



Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

DBSA Peer Specialist Training

September 26-30, 2011

Chicago, Illinois

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 all five 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

University of Illinois - Chicago School of Public Health/Psychiatric Institute
1601 W. Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612

Dates

Training begins on Monday, Sept. 26, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. and ends on Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, at approximately 12:00 p.m.

**ALL APPLICATIONS
MUST BE RECEIVED BY
DBSA NO LATER THAN
AUGUST 25, 2011.**

Please mail or fax your completed application to:

Peer Services Department
DBSA
730 North Franklin Street, Suite 501
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Phone: (800) 826-3632

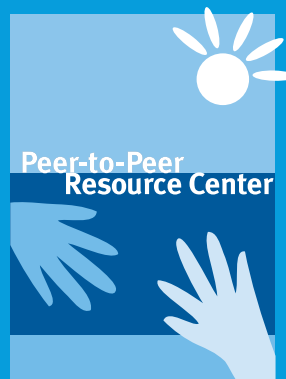
Fax: (312) 642-7243

Do not submit payment with this application. This is an application only and does not guarantee you will be selected.

Selection: Enrollment is limited, and participants will be selected through a competitive application process. All applicants will be notified of their status no later than Sept. 1, 2011. Registration payment is due Sept. 13, 2011.

Registration Fee

\$975 per person includes training fee, all training materials, and post-training certification testing. Registration fees will be due at a later date. Do not submit payment with this application. Fee does NOT include hotel accommodations, travel, or meals. Participants are responsible for paying these costs or obtaining outside funding support.



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

2011 DBSA Peer Specialist Training

September 26-30, 2011

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, selfadvocacy, 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.

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

___ I understand that payment is due by Sept. 13, 2011.

YOUR SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE ALSO PRINT YOUR NAME

Important: Each individual state or service delivery system sets its own peer specialist training and certification standards. Please check local requirements with your state certification body, office of consumer affairs, or service delivery system before making the decision to participate in this training course. DBSA can provide you with information on training curriculum content.