

# Code of Values, Ethics, and Principles Certified Recovery Support Specialists'



DMHAS; Updated January 8, 2015 (revised December 11, 2019)

## **CODE OF VALUES & ETHICS**

1. Certified Recovery Support Specialists will not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical disability, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition, or state.
2. Certified Recovery Support Specialists will advocate for the full participation and inclusion of individuals into the communities of their choice and will promote the inherent value of these individuals to those communities.
3. Certified Recovery Support Specialists will advocate for those that they serve to make their own decisions in all matters. Certified RSSs will advocate for individuals to achieve their own stated needs, wants, and goals.
4. Certified Recovery Support Specialists will, at all times, respect the dignity, privacy, confidentiality and rights of the people they serve.
5. Certified Recovery Support Specialists should avoid entering into dual intimate relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve (while the working support relationship is ongoing).
6. Certified Recovery Support Specialists should not engage in sexual or intimate activities or relations with the people they serve.
7. Certified Recovery Support Specialists will openly share their recovery stories in order to promote and support recovery and resilience with the people they serve and colleagues (as appropriate to the situation).
8. Certified Recovery Support Specialists will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery peer support and advocacy, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues and people they serve.

## **CERTIFIED RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALISTS' PRINCIPLES**

Certified Recovery Support Specialists are guided by the following principles in conducting their various roles, relationships, and levels of responsibilities:

1. Hopeful
2. Self-determination
3. Strengths based
4. Recovery-oriented
5. Trauma-informed
6. Understanding the Human experience instead of pathologizing and treating people like a diagnosis
7. Respect
8. Non-assuming and Being Curious to learn from those they serve
9. Person centered/Person driven Recovery
10. Dignity of Risk
11. Mutuality and Shared Power
12. Advocacy
13. Self and relational care
14. Partnering
15. Open-minded - Non-Judgmental
16. Self-awareness
17. Shared decision making
18. Transparency with those served
19. Authenticity
20. Embracing and Supporting Diversity
21. Honesty
22. Empathy