



DBSA Training & Consultation

DBSA Veteran Peer Specialist Training Course

August 5-10, 2013
Chicago, Illinois

Training Description

Facilitated by nationally-recognized trainers, this 50 hour 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 fellow Veterans. Course training content is equivalent to current DBSA-VA contract courses for peer support training/certification of individuals employed by the VA as peer specialists, and **successful completion of this training course and all associated examinations meets current VA certification requirements for individuals employed as peer support specialists.**

Who Can Participate

This Veteran Peer Specialist training course is reserved for individuals who wish to become eligible for employment as a VA peer support specialist. In order to qualify for a VA peer support position, an individual must be:

- a Veteran who has recovered or is recovering from a mental health condition (including addictions), and
- certified by a qualifying organization (DBSA is such an organization), or by an appropriate state mental health department's approved process.

For additional information on VA peer support employment requirements, please visit: <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/peer-to-peer/index.asp>, or contact the human resources department at your local VA facility or Dan O'Brien-Mazza, VA National Director of Peer Support Services: Daniel.O'Brien-Mazza@va.gov, or (315) 425-4407.

Requirements

Training participants must commit to

- Attend and actively participate in 5.5 days (42 hrs.) of face-to-face training and 8 hrs. of web-based training.
- Participate in discussion and role-plays utilizing solely their personal recovery experiences rather than any clinical roles or training
- Participate in on-site skills observation and evaluation during the face-to-face training
- Complete a web-based certification examination following training completion

Training Dates and Hours

The training course includes **five components**:

- **Podcast** - listen to a recorded podcast and provide online feedback
- **Webinar #1** - Thursday, August 1, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Central time
- **Face-to-face training course** - Monday, Aug. 5 -Saturday, August 10
- **Webinar #2** - Wednesday, Aug. 14, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Central time
- **Post-course examination** – online; begins Monday, August 19.

Certification requires full participation in the course and successful completion of the post-training examination.

Participants must commit to attend all portions of the training course. If you cannot participate fully, please do not apply.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DBSA NO LATER THAN July 12, 2013.

Please mail, e-mail, or fax your completed application to:

Training Department
DBSA
730 North Franklin Street, Suite 501
Chicago, Illinois 60654-7225

Fax: (312) 642-7243
E-mail: Training@DBSAlliance.org
Phone: (800) 826-3632, x164

Participation:

- This is an application only and does not guarantee your acceptance as a training participant. Do not submit payment with this application.
- Individual participants are responsible for reserving and funding their own travel, hotel accommodations, and meals associated with face-to-face training.
- Information on hotels near the training site will be provided with notification of training acceptance.

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 July 18, 2013. Registration payment is due by July 26, 2013.

Registration Fee

\$2,795 per person includes training fee, all training materials, and post-training certification testing.

Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) funding and Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation benefits may be available from the VA to support training costs. For information on your eligibility, please see your VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist.

Visit <http://DBSAlliance.org/FindingFunds> for additional funding ideas.



Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

730 N. Franklin Street
Suite 501
Chicago, Illinois 60654

DBSAlliance.org
(800) 826-3632

Application for Participation

DBSA Veteran Peer Specialist Training

August 5-10, 2013

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 us in selecting qualified applicants. Make sure to answer all questions and sign your application. **Type or hand-write your answers on a separate sheet of paper and submit them with this application.** If your answers are handwritten, please make sure they are readable. **THANK YOU!**

Demographic Information

Please provide the following optional information to help ensure diversity of the training group. DBSA will use combined numbers to describe overall participant demographics and will not maintain or use your individual information in any other way.

GENDER

Male Female

AGE

- 18–25
 26–39
 40–55
 56+

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 work as a peer support specialist?
B. What makes you a good candidate to work with other Veterans in the mental health field?

2. Personal 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, Veterans or other people living with mental health issues (for example, support group leadership, self-advocacy, programs you started, etc.)?

3. Practice Environment

Are you a current candidate for a paid VA position where you will use the skills gained through peer specialist training and certification? Yes No

If Yes:

Position title: _____

Facility and location (city and state): _____

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE NUMBER(S)

E-MAIL

NOTE ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Important:

Training applicants must initial below to indicate their agreement with all these training requirements:

- I am a Veteran, discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.
- I have been in personal recovery from a mental health condition and/or addiction for a minimum of one year.
- I am not currently employed by the VA in a peer support specialist position.
- I understand that successful completion of all portions of this training course (including the post-course exam) is only a partial requirement in order to qualify for employment as a VA peer support specialist.
- If I am chosen as a training participant, I understand that I am responsible for funding my registration fee, travel, hotel accommodations, and meals associated with face-to-face training.

Initial here if you meet all these training requirements: _____

YOUR SIGNATURE

PLEASE ALSO PRINT YOUR NAME