

NorthCare Network
Substance Use Disorder Service Practice Guidelines
Peer Recovery Support Services
Updated: 7/20/25

Purpose

Peer Recovery Support services can assist with individual's path towards recovery. Peer Recovery Support services may be used in conjunction with treatment services, to support treatment services, to increase readiness for treatment services, post treatment services to provide additional support, or as stand-alone services. Coaching services provide support and coaching to individuals with a Substance Use Disorder. Peer Recovery Specialist services provide support, and Community Health Workers focus on social determinants of health. Peer Recovery Support services may be provided for NorthCare funded clients, based on the criteria listed below.

Guidelines

Regulatory Requirements

- Medicaid Manual: Peer Recovery Coach Services - Section 3.21.c of the Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services section (4/1/25 version); Peer Recovery Support Specialist - Section 3.21.b of the Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services section (4/1/25 version); Community Health Worker section (4/1/25 version)
- Medicaid Manual (Peer Recovery Coach Services): "To support and promote recovery and prevent relapse through supportive services that result in the knowledge and skills necessary for an individual's recovery. Peer recovery programs are designed and delivered primarily by individuals in recovery (Recovery Coach) and offer social, emotional, and/or educational supportive services to help prevent relapse and promote recovery." Section 12.1.B under the Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services section (4/1/24 version)
- Special Provisions: N/A
- Treatment Policies: Treatment Technical Advisory #7 – Peer Recovery Support Services
- MDHHS/PIHP Contract: N/A
- MDHHS Code Chart: T1012 (Recovery Supports); 98960, 98961, and 98962 (Community Health Worker); and H0038 (Substance Abuse: Outpatient Care Recovery Support Services)
- LARA Administrative Rules/Licensing: Must have licensing as a Substance Use Disorder treatment facility if not a governmental entity.
- Accreditation: N/A
- Medicaid Bulletins/Letters: MMP 23-74, MMP 24-29, MSA 22-01, MSA 17-45

Organizational Criteria and Requirements

Peer Recovery organizations and Treatment organizations offering Peer Recovery Supporting services must meet criteria as defined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

- Enrolled as a NorthCare SUD Treatment Provider and continues to meet criteria for inclusion on the NorthCare SUD Treatment Provider Panel
 - Organizations must hold Liability Coverage as required in the contract

- Organizations must have no sanctions against the organization or the governing body/owners
- Licensed as a Substance Use Disorder agency if not a governmental entity
- Financial Audits have been completed and provided to NorthCare
- Client records must be kept in a secure location and meet HIPAA Security Standards
- Recipient Rights information is clearly posted if the agency has a public location
- A Recipient Rights Advisor has been identified
- The organization must adhere to the NorthCare SUD Operations Manual
- Provider must have explicit written service criteria and provided this to NorthCare
- Organizations must adopt policies regarding the following topics:
 - Cultural Competency
 - FASD Identification - if children are in attendance during treatment services, visiting or staying with the client
 - Materials are in a 6.9 grade reading level when possible
 - Materials are available in prevalent non-English languages
 - Availability of non-English language interpreters or services
 - Charitable Choice if applicable
 - Recipient Rights
 - Grievance and Appeals
 - Record Retention
 - Criminal Background Checks for staff
 - Initial Credentialing and Re-Credentialing of licensed/certified staff
 - Incident Reporting
 - Advance Directives
- Organizations must also have processes set in place for the following:
 - How to access non-English language interpreters
 - Charitable Choice referrals if requested and if applicable
 - How to obtain information on rights and protections
 - How to file grievances and appeals
 - Incident reporting
 - How to report improper conduct
 - Emergency Procedures
 - Distribution of Member Handbooks
 - How to screen a child and refer for FASD testing that attended services with a parent or that the organization has contact with
 - How to screen individuals for communicable diseases and refer to testing
 - How to screen for an Advance Directive and what to do if someone has an Advance Directive

Staff Criteria and Requirements

Peer Recovery Coaches are required to meet criteria as outlined by MDHHS and/or CCAR and have Coaches training through MDHHS or CCAR in addition to other trainings. Coaches are also required to meet various requirements.

