



The Professional Role of Wisconsin Certified Peer Specialists (WICPS)

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Common PRR Values



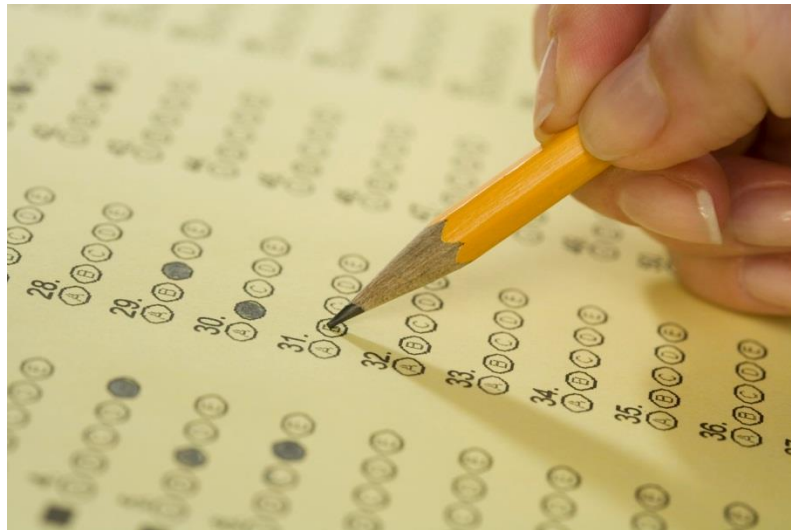


What is a WICPS?

- A person with the self-defined lived experience of recovery from a mental illness and / or co-occurring substance use disorder.
- Has had formal training in how to support peers seeking recovery.
- Is committed to serving as a role model of recovery and assisting others to find their individual paths to recovery.



A WI CERTIFIED Peer Specialist



- Certified
 - Not yet certified
- Only Certified Peer Specialists are billable to Medicaid and bound by Code of Conduct etc. Medicaid rules require certification and clinical supervision.



The role of the WICPS

- Use personal recovery experience as a tool to inspire & support others
- Provide resource info
- Identify and support peers in crisis
- Facilitate self-direction & goal setting
- Communicate with other providers
- **Peer support is the core of all service provided by a WICPS**



State of WI perspective

- Evidence shows that peer support in combination with effective clinical practice facilitates recovery.
- WICPSs have unique perspective and skills that encourage stronger self-reliance and wellness while decreasing reliance on more expensive and potentially more restrictive environments.
- WI is fully committed to expanding peer support as an option for people seeking recovery.



Work Environments

There are ever expanding environments in which WICPSs are employed. The most common in WI are:

In and Outpatient

CCS / CRS

WI VA Hospitals and Clinics

CSP

Crisis Stabilization / Intervention



The team environment

- WICPSs work as an equal member of a team to support a person seeking recovery.
- Teams that have integrated the professional role of WICPS report positive outcomes in a variety of areas.
- They also report that integrating a new role into an existing team can have challenges. All staff need to be supported during the transition.



Introduction to Core Competencies

- The Peer Specialist Committee of the WI Recovery Implementation Task Force developed and recommended core competencies for the role of WICPS (pg 6 of the Toolkit).
- Training curricula are measured against the Core Competencies.
- These competencies create the foundation for the design of the WICPS exam.



Core Competencies cont.

Competencies are organized into four domains:

Values

Personal Attributes

Knowledge

Skills

Competencies are aligned within these domains.



WICPS Code of Conduct

- The Peer Specialist Committee of the WI Recovery Implementation Task Force developed and recommended the Code of Conduct for the role of WICPS (pg 9 of the Toolkit).
- All WICPS must agree to abide by this code to be eligible for WI Certification.



Code of Conduct cont.

- WICPS are bound by this code and are expected to uphold it at all times.
- Employers who are familiar with this code are better able to utilize WICPSs within their scope of practice.
- The WICPS Code of Conduct has been reviewed by providers within other relevant professions and does not conflict with them. e.g. MSW.



General WI Job Description

This document is not specific to any environment and is intended to be a guide (pg. 11).

Each position description is specific to the employers needs but honors the role of the WICPS.

Employers are encouraged to seek candidates that have the life experiences that match the expected scope of practice. e.g. Dual recovery, trauma, co-occurring physical health issues, etc.



Things to be aware of...

WICPS is not...

A junior social worker or case manager

The janitor

The enforcer of court orders etc.

A taxi driver



But why?

- The WICPS is a non-clinical supporter and usually does not have the clinical background to do certain tasks. It is not within the WICPS scope of practice.
- Unless all staff share in janitorial duties, the WICPS should not be singled out for this. It is a service type.
- To maintain the WICPS role, a WICPS can not engage in medication compliance etc.
- While some positions provide more transportation than others, specific peer support is the goal of all interactions.



A WICPS is...

Able to work with people on goal setting and creating a life as valued by the person seeking recovery. Roles include:

- Supporting WRAP- or other wellness planning
- Torchbearer- together with other providers, share the message of recovery and hope.
- Sounding board
- Cheerleader
- Skill builder- including self-advocacy



For technical assistance...

- Please use the Technical Assistance Request form in the attachment section of the toolkit.



For more of the State perspective

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