TITLE 450. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

CHAPTER 53. STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

450:53-1-2. Definitions

The following words or terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Behavioral health services" means a wide range of diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services used in the treatment of mental illness, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders.

"Board" means the State Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

"Consumer" means an individual who has applied for, is receiving or has received evaluation or treatment services from a facility operated or certified by ODMHSAS or with which ODMHSAS contracts and includes all persons referred to in OAC Title 450 as client(s) or patient(s) or resident(s) or a combination thereof.

"Department" or **"ODMHSAS"** means the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

"Dual relationship" means a familial, financial, business, professional, close personal, sexual or other non-therapeutic relationship with a consumer, or engaging in any activity with another person that interferes or conflicts with the Peer Recovery Support Specialists' professional obligation to a consumer.

"Family Support" means using lived experience to ensure engagement and active participation of the family throughout the treatment process and assist family members in developing knowledge and skills to promote their family member's recovery.

"Family Peer Recovery Support Specialist" or **"F-PRSS"** means any person who is certified by ODMHSAS to offer family peer support services in accordance with this Chapter.

"Oklahoma Administrative Code" or **"OAC"** means the publication authorized by 75 O.S. § 256 known as The Oklahoma Administrative Code, or, prior to its publication, the compilation of codified rules authorized by 75 O.S. § 256(A) (1) (a) and maintained in the Office of Administrative Rules.

"O.S." means Oklahoma Statutes.

"Peer Recovery Support Specialist" or **"PRSS"** means any person who is certified by ODMHSAS to offer peer support services in accordance with this Chapter.

"Peer Support" means using lived experience to navigate treatment, foster relationships with community resources and supports, and develop a plan for overall well-being. These services and supports are valued as a component of treatment and integrated into the continuum of care to promote individual growth and enhance social connection.

"Recovery" means a journey of healing and transformation enabling people with mental health and/or substance use challenges to live a meaningful life in the community of their choice while striving to achieve their full potential. The process of recovery leads individuals toward the highest level of autonomy of which they are capable. Key characteristics of recovery include:

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(A) Recovery is self-directed, personal and individualized (not defined by treatment providers or agencies);
(B) Recovery is holistic. Recovery is a process through which one gradually achieves greater balance of mind, body and spirit in relation to other aspects of one's life that can include family, work and community;
(C) Recovery moves beyond symptom reduction and relief (i.e. meaningful connections in the community, developing specific skill sets, establishing a sense of quality and well-being);
(D) Recovery is both a process of healing (regaining) and a process of discovery (moving beyond);
(E) Recovery encompasses the possibility for individuals to explore, make mistakes and try again; and
(F) Recovery can occur within or outside the context of professionally directed treatment.

"Wellness" means an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. Wellness is more than being free from illness, it is a dynamic process of change and growth.

450:53-1-3. Authority of the Commissioner and Department

(a) The Commissioner or designee shall have the authority and duty to issue, renew, revoke, deny, suspend and/or place on probation certifications to offer peer recovery support services.
(b) The Department shall have authority to:
(1) Receive and deposit fees as required by 43A O.S. § 3-326(~~C~~D);
(2) Examine all qualified applicants for Peer Recovery Support Specialists training and certification;
(3) Investigate complaints and possible violation of the rules and standards of Peer Recovery Support Specialists;
(4) Make recommendations regarding the outcome of formal complaints; and
(5) Enforce the recommendations of the formal complaint process.

SUBCHAPTER 3. PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

450:53-3-1. Qualifications for certification

Applicants for certification as a Peer Recovery Support Specialist shall:
(1) Possess a High School Diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED), High School Equivalency (HSE) Credential, or college or university degree;
(2) Have demonstrated self-driven recovery from a mental health and/or substance use disorder, or have experience utilizing strategies as a family member/caregiver to support recovery of a child or adolescent with a mental health and/or substance use disorder;
(3) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
(4) Be willing to self-disclose about their own recovery or their experience as a family member/caregiver of a child or adolescent with a mental health and/or substance use disorder;
(5) Be employed by ~~or intern with, within six (6) months from~~ the date the application was submitted:
(A) The State of Oklahoma, an Oklahoma municipality, or an Oklahoma county;

(B) A behavioral health services provider ~~contracting with the state~~contracted with ODMHSAS or other state agency to provide behavioral health services;
(C) A behavioral health services provider certified by ODMHSAS;
(D) A tribe or tribal facility that provides behavioral health services; or
(E) An Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs or United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility.

