

## Power of Peer Support: Integrating Peer Support to Expand the Workforce for individuals with Behavioral Health Challenges (Part 2)

1. Who should you talk to about getting CIT in a rural area?
  - Get the buy in from local leaders and have a meeting with providers, law enforcement, managing entity, and families.
  - Some advocates would say that the practice of electronic monitoring replicates institutional practices. What do our peer support experts think about electronic monitoring? Does it help or hinder people who need to get back on their feet?
  - If this question is regarding ankle monitors I think they should be only used if there is a very high risk individual. I believe it hinders a lot of people and stigmatizes them in the community.
2. How can counties change HR hiring practices to allow for peers with arrest charges to be hired?
  - Get volunteers at first if you need to show them the great results peers provide. You should show them examples of success and what they're doing in the community. Keep pushing the bar and start out small.
3. Are there peers who are in recovery employed with Dade county, same can work for PSS?
  - Dade county requires all peers to be in some sort of recovery.
4. Are there any online core peer support specialist trainings?
  - There are a few, here is a national training from Mental Health America.  
<https://www.mhanational.org/national-certified-peer-specialist-ncps-certification-get-certified>
5. How does a person that is just a certified peer get certified a forensic peer. I have experience as a CPSS inside the jail here in jail and now I currently work as the only CPSS for Mental Health Court in Durham NC
  - There is no forensic peer certification in Florida yet.
6. Are there any particular evaluation studies on peer support services and mental health outcomes that you would recommend be reviewed? Also is there a governing body that is a good resource for reliable information on peer support and mental health?
  - SAMHSA website has a lot of info: <https://www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs/recovery-support-tools/peer>
7. Jill can you share that peer program evaluation? Was it a formal evaluation?

- We are working statewide in Florida to put together a forensic curriculum for peer specialists. Is there any way I could speak with Jill additionally looking at reentry opportunities. I can be reached via e-mail at [kimberlyc64@att.net](mailto:kimberlyc64@att.net) or via telephone at 630.677.3108 and would appreciate any support that can be provided. I would also like to know how I may get more involved in SJC.
8. How can I find out the status on Peer Specialist Certification in California?
- <https://ccappcredentialing.org/index.php/career-ladder/recovery-related-credentials/cpr>
9. Who employs the forensic peers?
- Organizations that are recovery oriented and deal with criminal justice involved individuals.
10. Are they (peers) housed at the facilities?
- Programs yes, but independent recovery housing no. There will be someone in charge in recovery, but no official title.
11. What does the Forensic Peer Support training look like? Is there specific instruction centered on the experience of incarceration? Continuing with updated training?
- None currently in Florida.
12. Are the peer recovery programs being discussed on this presentation offering returning citizens an opportunity to learn how to advocate for their right to reasonable accommodations?
- Yes, but unfortunately living in poverty can hinder this process.
13. How long from the end of sanctions can they apply for exemptions?
- I believe 2 years in FL for certification.
14. Do you feel the training classes for peers helps in your hiring process for peers with past SA/MH history? Meaning organizations hire peers with little to no training and employee/peer relapse and are thrown back into the system.
- 15.
- Yes they help, but real hands on experience is the best teacher and having support from the organization to guide the peer.
16. Why is there a hiring stigma against CRPS who are prescribed medical marijuana?
- Depending on your state, county, or employer, its still controversial pertaining to drug test policies within individual organization.
17. Are any peers in the county jails?
- Not in Miami. We go inside but are not stationed there.

18. What time are inmates released?

- Between 12:00pm and 4;00 pm when coordinated through jail diversion.