

Overview of SC SHARE's Certified Peer Support Specialist Training in South Carolina



“A CPSS is a trained professional providing individualized recovery focused services. In this role, the CPSS offers hope, support, and advocacy to others through sharing his or her own experiences of living in recovery with mental illness and/or substance use disorder.”

SC SHARE's 2016 Certified Peer Support Specialist Training:

Our Certified Peer Support Specialist training has gained a reputation as meaningful, relevant, and enlightening.

- February 22-25 Feb 29-March 3, 2016
- July 18-21 and July 25-28, 2016

52 hours of training. Homework: 5 of the 8 days. The class size is 20 students.

Our training philosophy:

"We work on ourselves, then in order to help others. And we help others as a vehicle for working on ourselves." (Ram Daas & Paul Gorman, How Can I Help?)

Focus:

We focus on co-occurring throughout the training blending mental illness and substance use information to support integrated care.

Training strategy:

- Lectures
- 3 movies
 - I Ride*
 - Anderson Cooper's CNN news story on Schizophrenia
 - Kevin McCauley's *Memo to Self: Protecting Sobriety with the Science of Safety*
- Role plays
- Small group and skill building exercises
- Testimonies of former students

We see this training as just as much of a personal training as a professional training.

Core Teaching staff:

- Holly Bender, CPSS
- Lloyd Hale, CPSS
- Natasha Scott, MA, LPC/1
- Dave Pruet, CPSS
- Marc Massey, CPSS
- Wayne Godfrey, CPSS
- Chris Wells, M. Ed.
- Beth Padgett, M. Ed.
- Julian Green, LMSW
- Constance Sheppard, DSW
- Elizabeth Gladden, CPSS

Statements from the Training Evaluation:

“This was taught and tested not to fail you but to better prepare you for the job.”

“This whole experience has been a gift and a blessing. I’m a better person just from being a part of this training. The training exceeded my expectations”

“I loved the dynamic presentations on relevant topics related to the recovery process.”

“I learned that I am the expert in living with mental illness and I’ve earned a seat at the table.”

“I have a better understanding of mental health and substance use.”

“There are many pathways – I believe that and at first I didn’t.”

“I learned to NOT ask why but instead to ask what happened – this gives the person the power to be open.”

“I wouldn’t change or trade this experience for anything! I feel like SC SHARE taught me how to ride a bike with training wheels so that when I’m employed without training wheels I will be successful!”

“I hated when training was over! This was a very good life changing experience.”

“It was a wealth of information.”

“I feel very prepared. They gave me all of the tools that I need to make a difference with my peers.”