- Completed Coaching training through CCAR or MDHHS with the certificate submitted to NorthCare
- Peer Recovery Coaches must not be on the Medicaid Sanctioned Provider list

- Meet criteria in the MDHHS Health and Aging Services Administration Bulletin MSA 22-01
- Meet criteria in the MDHHS Health and Aging Services Administration Bulletin MSA 17-45
- Have a completed and acceptable background check
- Signed a professional code of ethics on file with the Provider
- Receive weekly supervision
- Have the following trainings completed:
 - Compliance
 - Recipient Rights
 - Communicable Disease (within 30 days of hire then annually)
 - Customer Service
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - HIPAA Privacy and Security
 - 42 CFR Part 2
 - Environmental Safety
 - Cultural Competency
- The Peer Recovery Coach shall be supervised by a Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist (SATS) or Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner (SATP) when in a setting that receives Medicaid reimbursement. Programs funded by the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) and/or Public Act 2 (PA2) funding shall receive ongoing supervision by a case manager, treatment practitioner, prevention staff, or an experienced Certified Peer Recovery Coach who has over two continuous years in recovery and over two years in the direct provision of recovery coach services and supports.
- Receives a specialized level of training around a specific variety of skill sets designed to support an enhanced level of interaction with the individuals with whom they work.
- Receives training most often outside of the given work environment.
- Operates and works effectively within any of the four types of support activities – emotional, informational, instrumental, and affiliational.
- Individuals who work as a Peer Recovery Coach serving beneficiaries with substance use and/or co-occurring disorders under Medicaid must:
 - Have a high school diploma, General Education Diploma (GED), or provide college transcripts in lieu of a high school diploma or GED
 - Have a SUD, co-occurring disorder(s), and/or non-substance addictive disorder(s) and have received treatment from a public or private Provider
 - Have two continuous years in recovery at some point in time after the age of 18
 - Have personal experience in navigating complex SUD, co-occurring disorder(s), and/or non-substance addictive disorder(s) treatment services (self-help groups are not included)
 - Self-identify as having a SUD, co-occurring disorder(s), and/or non-substance addictive disorder(s) with a substantial life disruption and share their recovery story in supporting others
 - Be employed by a CMHSP or contract Provider at the beginning of training
 - Meet the MDHHS application approval process for specialized training and certification. The process includes:
 - Completed Peer Recovery Coach application
 - Supervisor signature and acknowledgment form

- Two written letters of reference
- Current job description
- Read, understand, and agree to the MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach Code of Ethics
- Acknowledgement of truthfulness and accuracy of application
- Peer-to-peer interview
- Training fee paid by the agency that employs the Peer Recovery Coach
- Be freely chosen by beneficiaries utilizing Peer Recovery Coach services; and
- Must adhere to the MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach Code of Ethics
- Complete 32 hours of approved continuing education bi-annually

Peer Recovery Support staff are required to meet the criteria as outlined by MDHHS.

- Peer Recovery Support staff must not be on the Medicaid Sanctioned Provider list
- Have a completed and acceptable background check
- Signed a professional code of ethics on file with the Provider
- The peer recovery coach shall be supervised by a Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist (SATS) or Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner (SATP) when in a setting that receives Medicaid reimbursement. Programs funded by the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) and/or Public Act 2 (PA2) funding shall receive ongoing supervision by a case manager, treatment practitioner, prevention staff, or an experienced Certified Peer Recovery Coach who has over two continuous years in recovery and over two years in the direct provision of recovery coach services and supports.
- Have the following trainings completed:
 - Compliance
 - Recipient Rights
 - Communicable Disease (within 30 days of hire then annually)
 - Customer Service
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - HIPAA Privacy and Security
 - 42 CFR Part 2
 - Environmental Safety
 - Cultural Competency
 - Gaining knowledge of community resources
 - Listening skills
 - Taking a non-judgmental stance (the ability to respond positively and provide assistance to an individual regardless of personal opinions, experiences, and choices)
 - Understanding of confidentiality
 - Establishing boundaries
- Receives more generalized training typically provided by the entity in which they will ultimately work.
- Provides the types of interactions designed to meet more immediate needs and facilitate access to generalized community services.
- Operates typically within affiliational and instrumental types of activities may include limited emotional support.
- Possessing an attitude that there are many paths to recovery – none any better than another
- Be at least 18 years of age