~~(6) Possess good moral character;~~

~~(7)~~(6) Be actively working on recovery and/or overall wellness;

~~(8)~~(7) Complete training in accordance with this Chapter;

~~(9)~~(8) Pass a competency examination in accordance with this Chapter;

~~(10) Not be engaged in any practice or conduct which would be grounds for denying, revoking or suspending a certification pursuant to this Title; and~~

(9) Not be engaged in any practice or conduct, as outlined in OAC 450:53-3-5, which would be grounds for denying, revoking or suspending a certification pursuant to this Title; and

~~(11)~~(10) Otherwise comply with rules promulgated by the Board implementing 43A O. S. § 3-326.

450:53-3-2. Applications for certification

(a) Applications for certification as a Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) shall be submitted to the Department on a form and in a manner prescribed by ~~the Commissioner or designee~~the ODMHSAS.

(b) An application shall include the following items:

(1) Application form completed in full according to its instructions;

(2) Employment status verification form(s) showing current status as an employee ~~or intern~~ at an eligible employer in accordance with OAC 450:53-3-1. ~~The employment status verification form(s) must be sent to ODMHSAS by the employer but may be provided up to six (6) months after submission of the application form and other required materials~~;

(3) Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) name-based criminal history report. The report must be an official OSBI document and be no more than three (3) months old, prior to the state of the training/application date. If there is an incident of stolen identity, a Criminal History Record Theft number and letter must be submitted with the application.~~;~~ ~~The report may be supplied by the applicant or the applicant's employer;~~

(4) Official high school transcript, General Equivalency Diploma (GED), High School Equivalency (HSE) Credential, or college or university transcript. An unofficial transcript may be accepted if the document can be substantiated by the Department; and

~~(5) Documentation of age;~~

~~(6) Detailed information, as requested on the application, demonstrating self-recovery from or family/caregiver experience with mental illness and/or substance use disorder; and~~

~~(7)~~(5) Fees.

~~(c) An applicant, who meets the requirements for certification and otherwise complied with the Chapter, shall be eligible for certification.~~

~~(d) An application must be submitted at least fourteen (14) days prior to attending PRSS training.~~

~~(e) Applications shall be submitted and approved by the Department prior to eligibility of taking the PRSS training.~~

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~~(f) The applicant is not considered certified until verification of employment, exam approval results, and proof of the required training has been submitted.~~
~~(g) Applications shall only be valid for a period up to six (6) months.~~
(c) Applications shall be submitted and approved by the Department prior to eligibility of taking the PRSS training.
(d) An applicant is eligible for certification upon submitting all documentation required by OAC 450:53-3-1 and 450:53-3-2, meeting the certification requirements, and complying with all other applicable requirements of this Chapter.
(e) Applications shall only be valid for a period up to six (6) months.

450:53-3-3. Duration of certification

(a) **Issuance.** ODMHSAS will issue an appropriate certification to all applicants who successfully complete the requirements for certification as specified in this Chapter.

(b) **Renewal.** Unless revoked, certification issued pursuant to this Chapter must be renewed ~~following twelve (12) months of continuous certification and annually thereafter.~~every two (2) years. Beginning on November 1, 2026, any active one-year certifications in effect will not require renewal until the expiration of two years from the date of certification/renewal. The date(s) of the ~~annual~~ renewal deadline(s) will be established by ODMHSAS and posted online on the agency's website. Renewal is accomplished by submitting:

(1) The renewal application;

(2) ~~Annual report~~Report of continuing education units with accompanying documentation; and

(3) The renewal fee, per Oklahoma Administrative Code 450:53-3-4.

(c) ~~**Suspension and Reinstatement**~~**Expiration and Reinstatement.** ~~Certifications not renewed by the renewal deadline will be suspended. A suspended certification may be renewed by submitting required fees and documentation of continuing education within six (6) months of the date of suspension. Suspended certifications not renewed within this six (6) month timeframe will be terminated. The individual must then submit a new application for certification and successfully complete the requirements for initial certification as specified in this Chapter, with the exception of required training, which may be waived if approval from the Department is obtained by the individual and the new application is received within twelve (12) months of the suspension date.~~ Certifications automatically expire at the end of the current certification period unless timely renewed within thirty (30) days before the certification period ends.

(1) Individuals who have let their certification lapse will be provided a ninety (90) day grace period after the expiration of the applicable certification to complete the renewal process. An expired certification may be renewed by submitting the required fees and documentation of continuing education to the Department.

(2) If an individual does not renew within the ninety (90) day grace period, they will need to submit a new application for certification under the initial application procedures.

450:53-3-4. Fees

(a) **Application Fee.** ~~The application fee shall be submitted with the application form. The application fee shall not exceed fifty dollars ($50.00).~~One hundred dollars ($100.00) shall be submitted with the application form.

(b) **Renewal Fee.** ~~The renewal fee shall be submitted with the renewal form and required continuing education documentation. The renewal fee shall not exceed twenty-five dollars ($25.00).~~Fifty dollars ($50.00) shall be submitted with the renewal form and required continuing

education documentation.

