Statewide Forensic Peer Support Specialist Program

About the Program

- A 18 month project funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) in cooperation with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), to establish a Statewide Forensic Peer Support Program serving justice-involved individuals with mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders.

- Collaborative effort between Drexel University Psychology Dept., Drexel University College of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry’s Division of Behavioral Healthcare Education (BHE), the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association (PMHCA), and the Center of Excellence.

Our Goals

- Identify certified peer support specialists who wish to receive specialized forensic training
- Develop a ‘train-the-trainer’ curriculum and administer this training to 25 individuals who will become facilitators for future forensic peer support training workshops.
- Develop a three-day forensic peer support specialist training curriculum
- Train forensic peer support specialists in 8 separate sites throughout Pennsylvania
- Promote the use of forensic peer support specialists
- Integrate forensic peer support specialists into PA county operations
- Participate in Cross-Training initiatives
- Develop an informational repository regarding evidence-based and promising practices

Program Progress

- We are currently in our fourth quarter of this initiative. In collaboration with The Main Link Forensic Peer Support Trainer, we have completed three 3-day forensic trainings for current peer specialists, and a ‘train-the-trainer’ workshop for future facilitators.

Contact Us

- For more information, or to request a forensic peer support specialist training in your county, please contact:

  Elizabeth Woodley (PMHCA Project Specialist)  Liz@pmhca.org  717-564-4930
  Sarah Filone, M.A. (FPS Project Coordinator)  Saf83@Drexel.edu  215-762-8275