying information;
13. Communicate that recovery and wellness initiatives are voluntary;
14. Sustain and preserve objective and professional relationships including not engaging in sexual or intimate personal relationships with those I serve or members of their immediate family;
15. Not push one's recovery experience onto another individual;
16. Keep personal interests from conflicting with the interests of the individual;
17. Not use the unique relationship to unduly persuade or coerce, engage in intimate activities or dual relationships with the individuals I serve or their immediate family;
18. Use my recovery story in a positive and hopeful manner;
19. Work within the limits of my experience and training;
20. Preserve boundaries that promote recovery and do not conflict with the best interests of those I serve;
21. Maintain and strengthen my own recovery, taking time away from providing services through appropriate measures when necessary;
22. Continue my own personal growth and care, getting support and assistance when needed;
23. Promote the profession of peer support specialists;
24. Work in partnership with others to meet the needs of the individuals we serve including the referral, transfer, and completion of services;
25. Show that I take adequate measures to discourage any unethical conduct;
26. Communicate that all services should promote a person's recovery; and
27. Honor agency guidelines, policies and principles of conduct.

In accordance with the North Dakota Peer Support Specialist code of ethics, I will maintain regular supervision and ongoing support so I have a person with whom I can address challenging personal issues, behaviors, or conditions that may negatively affect my own recovery. I understand that misconduct may result in the suspension or revocation of my certification.

Printed Name & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_