

NAMI OHIO PARENT PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINING

CODE OF ETHICS for Parent Peer Support Specialist

By making application for Parent Peer Support Specialist Training, I _____
pledge to strive to:

- Share my experience as a parent when it may help other family members
- Support other family members as peers with a common background and history rather than as experts who has all the answers
- Acknowledge that each family member's answers may be different than mine
- Take responsibility for clarifying my role as a Parent Peer Supporter and as a parent of a child who experienced emotional, developmental, behavioral or mental health challenges
- Build partnerships with others who are involved in the care of our children
- Commit to honesty in all my interactions as a Parent Peer Supporter and expect the same from others
- Commit to a non-judgmental and respectful attitude in my dealings with & discussions regarding families, and
- Commit to a non-adversarial approach to advocacy in my role as a Parent Peer Supporter;

THEREFORE, in order to fulfill this pledge, I agree to abide by the following Standards, rules, and procedures.

Standard 1 – Integrity

In order to maintain high standards of competence and integrity, I will:

1. Apply the Standards of resiliency, wellness and/or recovery, family-driven approach, youth guided or youth-driven approach, consumer-driven approach and peer to peer mutual learning Standards in every day interactions with family members;
2. Promote the family member's ethical decision-making and personal responsibility consistent with that family member's culture, values and beliefs;
3. Promote the family members' voices and the articulation of their values in planning and evaluating children's behavioral health related issues;
4. Teach, mentor, coach and support family members to articulate goals that reflect each family member's current needs and strengths;
5. Demonstrate respect for the cultural-based values of the family members engaged in peer support;
6. Communicate information in ways that are both developmentally and culturally appropriate;
7. Empower family members I am assisting to be fully informed in preparing to make decisions and understand the implications of these decisions;
8. Maintain high standards of professional competence and integrity;
9. Abstain from discriminating against or refusing services to anyone on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion/spirituality, culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status, language preference, socioeconomic status or disability;
10. Only assist family members whose concerns are within my competency as determined by my education, training, experience and on-going supervision.

11. Abstain from establishing or maintaining a relationship for the sole purpose of financial remuneration to me or the agency associated with me; and
12. Terminate a relationship when it becomes reasonably clear that the peer relationship is no longer the desire of the family member.

Standard 2 – Safety

In order to maintain the safety of all family members involved with their services, I will:

1. Comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the jurisdiction in which the peer support services are provided, including but not limited to confidentiality;
2. Maintain confidentiality in my personal and professional communication and ensure that family members have authorized my use or release of any and all information about themselves or family members for whom they have legal authority, including but not limited to verbal statements, writings, or re-release of documents;
3. Respect the privacy of the agencies with whom I partner and not distribute internal or draft documents or share private, internal conversations;
4. When complying with laws and regulations involving mandatory reporting of harm, abuse or neglect, make every effort to involve the family members in the planning for services and ensure that no further harm is done to family members as the result of the reporting;
5. Discuss and explain to family members the rights, roles, expectations, benefits and limitations of the peer support process;
6. Avoid ambiguity in the relationship with family members and ensure clarity of my role at all times;
7. Maintain a positive relationship with family members, refraining from premature or unannounced ceasing of the relationship, until a reasonable alternative arrangement is made for continuation of similar peer support services;
8. Abstain from engaging in intimate emotional or physical relationships with family members engaged in a peer support relationship;
9. Neither offer nor accept gifts, other than token gifts, related to the professional service of peer support, including but not limited to, personal barter services, payment for referrals, or other remunerations; an
10. Abstain from engaging in personal financial transactions with family members engaged in a peer support relationship.

Standard 3 - Professional Responsibility

Through educational activities, supervision and personal commitment, I will:

1. Stay informed and up-to date with regard to the research, policy and developments in the field of parent/peer support and children's emotional, developmental, behavioral (including substance use), or mental health which relates to my own practice area and children's general health and wellbeing;

2. Engage in helping relationships that include skills building not exceeding my scope of practice, experience, training, education or competence;
3. Perform or hold myself out as competent to perform only peer services not beyond my education, training, experience, or competence;
4. Seek appropriate professional supervision/consultation or assistance for my personal problems or conflicts that may impair or affect work/volunteer performance or judgment;
5. File a complaint when I have reason to believe that another Parent Peer Supporter is or has been engaged in conduct that violates the law or this Code.
6. Refrain from distorting, misusing or misrepresenting my experience, knowledge, skills or research findings;
7. Refrain from financially or professionally exploiting a colleague or representing a colleague's work, associated with the provision of peer support or the profession of peer support, as my own;
8. In the role of a supervisor/consultant, be responsible for maintaining the quality of my own supervisory/consultation skills and obtaining supervision/consultation for work as a supervisor/consultant;
9. In the role as a volunteer member or employee of an organization, give credit to persons for published or unpublished original ideas, take reasonable precautions to ensure that my employer or affiliate organization promotes and advertises materials accurately and factually.
10. Social Media: As a PPSS, understand that anything done on social media can have implications for your agency/volunteer program. PPSS's should keep in mind that harm done, even though words on social media, opens the individual and agency up to public retaliation and criticism. Caution should be used when making posts that are negative or might reflect poorly on your role as a PPSS.

Standard 4 - Responsibilities

As a PPSS, I will:

1. Comply with Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and requirements set forth by governing body;
2. Only use the Parent Peer Supporter NAMI Certificate or represent myself as having that training when I am in full compliance with the requirements;
3. Always utilize the Parent Peer Supporter designation appropriately;
4. Cooperate with any ethics investigation by any professional organization or government agency, and truthfully represent and disclose facts to such organizations or agencies when requested or when necessary to preserve the integrity of the peer support profession;
5. Notify the state governing body of any legal action with potential impact on my practice of peer support, including but not limited to: the filing in any court of an information, complaint, indictment, conviction, revocation of suspended imposition of sentence, revocation of probation/parole, filing of any charge or action before a state, tribal or federal regulatory agency or judicial body concerning the practice of peer support or related professions, or a matter before another body. Such notification shall be made within sixty (60) days of the filing

of such charge or action, and I shall provide documentation of the resolution of such action within sixty (60) days of that resolution.

By initialing and signing this form, I affirm that I have read through and understand all the information provided in this document. By signing below, I understand that I will be held responsible and accountable to following these Standards, rules, and procedures.

If a complaint is made or it is alleged that I have broken any of these Standards, rules, or procedures then I understand that these actions or inactions will be reviewed by the named state entity for Ohio in accordance with the complaint guidelines. If it is found that I have violated any of these Standards, rules and procedures, then I understand that measures will be taken against me, up to and including revocation of the listing of my name by NAMI as a trained Parent Peer Support Specialist.

Printed Name of the Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date