Nebraska Office of Consumer Affairs
Exam for Certification as a Peer Support and Wellness Specialist

What is a Peer Support & Wellness Specialist?

The peer support workforce works from the perspective of their lived experience with mental health and/or substance use challenges, trauma, and their own personal recovery and wellness journeys to assist in educating others about the reality of success, hopes, and dreams to move towards the multiple pathways of recovery!

Who can become certified?

Eligibility to take the exam through the Division of Behavioral Health Office of Consumer Affairs is for persons who have completed a forty hour (40) Peer Support Training Program and have a certificate of attendance/completion from training facilitators of the program. Peer support training programs are for individuals with experience with any lived behavioral health condition and/or trauma. Certification and training is a great opportunity for those who are working/volunteering in the behavioral health field serving military, veterans, individuals, families, and/or children/youth who have been impacted by a behavioral health condition and/or trauma.

Exam process:

1. CPSWS applicants select a date to take the exam. Dates can be found on the Office of Consumer Affairs webpage http://dhhs.ne.gov/behavioral_health/Pages/beh_mh_mhadvo.aspx
2. Applicants then complete the application to take the exam and submit to the Office of Consumer Affairs along with their forty hour (40) certificate of attendance/completion from a peer support training program.
3. A confirmation letter with details and further instructions for exam day is then sent to applicants.
4. Exam day format-
    a. A thirty-four (34) question written exam is administered.
    b. A seven (7) question oral exam is administered
5. Once exams are scored applicants are then made aware of their status- either awarded certification or invited back to re-take the exam at a later date. Applicants will be made aware of status within seven business days from date of exam.

Disclaimer- Certification as a Peer Support and Wellness Specialist certifies that you have completed a forty hour (40) peer support training program and taken the certification exam. Training programs are generally designed as workforce development programs to provide tools while working as a peer specialist, however additional training may be required by various employers. Certification does not guarantee employment.

For more information please contact
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http://dhhs.ne.gov/behavioral_health/Pages/DBHOCAPeer.aspx
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