

NORTH CAROLINA'S  
CERTIFIED PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST PROGRAM

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# Course Owners Code of Ethics

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July 2020

## **NCCPSS Program Course Owners Code of Ethics**

The NCCPSS Program Code of Ethics for owners of approved 40-hour courses was developed by a workgroup consisting of North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialists, trainers, course owners, and other stakeholders. This code of ethics outlines uniform standards and expectations for owners of approved courses. These ethical standards are intended to provide clear boundaries for owners of approved 40-hour courses in organizing training events.

The NCCPSS Program course certificate of approval for an approved 40-hour course certifies that the course has successfully met the minimum requirements established by the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. These requirements may be located on the [NCCPSS website](#) for further review. Assessment of possible ethical violation shall be governed by policies and procedures established by the NCCPSS Program.

### **VALUES**

- People have the right to be treated with dignity and have their human rights respected.
- Self-directed recovery does happen, with or without professional help.
- Sharing our recovery experiences fosters mutual relationships, reduces isolation, inspires hope, and strengthens the ongoing recovery process.
- Individuals have the right to live the full and meaningful lives they envision for themselves.
- People have the right to make their own choices about their treatment even if others think their decisions are wrong.
- Peer Support values the importance of community building and natural supports (family, church, NA, AA, friends, etc.).

### **Code of Ethics**

- The owner of an approved 40-hour course will teach the content of the approved 40-hour course and not their beliefs and philosophy. For example, personal beliefs about recovery pathways should not dictate what a trainer chooses to teach.
- The owner of an approved 40-hour course will select persons to train their approved 40-hour course based on the trainer's lived experience and recovery status, and not their path to recovery. The NCCPSS Program acknowledges all pathways to recovery, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs.

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- The owner of an approved 40-hour course will investigate all reported instances of questionable or unethical behavior of their trainers and put in place corrective actions, including separating from the trainer to resolve the problem and report to the NCCPSS Program.
- The owner of an approved 40-hour course will comply with the training policies and procedures, trainer policies, and other sound ethical practices outlined or implied by the NCCPSS Program.
- The owner of an approved 40-hour course will be dedicated to maintaining a healthy and engaging environment for training participants.
- The owner of an approved 40-hour 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 a prerequisite training that is offered only by the entity that is conducting the approved 40-hour training might seem unfair.
- The owner of an approved 40-hour course will neither give nor accept gifts from training participants or any courtesies that constitute or could reasonably be perceived as representing exploitation of a training participant.
- The owner of an approved 40-hour 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 40-hour course will respect the property rights of other course owners. It is illegal to engage in unauthorized use, copying, distribution or alteration of intellectual property of other approved 40-hour courses.
- The owner of an approved 40 hour course will utilize sound and fair business practices which are transparent and uniformly applied.
- The owner of an approved 40-hour course will take seriously the standards outlined in the Code of Ethics. Violations will warrant disciplinary action(s) up to and including withdrawal of course approval status by the NCCPSS Program.

**I certify that:**

- **I am the owner of an approved 40-hour 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**

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**Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, and the consequences of violating this Code of Ethics.**

***(Course Name and Approval status is available for verification on the North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist website at [pss.unc.edu](http://pss.unc.edu))***

**Name: .....**

**Signature:..... Date:.....**

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