

BHS CERTIFICATION for Peer Specialists in Kansas (KCPST and KCPS)

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) supports the concept of voluntary certification of behavioral health recovery peer support providers. Certification focuses specifically on the individual and is an indication of their level of demonstrated knowledge in behavioral health recovery at the time of certification. By certifying individuals as PEER SPECIALISTS, BHS assumes no responsibility for the integrity or work performance of any state-recognized certificate holder. This responsibility is that of the employer of the individual, and the employing agency assumes responsibility for service delivery.

OBJECTIVES OF CERTIFICATION

To promote competency in behavioral health recovery services by:

1. Promoting the formal recognition of the professionalism of behavioral health recovery peer support providers.
2. Recognizing formally those individuals who meet the standards established by KCPS Certification.
3. Encouraging continued professional development in behavioral health recovery for the purpose of improving the quality of care to individuals that identify as a person in recovery from a behavioral health condition.
4. Establishing, measuring, and monitoring the level of knowledge required for certification.
5. Assisting employers, government entities, health care providers, educators, and other practitioners, as well as the public, in identifying qualified behavioral health recovery peer support providers.

ADMINISTRATION

The certification program is sponsored by BHS. Questions concerning eligibility criteria or other portions of the application should be addressed to:

KDADS

Behavioral Health Services / *Attention: Carrie Billbe*

503 S. Kansas Avenue

Topeka, KS 66603-3404

carrie.a.billbe@ks.gov

APPLICATION

- Before you begin to complete the application materials enclosed herein, please read all instructions, requirements and information.
- Answer all questions completely and accurately. The burden of proof in satisfying to the BHS certification review staff that you are eligible for the certificate is upon you. Thus, if you have been convicted of a felony or if there have been other past or current events that potentially raise questions about your ability to merit the public trust, you may be required to provide further explanation of these matters.
- Please allow 15-30 days for review of your application. Applications received at our office are considered "valid" for a period of 120 days.

To make Application for attainment of Certification individuals must:

- Meet eligibility requirements (see below)
- Send completed application packet with all required documents to KDADS (See Application Help Guide checklist)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS for Kansas Certified Peer Specialist in Training (KCPST)

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be 18 years of age or older
2. Hold a high school diploma or equivalent
3. Self-identify as a person in recovery from a behavioral health condition
4. Establish a minimum of one year in stable recovery

5. Documentation of completion of BHS approved Level one online KCPS training with a score of 80% or greater
6. Read the BHS Peer Specialist Code of Ethics, and sign the statement on the Application affirming adherence to this code
7. Sign affirmation of Merit of Public Trust

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS for Kansas Certified Peer Specialist (KCPS) –

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be 18 years of age or older
2. Hold a high school diploma or equivalent
3. Self-identify as a person in recovery from a behavioral health condition
4. Establish a minimum of one year in stable recovery
5. Documentation of completion of BHS approved Level two in-person KCPS training with a score of 80% or greater
6. Read the BHS Peer Specialist Code of Ethics, and sign the statement on the Application affirming adherence to this code
7. Sign affirmation of Merit of Public Trust
8. Be gainfully employed as a Kansas Certified Peer Specialist in Training or Kansas Certified Peer Specialist with prior certification
9. Send all of the required information along with completed application to BHS. All pages of the application must be completed

ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION

BHS staff will initially review each application for completeness and eligibility, then take the following steps:

- The names of applicants whose applications are deemed by staff to be complete and are otherwise eligible for certification will be placed on a list for distribution to BHS reviewing staff. The lists will be reviewed by BHS Staff to ensure that all candidates presented for credentialing are appropriate.
- Applications deemed eligible by staff will be notified as such. Those deemed ineligible will receive a letter explaining reasons for ineligibility, sent by the BHS staff requesting additional information. Those deemed by staff to have any questionable item as to eligibility will be referred for further staff review.