450:53-3-5. Fitness of applicants

(a) The purpose of this ~~section~~Section is to establish the fitness of the applicant as one of the criteria for approval of certification as a Peer Recovery Support Specialist and to set forth the criteria by which the Commissioner or designee ~~shall~~will determine the fitness of the applicants.

(b) ~~The substantiation of any of the following items related to the applicant shall be, as the Commissioner or designee determines, the basis for the denial of or delay of certification of the applicant:~~The substantiation of any of the following items related to the applicant may be, as determined by the Department, the basis for the denial of or delay of certification of the applicant:

(1) Lack of necessary skills and abilities to provide adequate services;

(2) Misrepresentation on the application or other materials submitted to the Department;

~~(3) Any action that would otherwise be considered a violation of the rules of professional conduct set forth in this Chapter; or~~

~~(4) Certain felony conviction(s), as determined by the Department.~~

(3) Any conviction of a crime involving a child or vulnerable adult;

(4) Any conviction of a sex offense not identified in (b)(5)(D) of this Section;

(5) Any other felony conviction, unless the applicant can demonstrate to the Department's satisfaction the successful completion of a minimum of one (1) year of probation related to one or more of the offenses below:

(A) Forgery, fraud, or perjury;

(B) Burglary, arson, embezzlement, knowingly concealing stolen property, leaving the scene of an accident, or larceny;

(C) Possession, manufacturing, distribution, maintaining a dwelling, driving under the influence, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, or parent causing delinquency; or

(D) Prostitution or nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images.

(6) A violation of the rules of professional conduct set forth in this Chapter.

(c) The Department shall obtain document(s) necessary to determine the fitness of an applicant.

(d) The Department may require explanation of negative references prior to issuance of certification.

SUBCHAPTER 5. PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND COMPETENCY EXAM

450:53-5-1. Training requirements

(a) The purpose of this Section is to outline the training requirements for Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS).

(b) The Department shall have the authority and responsibility for providing PRSS training classes a minimum of three (3) times during the year.

~~(a)~~(c) In order to obtain certification as a ~~Peer Recovery Support Specialist~~PRSS, each applicant must:

(1) Attend and complete a PRSS training block covering various aspects of recovery, ethics and/or boundaries, mental health and substance use as specified by the Department. Applicants for certification as a Family Peer Recovery Support Specialist must attend and complete a training block that includes Family Support training as prescribed by the Department.

~~(2) Attend the entire training block. Absences are excused only for emergencies. An absence lasting over one day shall cause the trainee to be subject to retaking the entire training block at the next scheduled training course.~~

~~(3)~~(2) Complete required homework during the training block.

~~(4)~~(3) Demonstrate their ability to verbally share their recovery journey or experience as a family member/caregiver with others in a safe, concise, and trauma-informed manner.

(4) Participants must attend and participate in a minimum of ninety percent (90%) of the required live training. An absence of over ten percent (10%) will result in a forfeiture of training completion. The participant will be required to retake the entire training course at the next scheduled offering.

~~(b) The Department shall have the authority and responsibility for providing Peer Recovery Support Specialists training classes a minimum of three times during the year.~~

~~(c) Request for attending the certification training must be made to the Department at least fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of scheduled classes.~~

450:53-5-2. Competency exams

Examinations shall be held at such times, at such places and in such manner as the ~~Commissioner or designee~~Department directs. The examination shall cover such technical, professional and practical subjects as relate to the practice of a Peer Recovery Support Specialist.

(1) Certification exams consist of a written exam covering all aspects of the training block.

(2) An applicant must score at least a seventy-five percent (75%) to pass the exam and be certified. A score of seventy-four percent (74%) or less will result in an applicant being required to test again at the next scheduled test date, or at a time and manner approved by the Department.

(3) Applicants who fail to complete and pass the certification exam within ~~six (6)~~three (3) months of application must reapply.

450:53-5-3. Continuing education requirements

(a) ~~Peer Recovery Support Specialists must complete twelve (12) hours of continuing education per year and submit documentation of attendance for the continuing education to the Department annually.~~Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) must complete twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education and submit documentation of the continuing education to ODMHSAS every two (2) years for consideration.

