AMERSA PEER RECOVERY WORKFORCE S.I.G

Facilitators

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Friday, November 3rd 2023, 7:00 a.m.- 8:15 a.m.

AGENDA

**7 – 7:15 a.m. – *Icebreakers – Name, Agency, A brief (2-3 min) history of your experience with the peer workforce.***

**7:15 – 7:30 – *Stigma in the Peer Workforce:***

*Have you experienced stigmatization in your work? What do you believe is needed to break that stigma?*

**Stigma has been felt from healthcare system. More education to healthcare professionals on role of a peer specialist is needed. Is the position of a peer specialist suitable for early recovery? Unfortunately, someone working as a peer who is in early recovery is hazardous due to undeveloped coping skills and may be at more risk of relapse due to high demand of role. There is also a feeling of “not being the same” as many other addiction professionals due to peers not feeling like they have a “seat at the table”.**

**Question raised: In order to combat stigma, would more professional trainings for the role be helpful?**

**7:30 – 7:45 – *The Future of the Peer Recovery Specialist:***

*Climbing the career ladder. Do you believe the Peer Recovery Specialist is a sustainable career? What can we do to progress the role of people with lived experience in the addiction treatment/research workforce?*

**Discussion of unsustainable salaries amongst peers. While workforce issues remain across healthcare in general, the incentive for those with lived experience to become or remain peer professionals is lacking. Many people in recovery carry financial and sometimes legal burdens related to their time in active addiction that make it hard to sustain low paying jobs. Discussion about “Empowerment Specialist” and CARES Network. Non-Medicaid expansion states = problematic due to not being billable. Criminal Background is still looked at when hiring peers, which again creates a problem being hirable. Is there a need for a Peer Workforce Union? Need for national Peer/Recovery Specialist conference.**

**7:45 – 8:00 – *Successes and Barriers in the Peer Workforce:***

*What do you believe is needed for the success of a Peer Recovery Specialist? What kind of trainings and supervision do you believe add to that success? What do you believe has been harmful to the image of the Peer Workforce?*

**Stigmatization leading to micro-management rather than proper supervision. Recovery Specialist position harmed due to lack of supervision. More supervision =’s More accountability. Internal career ladder needed at more agencies.**

**8:00 – 8:15 – *Wrap Up. Future S.I.G. meeting dates/times?***

**Word out about the conference.**