



## SUPPORTIVE PEER SERVICES

### ***Information for Community Health Choices and Older Adult Populations in the Community and Long-Term Care Residences (Nursing Facilities)***

Since the implementation of Community Health Choices, CBH has been tasked to fund behavioral health services for a new population set; Individuals previously on the aging waiver and individuals residing in nursing facilities. The one service that CBH will be the primary payor for is Supportive Peer Services.

A Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) is someone living with mental health or co-occurring condition trained to provide paid peer support. The purpose of this position is to help, teach, and support others in their healing process.

The peer relationship is characterized by mutual trust and respect, achieving goals, and moving toward a more meaningful life in the community. Certified Peer Specialists can be reimbursed through Medicaid, and the requirements for this position are based on state guidelines for CPS qualifications.

Peer support workers engage in a wide range of activities. These include:

- Advocating for people
- Sharing resources and building skills
- Building community and relationships
- Leading support groups
- Mentoring and setting goals
- Providing services for the home bound and nursing facility residents (transition)

**NOTE: Referrals, please contact [CBH Member Services: 888-545-2600](tel:888-545-2600), or [Sophiya John, CBH Member Services Supervisor, Community Health Choices CBH Representative: 215-413-7662; \[sophiya.john@phila.gov\]\(mailto:sophiya.john@phila.gov\)](mailto:Sophiya.John@phila.gov)**

**The following CBH providers are available to deliver Supportive Peer Specialist Services to the CHC population: (This list varies with both staffing availability and waiting times)**

**Elwyn, Inc: Partners in Recovery Certified Peer Specialists: 215-895-5588 [Krystal.Gamez@elwyn.org](mailto:Krystal.Gamez@elwyn.org)**

**Mental Health Partnerships: Amber Ballinger, Director: [aballinger@mhasp.org](mailto:aballinger@mhasp.org) Referral and Info: 267-507-3843**

**PEERSTAR, Inc.: 814-421-6378: [cdistefano@peerstarllc.com](mailto:cdistefano@peerstarllc.com)**