

Updated Only for Logo and Branding

Provider Notice

To: HealthChoices Psychiatric Inpatient Services Providers
From: Donald W. Stiffler, M.S., Provider Relations Manager
Date: April 2, 2009
Subject: Referral to Peer Support Services at Discharge From Inpatient Unit

PerformCare is excited about peer support as it opens the door for potential growth of members as they become more aware of how they can self-direct treatment and support.

Peer Support Services (PSS) are person-centered and recovery focused services for adults 18 years and older. The services are provided by individuals who have utilized services in the behavioral health system. These individuals are trained and certified to offer support and assistance in helping others in their recovery and community integration process. The service is multi-faceted including such activities as advocacy, education, development of natural supports, support of work or other meaningful activity of the person's choosing, crisis support, effective utilization of the service delivery system and coordination of and linkage to other service providers.

The purpose of peer support is to inspire hope in individuals that recovery is not only possible, but probable. The service is designed to promote empowerment, self-determination, understanding, coping skills and resilience through mentoring and service coordination supports that allow people with severe and persistent mental illness and co-occurring disorders to achieve personal wellness and cope with the stressors and barriers encountered when recovering from their disabilities

Please consider a referral to PSS for persons receiving inpatient services at your facility if they:

- 1) Are aged 18 years or older and,
- 2) Have diagnosis of Serious Mental Illness as defined by Mental Health Bulletin number OMH-94-04 (Subject: Serious Mental Illness: Adult Priority Group); and
- 3) The individual has a moderate to severe functional impairment that interferes with or limits role performance (relative to the person's ethnic/cultural environment) in at least one (1) domain (educational, social, vocational, or self maintenance.)

In addition, the person must be agreeable to the services and a physician or other mental health professional such as a psychologist, PCP or Psychiatrist, must recommend it.

Please see the PerformCare Provider Directory to find a provider of peer support on the website or speak to a Clinical Care Manager about Peer Support Services if you serve a Member who may benefit.