- Have a high school diploma, General Education Diploma (GED), or provide college transcripts in lieu of a high school diploma or GED
- Have a primary diagnosis of a mental health condition
- Have a strong personal knowledge of what it is like to have first-hand lived experience with a mental health condition that has caused a substantial life disruption
- Have personal experience in navigating complex mental health treatment services
- Self-identify as having a mental health condition with a substantial life disruption and share their recovery story in supporting others
- Attend professional advancement opportunities to maintain skills
- Be freely chosen by beneficiaries utilizing peer support services

Community Health Workers (CHW) provide support to individuals with a Substance Use Disorder.

- Staff must not be on the Medicaid Sanctioned Provider list
- Have a completed and acceptable background check
- Signed a professional code of ethics on file with the Provider
- Receive routine supervision
- Have the following trainings completed:
 - Compliance
 - Recipient Rights
 - Communicable Disease (within 30 days of hire then annually)
 - Customer Service
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - HIPAA Privacy and Security
 - 42 CFR Part 2
 - Environmental Safety
 - Cultural Competency
 - Gaining knowledge of community resources
- Completed a CHW Certificate program with the certificate submitted to NorthCare
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent
- Must be supervised by licensed professional members of the care team

Client Eligibility

Individuals seeking Peer Recovery Support services must meet clinical criteria and funding criteria.

- Funding Criteria:
 - Individuals must meet NorthCare funding requirements. This includes having Medicaid, Healthy Michigan, or meet Block Grant criteria (see SUD Operations Manual for specific criteria)
- Clinical Criteria:
 - Has a documented need for Peer Recovery Support services in a Needs Assessment
 - Has a provisional diagnosis, at minimum
 - Meets medical necessity:
 - Necessary for screening and assessing the presence of a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or

- Required to identify and evaluate a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Intended to treat, ameliorate, diminish or stabilize the symptoms of mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Expected to arrest or delay the progression of a mental illness, developmental disability, or substance use disorder; and/or
- Designed to assist the beneficiary to attain or maintain a sufficient level of functioning in order to achieve their goals of community inclusion and participation, independence, recovery, or productivity.
- Is a resident of the UP. If not, the client must meet priority population criteria

Service Criteria and Requirements

Peer Recovery Coach services must meet one of the four areas for Peer Recovery Coach services.

- Emotional - Demonstrate empathy, caring, or concern to bolster a person's self-esteem and confidence.
 - Peer Mentoring
 - Peer-led support groups
- Informational - Share knowledge and information and/or provide life or vocational skills training.
 - Parenting class
 - Job readiness training
 - Wellness seminar
 - System navigation
- Instrumental - Provide concrete assistance to help others accomplish tasks.
 - Access to Child Care
 - Access to Transportation
 - Help accessing community health and social services
 - Connections and referrals
 - Navigating community resources
 - Outreach – recovery checkups
- Affiliational - Facilitate contacts with other people to promote learning of social and recreational skills, create community, and acquire a sense of belonging.
 - Recovery centers
 - Alcohol- and drug-free socialization opportunities

Peer Recovery Specialist services must meet one of the four areas for Peer Recovery Support services.

