



Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

DBSA Peer-to-Peer Resource Center

The Peer-to-Peer Resource Center trains and certifies people who live with mental illnesses to use their experiences to work with others as Peer Specialists. Our Center works in affiliation with Appalachian Consulting Group, Inc., founders of the Georgia Certified Peer Specialist Project and pioneers of this concept. We use a nationally-developed training curriculum designed by the Center after a review of a wide range of peer provider training materials and curricula. Training focuses on orienting participants to a recovery philosophy, and preparing them to use peer-delivered services to enhance treatment strategies.

[State training and certification:](#)

- Alabama Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation (Shocco Springs, Alabama - 2007 & 2008)
- Illinois Department of Human Services/Divisions of Mental Health and Rehabilitation Services (Peoria and Chicago, Illinois - 2005)
- Puerto Rico Mental Health & Anti-Addiction Services Administration (San Juan, Puerto Rico - 2008)
- Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities/ Magellan Health Services *faith-based peer training* (Memphis, Tennessee - 2008)
- Via Hope/Texas Department of State Health Services (Austin, Texas – 2010)
- Wisconsin Bureau of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (Madison, Wisconsin - 2008)

[Veteran training and certification:](#)

- Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (North Chicago, Illinois – 2010)
- Central Texas VA facilities /Austin State Hospital/Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center (Austin, Texas - 2009)

Veteran training and certification, *continued*

- Eastern Colorado VA Health Care System (Colorado Springs, Colorado - 2008)
- Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital (Bedford, Massachusetts - 2008)
- Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs/Vet Net (Chicago, Illinois - 2009)
- John J. Pershing VA Medical Center (Poplar Bluff, Missouri - 2007 & 2009)
- Long Beach VA Medical Center (Long Beach, California - 2008)
- Marion VA Medical Center (Marion, Illinois and Evansville, Indiana - 2008)
- Northern California Health Care System (Martinez and Sacramento, California – 2010)
- Northern Indiana Health Care System (Marion, Indiana - 2007)
- Pacific Islands Health Care System (Honolulu, Hawaii – 2010)
- St. Louis VA Medical Center (St. Louis, Missouri - 2008)
- VISN 12 Department of Veterans Affairs Great Lakes Health Care System (Madison, Wisconsin - 2007)
- VISN 17 Department of Veterans Affairs Heart of Texas Health Care Network, South, Central and North Texas facilities (Waco, Texas - 2005)
- VISN 22 Department of Veterans Affairs Desert Pacific Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC), in collaboration with a grant from the VA Health Services Research and Development Service (Los Angeles, California - 2006 & 2009)

DBSA-sponsored training and certification:

- Austin, Texas - in partnership with DBSA Texas (2007)
- Chicago, Illinois (2008 & 2009)
- Indianapolis, Indiana (2009)
- Itasca, Illinois (2010)
- Lake Buena Vista, Florida (2007)
- Lombard, Illinois (2010)
- Los Angeles, California (2010)
- St. Louis, Missouri (2009)

Other training and certification partnerships:

- Access Behavioral Health Consumer Action Council (Pensacola, Florida & Fairhope, Alabama - 2005, 2007 & 2008)
- Chicago Area Project *faith-based and youth peer training initiatives* (Chicago, Illinois - 2007 & 2008)

Other training and certification partnerships, *continued*

- Group Health Cooperative/Center for Health Studies, in collaboration with a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) (Seattle, Washington - 2006)
- National Peer Specialist pilot training and certification, funded under a cooperative agreement with the Center for Mental Health Services/CMHS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/SAMHSA (Decatur, Georgia - 2004)
- Soldiers of Love (New Orleans, Louisiana - 2008)