~~(b) The Department will use the following criteria to determine approval of acceptable CEU courses:~~

~~(1) Provides information to enhance delivery of peer recovery support services and has been approved by ODMHSAS; or~~

~~(2) Is a required undergraduate or graduate course in a behavioral health related field and pertains to direct interaction with consumers (three (3) hours of course work is equal to twelve (12) hours of CEUs); and~~

~~(3) At least three (3) of the continuing education hours must be in ethics.~~

~~(4) Continuing education accrual from teaching continuing education or sharing recovery stories may also be accrued when the PRSS teaches in programs such as seminars, workshops and conferences, or shares lived experience in settings such as community events, public forums, and news articles, when the content conforms to Peer Support and is not a required part of the PRSS regular employment. No more than three (3) hours of continuing education may be accrued per year through teaching and sharing activities.~~

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(b) Continuing education is acceptable when it provides information to enhance delivery of peer recovery support services and is in alignment with the requirements outlined in the ODMHSAS Peer Recovery Support Specialist Certification Manual.
(c) PRSS must complete, as part of their required twenty-four (24) hours, six (6) hours of ethics training every two (2) years. Ethics training must meet the requirements outlined in the ODMHSAS Peer Recovery Support Specialist Certification Manual.
(c) ~~Peer Recovery Support Specialists~~PRSS shall retain documents verifying attendance for all continuing education ~~units~~hours claimed for the reporting period. Documentation shall be submitted upon the request of the Department. Acceptable verification documents include:

(1) ~~A~~An official continuing education validation form or certificate furnished by the presenter indicating the topic and number of CEUs given for the course; or
(2) A copy of the agenda showing the content and presenter for the course; and
(3) A signed copy of PRSS Attestation Form.

(d) Failure to complete the continuing education requirements and submit the required documentation by the renewal date renders the certification in suspension, and results in the loss of all rights and privileges of a Certified ~~Peer Recovery Support Specialists~~PRSS. The ~~Peer Recovery Support Specialists~~PRSS certification may be reinstated if all requirements are met in accordance with OAC 450:53-3-3.

SUBCHAPTER 7. RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

450:53-7-3. Proficiency

(a) ~~Peer Support:~~ A PRSS shall practice only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience, state credentials, and appropriate professional and personal experience.
(b) ~~Specialty: A PRSS shall not represent themselves as specialists in any aspect unless so designated.~~A PRSS shall not practice any profession or use any of the titles listed in 43A O.S. §3-326(E) unless also licensed or accredited by the appropriate authority.
(c) ~~Impairment:~~ A PRSS shall not offer or render professional services when such services may be impaired by a personal physical, mental or emotional condition(s). A PRSS should seek assistance for any such personal problem(s) with their physical, mental or emotional condition, and, if necessary, limit, suspend, or terminate their professional activities. ~~If any PRSS possesses a bias, disposition, attitude, moral persuasion or other similar condition that limits their ability to provide peer recovery support services in that event the they shall not undertake to provide services and will terminate the relationship in accordance with these rules.~~If a PRSS has a personal belief, bias, or other condition that limits their ability to provide peer recovery support services in that setting, the PRSS shall not undertake to provide services and will terminate the relationship in accordance with the rules in this Chapter.

450:53-7-5. Professional standards

(a) It shall be the responsibility of Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS), in their commitment to peer support, to value self-determination, and in providing peer services, and to strive to maintain the highest standards of their profession.
(b) A PRSS shall accept responsibility for the consequences of their work and make every effort to ensure that their services are used appropriately.
(c) It shall be unprofessional conduct for a PRSS to violate a state or federal statute, if the violation

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directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the PRSS or if the violation involves ~~moral turpitude~~any ethical violations.
(d) ~~A PRSS shall not render peer recovery support services while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, or misused substances or disruptive symptoms.~~A PRSS shall not render professional services while under the influence of alcohol or any drug or other substance that impairs their ability to safely and competently perform professional services.

450:53-7-6. ~~Reimbursement for services rendered~~Billing and reimbursement

~~Peer Recovery Support Specialists shall only use the title if employed by an eligible employer in accordance with 450:53-3-1(5). Reimbursement for services rendered shall not be collected outside of the agency's system of service reimbursement.~~
(a) Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) shall only use the title if employed by an eligible employer in accordance with OAC 450:53-3-1(5).
(b) Only providers with an appropriate ODMHSAS contract can bill for PRSS services.
(c) Reimbursement for services rendered shall not be collected outside the agency's system of service reimbursement.

450:53-7-9. Supervision [REVOKED]

~~All Peer Recovery Support Specialists shall report to a supervisor that has successfully completed an ODMHSAS approved Supervising PRSS Training~~

SUBCHAPTER 11. SPECIAL PROVISIONS [REVOKED]

450:53-11-1. Special Provisions [REVOKED]

~~(a) Upon request, individuals Credentialed as Peer Recovery Support Specialists by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services as of June 1, 2009 through the effective date of this Chapter shall be issued Certification as a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist as provided in this Chapter.~~
~~(b) Upon request, individuals Credentialed as Peer Recovery Support Specialists by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services from December 1, 2004 through May 31, 2009 that have demonstrated providing peer support in their employment, volunteerism or advocacy to others as peers shall be issued Certification as a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist as provided in this Chapter.~~

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