- Emotional - Demonstrate empathy, caring, or concern to bolster a person's self-esteem and confidence.
 - Peer Mentoring
 - Peer-led support groups
- Informational - Share knowledge and information and/or provide life or vocational skills training.
 - Parenting class
 - Job readiness training
 - Wellness seminar
 - System navigation
- Instrumental - Provide concrete assistance to help others accomplish tasks.
 - Access to Child Care

- Access to Transportation
- Help accessing community health and social services
- Connections and referrals
- Navigating community resources
- Outreach – recovery checkups
- Affiliational - Facilitate contacts with other people to promote learning of social and recreational skills, create community, and acquire a sense of belonging.
 - Recovery centers
 - Alcohol- and drug-free socialization opportunities

Community Health Worker services must be focused on the social determinants of health.

Client Process

Individuals seeking Peer Recovery Support Services follow the process of any clients seeking Substance Use Disorder treatment services with a few exceptions. The following process is to be utilized for Peer Recovery Support services only. For individuals who receive Peer Recovery Support services at the same time as Treatment services, the treatment service requirements must be met.

Individuals may receive Peer Recovery Support services as a stand-alone service to support the individual in increasing readiness for treatment services, to support individuals in obtaining recovery, or as a support that continues after a treatment episode. Individuals would contact a Provider to go through an intake process including a Needs Assessment which would determine appropriateness for Peer Recovery Support services. Peer Recovery Support stand-alone services may be provided individually or in a group setting. Psychotherapy or counseling services are considered an SUD Treatment service and not a Peer Recovery Support service. Documentation of Peer Recovery Support services is also a requirement. Services are anticipated to be individually based.

Peer Recovery Support stand-alone services are to be provided in an outpatient setting. Residential and Withdrawal Management services include Peer Recovery Support services in the per diem services.

Provider Process

Providers would follow the same process for any clients seeking services with a few exceptions specific to Peer Recovery Support services. The following process is to be utilized for Peer Recovery Support services only. For Peer Recovery Support services utilized in conjunction with Treatment services, the treatment service requirements must be met.

- At Initial Contact, Providers are to conduct a Screening to ensure appropriateness to care. At this call, the following information must be captured and documented. This is the same as other treatment services' initial contact. If the individual is a client and receiving Peer Recovery Support services at the same time as treatment services, this information does not need to be captured specifically for Peer Recovery Support services.
 - Demographics
 - Initial Contact Date
 - Screening Date
 - First Offered Date (for admission)
 - Accepted Admission Date
 - Priority Population status and timeliness of admission offered date within required timeframes if meets a Priority Population status

- Insurance
- A Needs Assessment must be conducted if Peer Recovery Services will be the only services provided at the time of Admission. If SUD Treatment Services will be provided (such as psychotherapy, counseling, etc.) the ASAM Continuum must be completed.
- There must be a Recovery Plan showing amount, scope, duration, services to receive (Peer Recovery Support services) that is signed and dated by recipient and Recovery Support staff. If Peer Recovery Support services will be utilized in addition to treatment services, the need for Peer Recovery Support services can be included in the Treatment Plan.
- Provided information on Recipient Rights, Grievance and Appeal process, and Privacy
- Release of Information with PIHP and/or other agencies as needed
- Signed consent for services
- Providers must submit a Referral Form, Certificate of Eligibility, Needs Assessment, and MDHHS-5515 Consent to Share Behavioral Health Information to the SUD Fax Number (248-406-1286) to obtain access to the client record in ELMER.
- Once access to the client record in ELMER has been provided, the Provider must complete the Admission Form (BH-TEDS) and an Authorization Request Form for the Peer Recovery Support services.
- Progress Notes meeting all Treatment Progress Note criteria for ongoing services
- Providers will bill for services
 - H0038 - Peer Recovery Coaching Services
 - 1 unit = 15 minutes
 - Modifiers: Based on Staff Qualifications/Training
 - Authorization Request – modifiers added at the time of billing
 - 00 – if Peer Recovery Coach is MDHHS Certified or has received the MDHHS training but is not yet certified
 - No Modifier – Peer Recovery Coach has been CCAR trained or has the MCBAP Peer Mentor Credential
 - Billing – modifiers added at the time of billing
 - HM – MDHHS Peer Certified trained but No Certification
 - WR – MDHHS Peer Certified Recovery Coach
 - No Modifier – CCAR Trained or MCBAP Peer Mentor Credential
 - Billing – client insurance
 - Block Grant – may bill with the WR, HM, or no modifiers based on the Peer Recovery Coach criteria (all will be taken from Block Grant funding)
 - Medicaid – may bill with the WR, HM, or no modifiers based on the Peer Recovery Coach criteria (services with the WR or HM will be taken from Medicaid funding, services with no modifiers will be taken from Block Grant funding)
 - HMP– may bill with the WR, HM, or no modifiers based on the Peer Recovery Coach criteria (services with the WR or HM will be taken from Medicaid funding, services with no modifiers will be taken from Block Grant funding)
 - Modifiers: If group services
 - UN – two patients served
 - UP – three patients served
 - UQ – four patients served

