

STATE OF KANSAS CERTIFIED PEER MENTOR CODE OF ETHICS

1. Peer Mentors 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. Peer Mentors will advocate for individuals to make their own decisions in all matters when dealing with other professionals, promoting concepts of shared-decision making in treatment.
3. Peer Mentors will respect the privacy and confidentiality of individuals utilizing peer support services. Peer Mentors are particularly conscious in public settings and with friends and family. Peer Mentors will be conscious that simply subtracting a person's name from a descriptive story of a person's life can violate confidentiality and privacy, if the information is identifying.
4. Peer Mentors will advocate for the full integration of individuals into the community of their choice and will promote the value and asset of diversity that individuals offer their communities. Peer Mentors will be directed by the knowledge that all individuals have the right to live in the least restrictive and least intrusive environment appropriate to their needs.
5. Peer Mentors will never engage in sexual/intimate activities with individuals utilizing peer support services.
6. Peer Mentors will not enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of individuals utilizing peer support services. These relationships are based on mutuality or a relationship of health for both persons.
7. Peer Mentors will never intimidate, threaten, harass, use undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to individuals utilizing peer support services.
8. Peer Mentors will strive to understand entrenched power variables that impact relationships with individuals utilizing peer support services and to be trauma-informed.
9. Peer Mentors will not abuse substances under any circumstances.
10. Peer Mentors will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues at conferences and trainings.
11. Peer Mentors will not accept gifts of significant value from individuals utilizing peer services.
12. Peer Mentors will maintain high standards of personal conduct that includes keeping commitments to and giving of dignity and respect to all people.
13. Peer Mentors will also conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own recovery.
14. Peer Mentors will acknowledge limits to knowledge, when discussing areas outside the expertise of the field of wellness, like prescribing medications or making diagnoses.
15. Peer Mentors will speak in simple terms and avoid clinical jargon. Whenever possible, Peer Mentors will strive to break down the concepts, like recovery and trauma, for individuals that are not familiar with recovery language.
16. Peer Mentors have an obligation of professional integrity. This includes an obligation to obtain and maintain relevant certification and continuing education.
17. I agree to adhere to the above Kansas Certified Peer Mentor Code of Ethics and understand that a violation of such can result in a suspension or revocation of my certificate as a Peer Mentor.

I have read, understand, and commit to the preceding Ethical Standards.

Signature _____ Date _____