Family Peer Support Specialist Training (FPSS)

September 29, 30 & Oct 1, 2015

October 20-22, 2015

Applications due September 1st, 2015

This six days of training is split into 2 three day sessions. Training will occur in 2 locations. You must attend both sessions to complete the training.

To apply- send an email request to: IowaPeerSupportTraining@healthcare.uiowa.edu (specify FPSS training)

• You will receive an email response with a link to the online application. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours please call Diane Funk at 319-467-5034.
• Applications will be screened as they are received. Training spaces are limited, so apply early.
• You will be asked to provide contact information for 2 references. These must be returned before you can be considered for training.
• Once your application is received you may be contacted with information regarding a personal interview. This may be done in person or by phone/Skype.
• After the screening process you will be notified about whether or not you will be accepted for training.
• You must attend the entire six days of training. Training will be from 9 am to 5:00 pm.
• Training facilities are non-smoking.

Costs:
Training is free
Trainees must pay for their own lodging, food and travel costs. If you are currently employed as a Family Peer Support Specialist, check with your employer about covering these expenses

September 29, 30 & Oct 1, 2015
Clay County Regional Events Center
800 West 18th St. Spencer, IA
712-580-3003

Hotel Option: AmericInn Spencer, 712-262-7525
A block of rooms will be held (under University of Iowa) until Aug 28th- $89

October 20-22, 2015
King’s Pointe Resort
1520 East Lakeshore Dr. Storm Lake, IA
866-552-5960

Call King’s Pointe to arrange lodging or use other local hotels.
Meals
You must arrange for your own meals. You will have an hour lunch break around noon in order to dine at a local restaurant. You may bring your own lunch but neither training site allows outside food to be brought in.

Stipends
If you are not currently employed as a Family Peer Support Specialist (and will not have your costs paid by your employer) you may be eligible for a stipend that would reimburse your training related expenses. You would be required to pay the initial fees and submit a form for reimbursement upon completion of the training. If you would like more information please email: IowaPeerSupportTraining@healthcare.uiowa.edu

Accommodations
Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this training, please contact Diane Funk in advance at 319-467-5034.

Suggested Dress
We ask that participants wear business casual clothing during the classroom hours. Jeans are discouraged. Clothing should be modest. Temperatures in the meeting rooms may fluctuate, you are encouraged to bring clothing so that you will be comfortable. As many people are sensitive to fragrances (smells) please do not wear perfume or cologne.

Exam
Successful completion of the training requires a passing score on the final exam. The exam will be an online exam that will be available within a few weeks after the training.

Training Completion
Successful completion of the training (including homework, exam and other related requirements) will provide trainees with a Letter of Acknowledgement stating they have completed the training. Successful completion of the training meets the requirement of most agencies for employment. Completing the training does not guarantee employment. Employers have their own requirements (in addition to training) for employment. Completing training is a requirement to pursue future certification.

A Family Peer Support Specialist (FPSS) has the opportunity to positively impact families through support and education. Family Peer Support Specialists draw on their own experience as a parent or primary caregiver of a child with an emotional, behavioral or mental health diagnosis. They work to empower families by teaching skills that assist them in finding their own voice. A FPSS has current knowledge of the mental health system and most importantly, recognizes the life experience of raising a child with a mental health diagnosis.

Family Peer Support Specialists provide a variety of services to families. These include sharing expertise by providing information, teaching coping skills, providing emotional support and helping parents become advocates. Family Peer Support Specialists often help families navigate the child serving systems and help them understand available options for their child. FPSSs may accompany parents to meetings to ensure the parents’ voices are heard. They are able to assist families by modeling good communication skills and sharing their own experiences in a positive manner.

Family Peer Support Specialists may be employed at social service agencies, clinics, residential programs and other community based organizations. If you feel that you have the ability to support parents through guidance, skill building and emotional support please consider this excellent training opportunity.

This training is made possible through funding from the Iowa Department of Human Services through its contract with the University of Iowa for Peer Support Training and Coordination (MHSD-15-006).