Peer Specialists within OnTrackNY:
A unique and dynamic role

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CSS-SMI INITIATIVE

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DISCLOSURE

No relationships or conflicts of interest related to the subject matter of this presentation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Attendees will leave the webinar with the ability to:

• Summarize the role and focus of Peer Specialists on OnTrackNY teams
• Reiterate the journey of one OnTrackNY Peer Specialist from program participant to program staff
• Summarize the training and support structure for Peer Specialists within OnTrackNY
OnTrackNY Model

Shared Decision Making

- Outreach & Engagement
- Relationship Building
- Embracing Creative Narratives
- Co-Creating Tools for Success
- Supporting & Partnering with Families

- Bridge Building
- Group Facilitation
- Ongoing Community Building
- Influencing Team Culture
- Team Communication & Collaboration
- Ongoing Professional Development

OnTrackNY Peer Specialist Role Responsibilities
Role Responsibilities with Participants

- Outreach & Engagement
- Relationship Building
- Embracing Creative Narratives
- Co-Creating Tools for Success
- Supporting & Partnering with Families
- Bridge Building
- Group Facilitation
- Ongoing Community Building

Role Responsibilities within the Team

- Influencing Team Culture
- Team Communication & Collaboration
- Ongoing Professional Development
Peer Specialists & the Team

- Participant
- Family
- Team Leader
- Psychiatric Care Provider
- Supported Employment and Education Specialist
- Primary Clinician
- Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator
- Wellness Nurse

One Peer Specialist’s Experience:

Wanting to become a Peer Specialist:

- My time at Ontrack was coming to an End
  - I had learned so much from my time in the program
  - I figured I should see what else I could learn, what else I could experience
- Asked SEES about job or volunteer opportunities
  - He told me about a peer specialist position close to home
Overview

• Groups
  • Young Adult Group
  • Video Game Group

• Meetings
• Outreach

Overview

• Events
  • Talent Show
  • Family Night/Presentations
  • Holiday Party
  • Pizza & Game Night
  • Movie Night
Daily Routines

• Review
• Communication
  • Other Peers
  • Other Roles
  • Family

Daily Routines

• Schedule updates
  • Individual Meetings
  • Future Events
  • Updating Groups/ Maintenance
Peer Specialist Supports: OnTrack Central

- 2 x monthly support calls
  - Collaborative calls with Dr. Pat Deegan
  - MAPS calls
- Care consultation calls for full team
- Team leader support calls for role of Peer Specialist
  - Once monthly with support of Dr. Pat Deegan
- Trainings and Webinars
- Learning Communities
Peer Specialist Support: Supervision

OnTrackNY Peer Specialist Supervision Checklist

The Team Leader (supervisor) can use this checklist to structure supervision of the Peer Specialist and to support performance of key job responsibilities. Remember, the Peer Specialist is not a clinician. The Peer Specialist has the challenge of working within a clinical OnTrackNY team, while simultaneously working and speaking from a peer perspective. Refer to OTNY Peer Specialist Role Responsibilities document for more detailed supervisory lists.

Remaining Peer

☐ When working with program participants, the Peer Specialist keeps the focus on learning together, rather than assessing problems and prescribing help.

☐ The Peer Specialist seeks to understand program participants’ evolving understanding of “what happened to me” which often involves non-traditional, non-clinical meaning making.

☐ Peer Specialist mentoring, training, conferences, publications, web-forums, etc. are being accessed.

☐ Check for signs of “drift” from the role of Peer Specialist:

☐ Adopting clinical language and terms such as decompensating, high-functioning, etc.

☐ Telling/advising program participants what to do

Support Sites for OnTrackNY

• Ontrackny.org
• Practiceinnovations.org
• Recoverylibrary.com
QUESTIONS?

References:

