

Peer Support Subcommittee of the State Mental Health Planning Council

Co-Chairs:

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DMH Liaison:

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Definition of Peer Support

NAMI Massachusetts

Peer support means getting support from others who share similar identity, experience, or journey. It's based on the principle that people who have this shared "lived experience" can offer unique support and understanding to one another.

SAMSHA Core Competencies:

- Recovery-oriented
- Person-centered
- Voluntary
- Relationship-focused
- Trauma-informed

Historical Overview and Challenges

2024

The “Reboot” of the Peer Support Subcommittee

2025

After an intentionally slow start, momentum builds, then fades.

2026

A new vision and direction evolves to focus on mutual learning and building community rather than consensus

Mission Statement

The Peer Support Subcommittee of the Massachusetts Statewide Mental Health Planning Council is committed to uplifting the vital role of peer support in behavioral health.

Our mission is to promote peer-driven initiatives, programs, and resources that empower individuals with lived experiences to connect, share, and thrive. We strive to facilitate collaboration among diverse communities, ensuring that people with lived experiences inform policymaking, services, and strategies aimed at enhancing behavioral health services.

Through education, networking, and partnerships, we aim to elevate the recognition and value of peer support while advocating for equitable access to quality behavioral health services across the state.

2027: A New Vision and Structure

The Peer Support workforce in Massachusetts is made up of passionate Lived Experience Professionals working across a range of programs and settings. While we are united by shared values and core principles, there are many perspectives on the practice of peer support throughout the Commonwealth. To honor this diversity of experiences while remaining grounded in our common foundation, we strive to create an inclusive space where all voices are welcomed as we work together to strengthen and advance peer support across systems.

To support this vision, SMHPC Peer Support Subcommittee be comprised of 3 components:

- **Open Subcommittee Meetings**
 - A forum open to anyone (not just peer workers) for collaboration, information sharing, and engagement focused on promoting recovery-oriented systems of care.
- **Core Committee**
 - A smaller but diverse group of lived experience professionals representing areas and organizations across the Commonwealth. Serves as the planning and coordination body of the subcommittee.
- **Presentations/ Workforce Spotlights**
 - A recurring space for programs to showcase their work, offer educational opportunities for professional development, and create meaningful connections across the workforce.

Next Steps



Build out Subcommittee website



Begin email blasts with news, updates, and upcoming dates



Put out a call for proposals for future presentations



Expand Core Committee membership

Tentative Meeting Schedule (beginning January 2027)

January: Quarterly Presentation #1 (Moral Injury, presented by Ryan Duquette)

February: Core Committee Meeting

March: Subcommittee Meeting

April: Core Committee Meeting

May: Quarterly Presentation #2

June: Core Committee Meeting

July: Subcommittee Meeting

August : Core Committee Meeting

September: Quarterly Presentation #3

October: Subcommittee Meeting

November: Core Committee Meeting

December: Quarterly Presentation #4