

## **Regional Advisory Committee Meeting 6/17/13**

### **New York City Field Office Breakout Questions**

Group 1 of 2

1. As we think about making peer services eligible for Medicaid funding, what Concerns and suggestions do we need to consider?
  - Peer Advocates/specialists would not be valued for their work.
  - Peer Advocates/specialists are needed in all emergency rooms.
  - All Peer Advocates/specialists should take a New York State Certification which would make them eligible for Medicaid.
  - If one graduate from Howie T. Harp Advocacy Center or the Empowerment Center that should be more than enough to Qualify for the NYS Certification.
  
2. If peer services are funded by Medicaid, how can we make documentation more peer friendly?
  - Provide Training
  
3. How do we insure that peer programs can take advantage of insurance funding Like Medicaid?
  - Medicaid informs the peers the requirement for billing.
  - What services are eligible?
  - What services are billable?
  - When a peer supervises the use of medication or teaches consumers about it this should be billable.
  - When after escorting consumers to Medicaid and psychiatric appointments, this should be billable, technically providing a service.
  - Peer-run groups and one to one coaching should be billable.
  - Giving presentation should be billable.

4. If you had a magic wand and could make Medicaid peer friendly, what would you do?
  - Medicaid pays for medication that the Dr's orders without the blocks.
  - Government funded Medicaid Managed Care should be on the same level as other insurance.
  - Peer Specialist/Advocate should be recognized and accepted by Medicaid as any other health care professional, for example, Nurses Practitioner, Social workers, PhD, Physician Assistant, Therapist.
  - Peer Specialist/Advocate should be eligible to have professional insurance The company that hires them should cover it.
  
5. Any other issues or concerns?
  - Criminal Justice –provide more services to people that are in the criminal justice system under the mental health caseload.
  - Mandating discharge planning service, ex housing service and case management.
  - Non-peer coworkers need to recognize respect, and have a team player mindset.
  - A defined and achievable career path that would include more money Room for advancement
  - Pay for Tuition reimbursement
  - More wellness education for peers, consumers and family members.