

Peer Support TA call 6.11.15 at 12pm

Next Call: 7/09/15 at 12pm (614-644-1098)

Notes from presentation by Brock Robertson, Office of Medicaid

Home Choice—Started in 2009 until 2020. Includes a sustainability plan for how to include this into Medicaid plan long term. It is a Nursing home transition program to help people living in nursing homes move into the community. Supplemental services may be part of this, which includes Community Support Coaching (see below). Home Choice is statewide program supported through a Federal grant and operated through the office of Medicaid. The program follows people for 365 days in the community. After that, people are able to utilize other community supports, but Home Choice is no longer involved after 1st yr. At this time, 6,500 individuals have already transitioned into the community since beginning of the program.

Community Support Coaches (CSC): would be independent providers, not employees of Medicaid. CSC would provide 1:1 guidance to support and empower individuals and families to live independently in the community. CSC need to have experience with peer support and has experience helping someone in the community who was once in some kind of institutional setting. CSC will also be a 'model' for those living with mental illness or and substance use issues. Caseload size is decided by CSC provider (can determine the number of people they will work with at any given time.) Can refuse referrals if person feels they are at full capacity at the present time and cannot take on more.

Other Background information:

- Recently did an evaluation and saw an increase in participants with mental health and substance use-related needs.
- Is a good fit to integrate peer support...alignment in philosophy and approach
- 3 kinds of entities can provide Community Support Coaching
 1. Community Mental Health Centers certified by OhioMHAS
 2. Nonprofit organizations
 3. **Non-agency independent providers**—this is the category a peer supporter working as a CSC (currently only 5 of these...used to have 41 and see a great need all across the state.) There is a strong preference to hire peer supporters for these positions.

Process for identifying people who will be participants in Home Choice:

1. Transition team at nursing home: works to identify participants who wish to live in the community.
2. Transition coordinator: helps participants find housing, household good, furniture and the like.
3. Transition Case Manager: is link between participants and CSC and provides referrals to CSC. (Note: currently, there are only 13 Transition CM statewide.)
4. Then Community Support Coach: typically comes into the process after person is already in community, but the transition team may occasionally involve CSC during pre-transition if needed and desired by the participant.

Functions of the CSC:

- CSC will assist with things such as helping learn how to pay bills, developing creative problem solving skills, connecting the participant with the community and resources there that may benefit person in maintaining their stability.
- CSC will also work with the Transition Team and Case Managers as well as the participant. Will document work. Communication with above may occur via phone calls, secure email server, or other means as determined by the CSC and the Case Manager. NOTE: There is a maximum of 72 hours that the CSC can work with each participant. Pacing of use of hours is decided mutually as a group.

Referral process for connecting participants with Community Support Coaches:

1. If a person wants to transition into the community and supplemental services are needed that include CSC, then Participants will get list of CSC that serve that county.
2. Participants will get more information from Case Manager about the expertise of each CSC. This list is updated monthly. The plan is to make announcements directly to CM and introduce each CSC as they are hired and ask the Case Manager to reach out to the CSC to get to know them better.
3. A CSC will typically get referrals via phone call from the Case Manager to discuss participant needs and status. This may occur via secure email. Not necessarily a match between participant and the CSC particular experiences/background.
4. CSC has option to choose whether or not to work with participant based upon their preference and capacity at the time.
5. CSC sets goals collaboratively with person and team for their work.

Hours of work:

- May vary depending on CSC and participant. Flexible hours...CSC is self-employed and so can set own hours. May be day/evening/weekend depending on mutual agreement between CSC and participant
- CSC are encouraged to manage their own schedules according to their preferences and capacity. Many CSC have other part-time jobs and also work as a CSC part-time because it is a flexible position that meets their needs.

Travel:

- CSC designates counties willing to serve.
- Mileage compensation not provided (though is likely tax deductible if logs are kept for this purpose.)
- Rate of pay is \$25 per hr. with max of 72 hours total per participant
- Billed at \$6.25 per 15 minute unit for a total of \$25/hour
- Weekly pay on Thursday and mailed directly to the CSC

Supervision and guidance for CSC

- Provided by Brock and Carol
- Individual technical assistance also provided to CSC as desired
- Also hold regional trainings for CSC

Contacts and application process:

Applicants are encouraged to read the following 5 rules:

- 5160-51-01
- 5160-51-02
- 5160-51-03,
- 5160-51-04
- 5160-51-06

Go to the **Ohio Administrative Code website** and search for above (these are essentially job descriptions)

OR people can **go to:**

- Medicaid.ohio.gov website and search for “Home Choice”
- Here people can find information about rules, provider agreements, tools for providers and participants

Applications go to: Robertson@medicaid.ohio.gov Phone (614-752-3577)

Notes:

- Print of instructions for non-agency providers and follow these
- Also print the BCI paperwork and follow these instructions
 - Not just fingerprint. Will need to go to an official Bureau of Criminal Investigation agency. There will be a cost associated with this background check (probably about \$30 to \$45)
- If you contact Mr. Robertson, he will be able to guide with application paperwork and process
- There is no formal **interview process**. Interested parties need to complete application, background check, and provide all other needed documents (copy of Driver’s license, SS card, BCI check, W-9 (for taxes). May call you if missing information, but above is all that is needed to process the application.
- *Note about taxes: As an independent provider, this is like running your own business. Therefore, taxes will not be taken out of your check. It is recommended that individuals set aside a portion of each paycheck to meet yearly tax obligations. Also may be good to consult with an accountant who can advise you about tax deductions for work-related costs such as mileage, materials and supplies, as well as others.
- Q: How does presence of past legal system involvement effect ability for CSC to gain employment?
- A: Has not been as issue thus far. There are rules about what is allowable and what is not terms of legal backgrounds. Presence of legal background will not automatically disqualify you from this work. It is based on the state rules referenced above. These will be provided. Thank you!
- Q: What about people who work in the state PRHs and may want to apply to work as a CSC?
- A: Need to research this to ensure no conflicts. Have not run into this before.

Suggestion: hold a webinar to show people where things are and how to find needed information to access. Sharon would like to introduce this and poll group for interest and schedule this webinar.