- UR - five patients served
 - US – six or more patients served
- Modifiers: Based on Service Delivery
 - HD – Women’s Specialty Services
 - HH – Integrated Mental Health and SUD
- T1012 - Peer Recovery Support Services
 - Encounter-based service
 - May be used for clients with Medicaid who have had Peer Recovery Coach services provided by a CCAR trained staff
 - May be used for clients with Block Grant who have had CHW services provided
 - Authorization Request – modifiers added at the time of billing
 - Billing – modifiers added at the time of billing
 - AF – Psychiatrist
 - AG – Physician
 - AH – Clinical Psychologist
 - HM – Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), UMICAD equivalent, less than Bachelor’s level, Certified Criminal Justice Professional (CCJP-R), Other Mental Health Professional (High School or G.E.D.)
 - HN – Bachelors Social Worker
 - HO – Master’s Social Worker
 - HP – Psychologist, Doctoral Level
 - SA – Licensed Physician’s Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - TD – Registered Nurse
 - TE – Licensed Practical Nurse
 - Billing – client insurance
 - Block Grant
 - Medicaid
 - HMP
 - Modifiers: Based on Service Delivery
 - HD – Women’s Specialty Services
 - HH – Integrated Mental Health and SUD
- 98960 – Community Health Worker (Education and Training for Patient Self-Management Individual Patient)
 - 1 unit = 15 minutes
 - Maximum of 8 units per day
 - Maximum of 128 units per month
 - Billing – client insurance
 - Medicaid (State Plan)
 - HMP
- 98961 – Community Health Worker (Education and Training for Patient Self-Management 2-4 Patients)

- 1 unit = 15 minutes
 - Maximum of 8 units per day
 - Maximum of 128 units per month
 - Billing – client insurance
 - Medicaid (State Plan)
 - HMP
- 98962 – Community Health Worker (Education and Training for Patient Self-Management 5-8 Patients)
 - 1 unit = 15 minutes
 - Maximum of 8 units per day
 - Maximum of 128 units per month
 - Billing – client insurance
 - Medicaid (State Plan)
 - HMP
- If an individual decides to obtain treatment services with the same agency and location after Peer Recovery Support services have been provided as a stand-alone service, an ASAM Continuum must be completed. An authorization request may be made for the treatment service (H0001, T1007) within the same Admission/Episode of Care.
 - The Discharge process remains the same as for treatment services.

NorthCare Process

The NorthCare Process for stand-alone Peer Recovery Support services is the same for treatment services with the exception of ASAM Continuum review.

