

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Peer Support Services

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2023

Approved by the Assembly, November 2023

“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:

It is the position of the American Psychiatric Association that peer support services are valuable and should be developed and implemented in recovery-oriented services within systems of care. Peer support personnel should have training appropriate to the level of service they will be providing and should be appropriately reimbursed.

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