

NORTH CAROLINA
CERTIFIED PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST
PROGRAM

Course Owner Code of Ethics



Behavioral Health Springboard (BHS)
School of Social Work
The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist (NCCPSS) Program certificate of approval for an approved course attests that the course meets the minimum requirements of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. An approved course requires 50 hours of training (40 hours of face-to-face instruction is required).

The Course Owner (CO) Code of Ethics is for owners of Approved Courses, and was developed by a committee consisting of NC Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS), Certified Trainers, CO, and other stakeholders. This code of ethics outlines uniform standards and expectations for CO. These ethical standards are intended to provide clear boundaries for CO in managing the training.

PROGRAM VALUES

The NCCPSS Program Values:

- Individuals with lived experience have an essential role to play in the public mental health/substance use disorder system and are considered peer supporters.
- The roles that are created for peers within the service system should fully utilize the lived experience of the peer supporter, viewing it as a credential that the individual brings to the work that they do.
- Lived experience is necessary and on-going skill development for peer supporters is essential.
- The recovery environment of the workplace is fundamental to the success of peer supporters and recovery for the individuals served.
- Peer supporters are highly valued members of an agency; therefore, are fully integrated members of the mental health/substance use disorder delivery system.
- Equality and respect between peer supporters and traditional professionals must be reciprocal.
- Choice and self-determination are important components in everyone's recovery, including individuals receiving and providing services.
- Self-directed recovery does happen, with or without professional help.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics for CO to are as follows:

- The owner of an approved course will teach the content of the approved course, not their beliefs and philosophy. For example, personal opinions about recovery pathways should not dictate what a trainer chooses to teach.
- The owner of an approved course will select persons to train their approved course based on the trainer's lived experience and recovery status, not their path to recovery. The NCCPSS Program acknowledges all pathways to recovery, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs.

- The owner of an approved course will investigate all reported instances of questionable or unethical behavior of their trainers and put corrective actions, including separating from the trainer to resolve the problem and report to the NCCPSS Program.
- The owner of an approved course will comply with the Program, Training, and Trainer policies and other sound ethical practices outlined or implied by the NCCPSS Program.
- The owner of an approved course will be dedicated to maintaining a healthy and engaging environment for training participants.
- The owner of an approved course will avoid any relationship or activity that might impair or even appear to impair, their ability to make objective and fair decisions about training. For example, having prerequisite training offered only by the entity conducting the approved training might seem unfair.
- The owner of an approved course will neither give nor accept gifts from training participants or any courtesies that constitute or could reasonably be perceived as representing the exploitation of a training participant.
- The owner of an approved course is responsible for knowing and adhering to the values and standards outlined in this Code of Ethics document and could raise questions for clarification if uncertain about any of the codes.
- The owner of an approved course will respect the property rights of other course owners. Engaging in the unauthorized use, copying, distribution, or alteration of intellectual property of other approved courses is illegal.
- The owner of an approved course will utilize sound and fair business practices which are transparent and uniformly applied.

I certify that:

- I am the owner of an approved course**
- I have reviewed and understand the outlined values and Code of Ethics, and**
- I understand that signing this form indicates that I will adhere to the codes outlined by the NCCPSS Program as defined by the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services and the consequences of violating this Code of Ethics.**

(Course Name and Approval status are available for verification on the North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist website at pss.unc.edu)

Approved Course Name:
Course Owner:
Signature:
Date:

VIOLETION OF CODE OF ETHICS

The Program requires all CO to adhere to these codes. The Program will assess possible ethical violations when an incident occurs and is governed by policies and procedures established by the NCCPSS Program.

The owner of an approved course will take the standards outlined in the Code of Ethics seriously. Violations will warrant disciplinary action(s) up to and including withdrawal of course approval status by the NCCPSS Program.

MODIFICATION OF COURSE OWNER CODE OF ETHICS

The NCCPSS Program reserves the right to amend and modify the Course Owners Code of Ethics. When the NCCPSS Program makes any changes, the Program staff will post all changes on the PSS website. The Program staff will notify all course owners by email of the changes made and when changes become effective.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may submit them to:

NCCPSS Program

Behavioral Health Springboard

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