- NorthCare obtains and reviews the Referral Form, Certificate of Eligibility, and MDHHS-5515 Consent to Share Behavioral Health Information Form. If forms meet all criteria, NorthCare staff release the referral to the Provider.
- Once the Provider submits an Authorization Request after completing the BH-TEDS Admission, NorthCare staff review the request. The 270/271 is run to ensure the client meets NorthCare funding requirements. NorthCare staff will approve, pend the authorization request to the Provider with questions, or deny an authorization request. If the request is sent back to the Provider, the request must be re-submitted no later than ten days after the initial request was submitted.
- NorthCare will adjudicate all Peer Recovery Support services and pay clean claims.
- At annual site visits, the needs assessments and plans for peer recovery support services will be reviewed.

Funding Explanation

Authorization Requests

	Client Funding			
Staff Credentials and Service Requirements		Block Grant	Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP)	Medicaid
	CCAR Trained Peer Recovery Coach – individual or group	H0038	H0038	H0038
	MDHHS Training for Peer Recovery Coach, no Certification – individual or group	H0038 HM	H0038 HM	H0038 HM
	MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach Certified – individual or group	H0038 WR	H0038 WR	H0038 WR
	Peer Recovery Coach Specialist – individual or group	T1012	T1012	T1012
	Community Health Worker – individual services	T1012 (not a BG covered service)	98960	98960
	Community Health Worker – 2-4 clients	T1012 (not a BG covered service)	98961	98961
	Community Health Worker – 5-8 clients	T1012 (not a BG covered service)	98962	98962

Billing

	Client Funding			
Staff Credentials and Service Requirements		Block Grant	Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP)	Medicaid
	CCAR Trained Peer Recovery Coach – individual or group	H0038 (billed to BG) T1012	H0038 (billed to BG) T1012	H0038 (billed to BG) T1012
	MDHHS Training for Peer Recovery Coach, no Certification – individual or group	H0038 HM (billed to BG)	H0038 HM (billed to HMP)	H0038 HM (billed to Medicaid)
	MDHHS Peer Recovery Coach Certified – individual or group	H0038 WR (billed to BG)	H0038 WR (billed to HMP)	H0038 WR (billed to Medicaid)
	Peer Recovery Coach Specialist – individual or group	T1012 (billed to BG) Modifiers: AF – specialty physician AG - physician AH - clinical psychologist HM - less than bachelor's level HN – bachelor's level HO – master's level HP – doctoral level SA – PA, NP, CNS TD – RN TE – LPN	T1012 (billed to HMP) Modifiers: AF – specialty physician AG - physician AH - clinical psychologist HM - less than bachelor's level HN – bachelor's level HO – master's level HP – doctoral level SA – PA, NP, CNS TD – RN TE – LPN	T1012 (billed to Medicaid) Modifiers: AF – specialty physician AG - physician AH - clinical psychologist HM - less than bachelor's level HN – bachelor's level HO – master's level HP – doctoral level SA – PA, NP, CNS TD – RN TE – LPN
	Community Health Worker – individual services	T1012 (billed to BG – 98960-not a BG covered service) Modifiers: AF – specialty physician AG - physician AH - clinical psychologist	98960 (billed to HMP)	98960 (billed to Medicaid)

		HM - less than bachelor's level HN – bachelor's level HO – master's level HP – doctoral level SA – PA, NP, CNS TD – RN TE – LPN		
	Community Health Worker – 2-4 clients	T1012 (billed to BG – 98960-not a BG covered service) Modifiers: AF – specialty physician AG - physician AH - clinical psychologist HM - less than bachelor's level HN – bachelor's level HO – master's level HP – doctoral level SA – PA, NP, CNS TD – RN TE – LPN	98961 (billed to HMP)	98961 (billed to Medicaid)
	Community Health Worker – 5-8 clients	T1012 (billed to BG – 98960-not a BG covered service) Modifiers: AF – specialty physician AG - physician AH - clinical psychologist HM - less than bachelor's level HN – bachelor's level HO – master's level HP – doctoral level SA – PA, NP, CNS TD – RN TE – LPN	98962 (billed to HMP)	98962 (billed to Medicaid)

This document is meant to be support for Providers. Final requirements are based on regulatory requirements and documents which supersede these guidelines.