

Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) Code of Ethics

Preamble

The purpose of the Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) Code of Ethics is to outline the basic values and principles of peer support practice. The code shall serve as a guide for the CPSS in the State of Nebraska by defining professional responsibility and ethical standards for the profession.

The primary responsibility of the CPSS is to help Peer Support recipients to achieve their own recovery needs, wants, and goals. CPSS may have other duties as assigned as per their employer and their job description. The CPSS will maintain high standards of personal conduct and will conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own recovery. CPSS will be guided by the principle of self-determination for all and shall serve as advocates for the people they serve.

The CPSS will perform services only within the boundaries of their expertise. The CPSS shall be aware of the limits of their training and capabilities and shall collaborate with other professionals to best meet the needs of the person(s) served. The CPSS will, at all times, provide an objective and professional relationship while recognizing there are multiple pathways to recovery.

1. The primary responsibility of a CPSS is to help individuals achieve their own recovery needs, wants, and goals. Certified Peer Support Specialists will be guided by the principle of self-determination for all.
2. The CPSS will maintain high standards of personal conduct. The CPSS will also conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own recovery.
3. The CPSS will openly share with consumers and colleagues their own recovery stories from behavioral health challenges and will likewise be able to identify and describe the supports that promote their recovery.
4. The CPSS will, at all times, respect the rights and dignity of those they serve.
5. The CPSS will never intimidate, threaten, harass, use undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to the individuals they serve.
6. The CPSS will not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, sex, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical disability, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or state.
7. The CPSS will advocate for those they serve that they may make their own decisions in all matters when dealing with other professionals.
8. The CPSS will respect the privacy and confidentiality of those they serve.
9. The CPSS will advocate for the full integration of individuals into the communities of their choice and will promote the inherent value of these individuals to those communities. The CPSS will be directed by the knowledge that all individuals have the right to live in the least restrictive and least intrusive environment.
10. The CPSS will not enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve.
11. The CPSS will never engage in sexual/intimate activities or relationships with the consumers they serve.
12. The CPSS will not abuse substances under any circumstances.
13. The CPSS will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues.
14. The CPSS will not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve.