



## **Recovery Stakeholder Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 11, 2018; 10:00 am – 2:45 pm  
Hogg Foundation Training Room  
3001 Lake Austin Blvd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Austin, TX 78703

### **AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by committee chair, Shane Brune. In attendance were Larry Diaz, Casandra Ramirez, Verlyn Johnson, Annie Powell, Shannon Carr, Jondell Lafont-Garcia, Reese Carroll, Reginah Quackenbush, and Tammy Heinz. Via Hope staff included Dennis Bach, Amanda Bowman, Sandra Smith, Kamala Joy, Betsy Bunt, Maisha Barrett, and John King.

The first item was an update on the status of hb1486, the bill creating a peer support benefit in the state Medicaid Plan. Mr. Bach summarized the new training model, the role of the new certification entity, and how both of these would affect Via Hope's operation. Technically, the new certification process applies only to peers that want to be able to bill Medicaid. The committee discussed whether Via Hope should continue to issue its' own certification to individual's that complete our training and exam. The consensus was that we should provide a Certificate documenting that someone has been trained as a "Via Hope Peer Specialist", but that we should not refer to this as a certification.

Mr. Bach next discussed Via Hope's plans for developing a Peer Professional Development Institute in the next year. The goal of the Institute would be to ensure that graduates would be the best trained and most qualified peer specialists in Texas. The committee discussed additional elements, beyond the current training, that would be necessary components of the Institute.

The Recovery Institute Manager, Amanda Bowman, did a brief presentation on staff wellness and asked committee members if they believed this to be a priority for local provider organizations. Members were asked to record ideas for staff wellness activities on flip charts during a working lunch. These ideas were then reviewed during the debrief in the afternoon before the meeting adjourned.

Ms. Bowman next discussed the Person Centered Recovery Program (PCRP) and the somewhat conflicting priorities for the "Training For Trainers" approach. Given the limited resources, there is a tension between providing intensive, individualized support for a smaller number of trainers versus being able to spread the training to more individuals, while maintaining quality control over the process. How does Via Hope best match the needs in the field?

Ms. Bowman next presented an overview of the data on usage of our online training courses, and asked for recommendations on how this data could be better used.



Following the working lunch mentioned earlier, the Manager of Family and Youth Programs, Kamala Joy, described two new projects that are not funded by the HHSC grant but are of interest to the group. One is translation of our CFP and CPS certification curricula into Spanish and the other is a pilot project to place a near age Certified Peer Specialists in a local high school for about twenty hours per week.

The Hogg Foundation has contracted with Via Hope to co-sponsor PeerFest 2019. Their program officer, Tammy Heinz, explained her goals for the event and the way the partnership will work. It is expected that the event will take place in November, 2019.

Via Hope will have its' tenth anniversary year starting in February, 2019. The stakeholder committee discussed several ideas of how Via Hope could mark and celebrate this milestone.

The committee meeting ended with a debrief of the day, in which committee members could share thoughts on any of the day's agenda items. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.