



Depression and Bipolar  
Support Alliance

# DBSA Peer Specialist Training

September 15–19, 2008

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia

## Training Description

DBSA Peer Specialist training prepares people who live with mental illnesses to use their experiences to work with others as peer specialists. Facilitated by nationally-recognized trainers, this comprehensive course delivers a foundation in recovery principles, intervention techniques and ethical practice. Curriculum focuses on the use of peer-delivered services to support the recovery of others. DBSA Peer Specialist training is delivered in affiliation with Appalachian Consulting Group, Inc., innovators of the Georgia Certified Peer Specialist Project that pioneered Medicaid-billable peer support services.

## Who Can Participate

- Individuals age 18 or older with personal experience as consumers of mental health services who wish to use this experience to assist others
- Those willing to publicly identify as a person living with a mental illness

**[Please do NOT apply if you do not meet these first two standards.]**

- DBSA especially encourages people who currently hold a peer specialist position or who are actively seeking such a position (paid or volunteer) to apply, although this is not a requirement to participate.
- DBSA actively seeks a diverse group of training applicants with respect to race, gender, age, sexual orientation, diagnosis and disability.

## Requirements

Training participants must commit to:

- attend and actively participate in five full days of training
- participate in discussion and role-plays utilizing solely their personal experiences as mental health consumers rather than any clinical roles or training
- take a written certification examination within four weeks of training completion

## Location

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
777 Waterside Drive  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

## Dates

Training begins at 8:30 A.M. on Monday, September 15, 2008 and ends at approximately 2:00 P.M. on Friday, September 19, 2008.

## Registration Fee

**\$950 per person** includes training fee and all training materials, beverage breaks, continental breakfast (Monday–Friday) and post-training certification testing. **Do not submit payment with this application.** Registration fees will be due at a later date. Fee does NOT include hotel accommodations, travel or meals other than breakfast. Participants are responsible for paying these costs or obtaining outside funding support. Participants are eligible to receive the discounted DBSA conference rate on hotel rooms (\$109 plus tax) at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside. For more information on the DBSA National Conference, please visit [www.DBSAAlliance.org/Conference2008](http://www.DBSAAlliance.org/Conference2008).

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DBSA NO LATER THAN JUNE 10, 2008.**

**Please mail or fax your completed application to:**

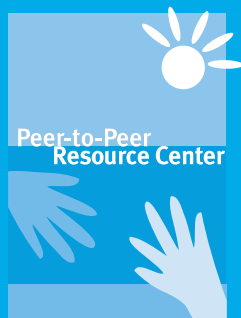
Peer Services Department  
DBSA  
730 North Franklin Street, Suite 501  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Phone: (800) 826-3632, Ext. 155  
Fax: (312) 642-7243

**E-mailed applications are NOT accepted.**

Do not submit payment with this application. This is an application only and does not guarantee you will be selected. All applicants will be notified of their status no later than July 15, 2008. Registration payment will be due at that time.

**Selection:** Enrollment is limited, and participants will be selected through a competitive application.



## Training topics include:

- Role of peer support in recovery
- Problem solving with individuals
- Effective listening and the art of asking questions
- Combating negative self-talk
- Dissatisfaction as an avenue for change
- Facilitating recovery dialogues
- Peer specialist ethics
- ...and more

# Application for Participation

## 2008 DBSA Peer Specialist Training

September 15–19, 2008, Norfolk, Virginia

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. This is not a “test” about right and wrong answers. Your responses will help us get to know you and will assist the Selection Committee in identifying and selecting qualified applicants. Make sure to answer all questions and sign your application. Write your answers on a **separate sheet of paper**, and submit them along with this application. If you handwrite your answers, please make sure they are readable. **THANK YOU!**

### Demographic Information

Please provide the following optional information to help ensure diversity of the training group. Aside from using aggregate numbers, DBSA will not maintain or use this information in any way.

#### GENDER

Male  Female

#### AGE

18–25  
 26–39  
 40–55  
 56+

#### PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Yes  No

#### ETHNICITY

Asian/Pacific Islander  
 American Indian  
 Black  
(not of Hispanic origin)  
 Hispanic  
 White  
(not of Hispanic origin)  
 Other

### 1. Understanding and Interest

A. Why do you want to become a peer specialist?

B. What makes you a good candidate to work with other consumers in the mental health field?

### 2. Recovery Experience

A. What does recovery mean to you?

B. What were/are important factors in your own recovery?

C. What types of experiences have you had in assisting, or advocating for, consumers of mental health services (for example, support group leadership, self-advocacy, public testimony, programs you started, etc.)? Please be specific.

### 3. Environment and Access

A. Do you currently hold a position where you will use the skills gained through Peer Specialist training and certification?  Yes  No

If yes, do you receive pay for this position?  Yes  No

Position title/location \_\_\_\_\_

B. Are you a current candidate for a position where you will use the skills gained through Peer Specialist training and certification?  Yes  No

If yes, will you receive pay for this position?  Yes  No

Position title/location \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

*Please initial all items below to indicate your understanding of each:*

\_\_\_ I certify that I have personal experience as a consumer of mental health services.

\_\_\_ If I am chosen as a training participant, I understand that I am responsible for funding my own registration fee, travel, hotel accommodations and meals other than breakfast.

\_\_\_ I understand that participating in the DBSA Peer Specialist training does not guarantee me employment or a volunteer position.