Ethics in Peer Recovery Support

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Ethics in Peer Recovery Support

Objectives:

• Identify the basics and importance of Ethics and Boundary.
• Identify the consequences that exist for Ethics and Boundary violations
• Identify steps to take if you feel you have violated any established Ethics rules or Boundary guidelines.
**Position: Certified Peer Recovery Supporter**

**Responsibilities include but not limited to:**

* Conduct community outreach to client/consumers, families and support systems
* Mentor and develop meaningful and trusting relationships with clients/consumers and their families
* Coordinate client/consumer arrival and departure for services
* Work closely with criminal justice system and various social service agencies
* Arrange and provide transportation, manage follow-up appointments
* Work with agency staff members to coordinate services
* Use own unique, life-altering experience in order to guide and support others
* Conduct outreach to clients/consumers who are seeking recovery
* Performs individual, group, community and family education
* Provides crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques with clients
* Refers clients to community programs/services and conducts follow-up as necessary
* Compiles client records and maintains documentation according to program and accreditation standards and protocols
* Maintains confidentiality, respect client’s privacy, routine, and independence as much as possible
* May be required to play an active role in the event of a public health emergency, which may include changes in responsibilities and working hours
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Ethics and Boundary issues are important for peer supporters because they help peer supporters understand the behavior expected of them in the mental health and/or addiction services setting. This not only can protect the peer supporter and the peers they support, but also can help alleviate fears of clinicians and other health care professionals of the ‘Peer Supporters’ professionalism.
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Ethics:
Formalized / Mandated Rules that govern behaviors.

- State Mandated
- Developed by Professional Boards or Licensing Organizations
- Agency Policy
- Developed in the best interest of the peer
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- Personal Level
- Agency Level
- Licensing Board
- State Governing Body
Ohio Peer Recovery Supporter Code of Ethics

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Ethics violations can lead to:

- Investigations by committees
- Written warnings
- Suspension of Credentials
- Permanent Revocation of Credentials
- Professional / Criminal and or Civil Liability

*Subject to state, Licensing Organization and Agency policies*
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**Boundaries:**

Guidelines that are ‘Not’ formal or mandated
- Informal Rules /Guidelines that govern our professional behavior at work.
- Developed in the best interest of the peer.
- Can be a cause for confusion
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Boundaries Violations:
• Increased supervision for Peer Supporter
• Retraining of Peer Supporter
• Investigations by committees *
• Suspension/Revocation of Credentials *
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Confidentiality:

Breach of Confidentiality ...one of the most common form of ethics violation
Personal Information
Clinical Information
Medical Information
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Other Ethics and Boundary Violations Include:

- Giving / Receiving of gifts
- Lending / Borrowing Money
- Development of Dual Relationships
- Personal Space / Impropriety
- Sexual Relationships / Non-sexual Intimacy
- Personal Information
- Professional Behavior
- Familiarity
- Non-Peer Support Activities
- Duty to warn
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Other Ethics and Boundary Violations Include:
- Personal Relapse
- Misrepresentation of Professional credentials
- Conflict of interest
- Dual Professional Roles for the Peer Supporter
- Failure to advocate for the client
- Emotional Manipulation
- Friendship / Sponsor / Peer Professional (Role Clarity)
- Scope of Practice violations
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Personal values and beliefs play an integral role for the Peer Supporter in ethical decision making, maintaining professional boundaries and complying with all ethical mandates established by State of Ohio, Professional Licensing Organizations, & Local Agency policy.
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Boundary Management:
It is very important to maintain healthy boundaries!

Boundaries are an area of potential conflict with the Peer Supporter and other Professional service providers.

Well established ‘Professional’ differences in approach & relationship with client / peer.
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What is a Peer Supporter to do?

- Report suspected violations to your supervisor
- Report any complaints immediately
- Cooperate with any investigation
- Always maintain accurate documentation
Questions?