



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Category: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Telephone: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Challenge or Situation Faced

The Sheriff's Office is consistently seeking ways for individuals in active recovery to improve their ability to succeed once released from incarceration. Implementation of this certification provides inmates with a skill that is highly sought after in today's job market and provides a greater opportunity to find employment upon release. Moreover, the skills learned in the course provides our participants a purpose while incarcerated.

Program Overview

Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) training is offered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to people in mental health or substance abuse recovery who are interested in becoming a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. The Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office is the first and only jail in Virginia to offer the 72-hour course to incarcerated individuals who are actively recovering in our Heroin Addiction Recovery (HARP) and Bridge Programs. Both HARP and Bridge focus on substance abuse however, HARP focuses specifically on Heroin/Opiates and Bridge on other substances. The PRS course is held at our jail and is offered to both male and female inmates. The course includes 60 hours of classroom training, 12 hours of self-study assignments and 20 models covering a multitude of topics that address relationships, resiliency, behavioral health challenges, communication and more. Official certification requires each person to complete 500 hours of volunteer or paid facilitation. DBHDS requires 25 of the 500 hours to be supervised by previously certified personnel. In response to this, the Sheriff's Office teamed up with a facility in the City of Richmond called Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) to assist with supervision of facilitation hours. Inmates who have completed the PRS course are transported to the SAARA facility in plain clothes by a uniformed deputy. Inmates are allowed to wear plain clothes, so they can participate in the groups without the stigma of being in a jail uniform and being identified as an inmate.

Program Summary

The Peer Recovery Specialist Training is an extensive 72-hour curriculum that is instructed to a maximum of 12 individuals. Chesterfield jail requires that inmates be graduates of the HARP or Bridge program, complete specific trauma and resiliency classes, and write a 200-word essay on why they should be selected for the certification course. This certification is approved through the Virginia Certification Board and offered to individuals with at least one year of recovery. In addition to completing the course, each participant must have, a High School Diploma/GED, 500 hours of volunteer or paid experience and pass a Peer Recovery Specialist Examination. Inmates accomplish a majority of their 500-hour requirement through facilitating small groups within their recovery programs. Three days per week inmates who have completed the initial training are transported to the SAARA facility for approximately 5 hours to participate in recovery groups with attendees from the Richmond community. Upon completion of all hour requirements, the participants are administered a certification examination. A passing score will result in them receiving an official certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist. Inmates are qualified based on their training and “lived experience” to provide peer recovery support services to individuals seeking insight into the recovery process from the effects of mental health and/or substance abuse use disorders.

Program Implementation/Results

Through collaborating with Dr. Allison Jackson, CEO of Integration Solutions, who regularly facilitates to our program inmates, it came to our realization that we should give our program inmates the opportunity to earn a valuable job skill by offering Peer Recovery Specialist certification. Because this course had never been offered nor held inside of a jail facility before we further collaborated with Jan Brown to determine if we could make this a reality. Jan, who is a certified Master Recovery Life Coach and primary instructor for the 72-hour course, received approval to instruct the course within our facility. This made us the first and

only jail in Virginia to offer and hold the PRS certification inside of the jail facility. To date we have sponsored two courses with a new course taking place each quarter. Our first class included male and female inmates and our second class had a combination of male and female inmates as well as approved previous program participants.

Initial cost for each 72-hour course is \$5000. This excludes administration of the examination which is \$175 per person. The Sheriff's Office inmate Canteen fund is used to pay all associated costs of the certification course. The canteen fund is used specifically for items that directly benefit inmates. This course meets that criteria and there are no Sheriff's Office budget allocations were needed to facilitate any of the courses.

Transports to SAARA began because of a need for the participants to receive more practical peer support experience as well as receive supervised facilitation hours. These transports started at two days per week but quickly grew to three days per week. Although the participants attending SAARA are escorted by a deputy, each inmate is monitored using a GPS ankle monitor. All the inmates involved in this certification have been sentenced for their crimes and we commonly do not transport inmates to unsecure facilities. This signifies a reasonable security risk and ankle monitors allow an additional layer of security. Deputies are compensated for approximately 7 hours to transport the inmates to and from the SAARA facility three times per week.

All aspects of this course have inspired the participants and given them a new sense of hope upon being released. They are undoubtedly more confident and have a renewed sense of hope about their future. This course allows inmates to capitalize on their experiences of addiction and change what would typically be construed as a negative situation into a positive. Feedback from staff at SAARA has been very positive. They have been very pleased with the inmate participation and have requested us to bring our participants five days a week, which we are unable to do at this time. Feedback from the inmates has likewise been positive.

During their time at SAARA each of the participant have the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice during a group, outside of their comfort zone, while being evaluated and critiqued by professional staff. One of the most valuable benefits of having trained PRS participants in our facility is their ability to be called upon to intervene with off-the-street individuals who are suffering from urges to use drugs as well as console individuals committed to jail who are suffering from withdrawals.

Program Summary

The Peer Recovery Specialist Training is an extensive 72-hour curriculum that is instructed to a maximum of 12 individuals. Chesterfield jail requires that inmates be graduates of the HARP or Bridge program, complete specific trauma and resiliency classes, and write a 200-word essay on why they should be selected for the certification course. This certification is approved through the Virginia Certification Board and offered to individuals with at least one year of recovery. In addition to completing the course, each participant must have, a High School Diploma/GED, 500 hours of volunteer or paid experience and pass a Peer Recovery Specialist Examination. Inmates accomplish a majority of their 500-hour requirement through facilitating small groups within their recovery programs. Three days per week inmates who have completed the initial training are transported to the SAARA facility for approximately 5 hours to participate in recovery groups with attendees from the Richmond community. Upon completion of all hour requirements, the participants are administered a certification examination. A passing score will result in them receiving an official certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist. Inmates are qualified based on their training and “lived experience” to provide peer recovery support services to individuals seeking insight into the recovery process from the effects of mental health and/or substance abuse use disorders.

Program Overview

Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) training is offered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to people in mental health or substance abuse recovery who are interested in becoming a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. The Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office is the first and only jail in Virginia to offer the 72-hour course to incarcerated individuals who are actively recovering in our Heroin Addiction Recovery (HARP) and Bridge Programs. Both HARP and Bridge focus on substance abuse however, HARP focuses specifically on Heroin/Opiates and Bridge on other substances. The PRS course is held inside our jail and offered to both male and female inmates. The course includes 60 hours of classroom training, 12 hours of self-study assignments and 20 models covering a multitude of topics that address relationships, resiliency, behavioral health challenges, communication and more. Official certification requires each person to complete 500 hours of volunteer or paid facilitation. DBHDS requires 25 of the 500 hours to be supervised by previously certified personnel. In response to this, the Sheriff's Office teamed up with Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) to assist with supervision of facilitation hours. Inmates who have completed the PRS course are transported to the SAARA facility in plain clothes by a uniformed deputy. Inmates are allowed to wear plain clothes, so they can participate in the groups without the stigma of being in a jail uniform and being identified as an inmate.