



News Release

For Immediate Release
December 31, 2013

Media Contact: Phyllis Jones, Public Information Officer
(202) 673.1937 desk (202) 631-3077 mobile

DBH Accepts Applications for Peer Specialist Certification Training *Deadline is February 28, 2014*

Washington, DC—The District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is accepting applications for the 2014 peer specialist certification training class. The deadline for applying is February 28, 2014.

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must self-identify as receiving or previously receiving behavioral health services within the Department of Behavioral Health network, have demonstrated personal recovery, and the ability to help others with their recovery. In addition, an applicant must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent and a District resident. A participant must be willing to create and follow a wellness recovery plan.

The six-week certification program ensures that valuable peer supports services meet acceptable standards. Participants learn how to help individuals receiving mental health or substance use treatment develop goals, monitor their own progress and advocate for effective services. A peer specialist is a model for personal recovery and ongoing coping skills.

The peer specialist certification program also helps prepare individuals to qualify for available peer specialist jobs within the DBH community provider network. Under general supervision, a certified peer specialist performs a wide range of tasks to assist individuals to regain control over their lives and their own recovery process.

Classes will take place from June 2, 2014 to July 11, 2014 at 64 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC. After successful completion of class work, an 80 hour field practicum must be performed with a DBH community based behavioral health provider and completed by September 5, 2014. The field practicum will be arranged with the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs. Following graduation from the program, a certification examination must be passed.

For an application, please email Adrienne.lightfoot@dc.gov or go to www.dbh.dc.gov, click on consumers and scroll down to the peer specialist certification program. Along with a completed application, a resume, proof of residency, evidence of education which may be a high school diploma, GED or equivalent, and two letters of reference (at least one of which is work or

volunteer related) must be provided. An application must be submitted by February 28, 2014 to Adrienne.lightfoot@dc.gov or the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs, 64 New York Avenue NE 3rd Floor. No application will be considered after this date. Selections will be announced by May 2, 2014. Each participant will receive a stipend of \$200.00.

For additional information regarding the peer specialist certification program, contact Vivi Smith, Director of the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs at (202) 673-4377 or vivi.smith@dc.gov or go to www.dbh.dc.gov.

#