Peer Support

Who are peers?
Peers are individuals who use their lived mental health recovery experience and formal training to promote the recovery of others.

A peer can also use their experiential knowledge of mental health recovery to inform and improve research design and investigation.

Do peers have training?
Texas and at least 40 other states have state sponsored peer training and certification programs.

Where do peers work?
Peers work in many settings including mental health rehabilitation, therapeutic recreation/socialization, transition from inpatient, and vocational rehabilitation programs.

What do peers do?
- Advocacy and systems navigation
- Recovery Dialogues and support groups
- WRAP
- Goal setting
- Whole Health and Resiliency
- Connecting to resources and networking

Who funds peer support?
In Texas and 40 other states, services provided by peers are Medicaid billable. Other sources of funding for peers include general revenue, grants, waivers, and other dedicated funds.

Does peer support work?
Research suggests peer support services...
- Reduce inpatient service use
- Improve relationships with providers
- Increase empowerment, hope, and social relations
- Improve patient activation
- Reduce length of stay and crisis and emergency service use
- Enhance personal recovery and perceived recovery-orientation of providers for people receiving peer support in Texas