Peer supporters in the workforce: diversity, inclusion, integration

A message from Thomas Lane, NCPS, CRPS, senior director, community and recovery supports

Welcome to Magellan’s July 2020 edition of eMpowered for Wellness. This month, I want to share some thoughts and insights on the importance of peer support services in healthcare, as well as other systems where peer supporters may be integrated. As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt across the U.S. and around the world and folks struggle with the fallout, we are seeing an increased need for mental health and substance use disorder services and supports. In a May 14, 2020 news release, the United Nations called for a substantial investment in mental health services to avoid a “massive increase in mental health conditions in the coming months.”

Explore this topic in the feature article here for more on the contributions and role of peer support in preventive mental health.

Please share our newsletter with friends and colleagues, and encourage them to sign up to receive it along with occasional announcements about new resources and shared learning opportunities!

The world needs different kinds of minds to work together.

- Dr. Temple Grandin

Mark your calendar for upcoming events!
July 30, 2020, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern, Magellan Healthcare eMpowered for Learning webinar, "Supervising peer specialists in a changing landscape"

Would you like to learn about results from a national survey on the supervision of peer support specialists and related workforce development issues? If so, please make time to join this no-cost webinar. Dana Foglesong, MSW, NCPS, CRPS, director of recovery and resiliency services for Magellan Complete Care of Florida, is our scheduled presenter.

- Register for this no-cost learning opportunity
- Check out more on the webinar, including CE credit eligibility

Magellan Healthcare eMpowered for Learning, summer ethics webinar series

We are pleased to announce the schedule for our inaugural Summer ethics for peer supporters series. Magellan is committed to increasing access to effective peer support services to improve personal well-being and promote recovery. Certified peer specialists are required to earn continuing education credits on the subject of ethics as a condition of being in good standing with certification entities. Lisa Goodale, MSW, will be joining us as our moderator to share her many years of experience with peer support and ethics.

Part 1 – August 5, 2020, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Eastern, "Black and white and grey all over: Ethics for providing quality peer support"

Jean Dukarski, CPSS, program director, Justice in Mental Health Organization, is our scheduled presenter.

- Register for this no-cost learning opportunity
- Check out more on the webinar, including CE credit eligibility

Part 2 – August 19, 2020, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Eastern

Part 3 – September 3, 2020, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Eastern

- Stay tuned for additional details and the registration links for Part 2 and Part 3 of our series!

Every Thursday from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., Eastern, Stay Home for MY LIFE virtual youth festival

Magellan's weekly MY LIFE virtual youth festival is an inspiring online event designed for youth and young adults who have experience with mental health, substance use, foster care and/or other challenges. Each week we feature inspirational speakers, uplifting entertainment and information related to recovery, wellness and empowerment.

- Learn more on the MY LIFE Facebook page
- Register for free
Every Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern, caregiver support group meetings

You’re invited to our caregiver support group meetings. These free groups provide a safe place for any caregiver, guardian, parent, grandparent, family member, etc. to talk through their struggles and successes, and to learn from one another.

- Join online, or by phone at: 1-646-558-8656 (toll free) (meeting ID 707 619 166) (password 181500)

Access 2020 newsletters and webinar recordings

eMpowered for Wellness

- June newsletter – Thought Leaders interview with Dr. Karen L. Fortuna, Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College, and co-developer of PeerTECH, a mobile app
- May newsletter – focus on digitally delivered peer support
- April newsletter – focus on the implications of digital inclusion, an emerging social determinant of health, and COVID-19
- March newsletter – focus on how social inclusion is directly tied to recovery, personal wellness and strengthening resilience
- January newsletter – focus on how social determinants of health impact people and communities and how the Eight Dimensions of Wellness are a way to look holistically at those areas of our lives that impact our overall health and well-being, in context of social determinants of health

eMpowered for Learning (for CE credits)

- June webinar: Digital Peer Support: A whole of society approach to widespread availability of mental health and psychosocial support – provides information on the current landscape of digital peer support services across the globe and how to implement digital peer support within systems of care
- April webinar: Social inclusion and recovery – focus on the elements of a recovery-oriented system, the societal effect on recovery, social inclusion and exclusion, and strategies for applying recovery values and practices to promote social inclusion
- February webinar: Wellness informed peer support: impacting social determinants of health – focus on how wellness-informed peer support can positively impact social determinants
Explore Magellan Healthcare COVID-19 resources

We continue to monitor developments around the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Visit our dedicated website, including information and resources for our communities, clients, members and providers, such as:

- A tip sheet on helping kids manage summer and fall during the COVID-19 pandemic [here](#)
- Access to a 24-hour crisis line, and crisis text line [here](#)
- Video on how to use telehealth [here](#)

We’re looking for your feedback!

Take a one-question online survey to share your feedback about our newsletter! It takes less than a minute to complete. We value your opinions and ideas! [Access the survey](#).

New and improved – Magellan Healthcare Recovery and Resiliency eLearning Center!

The [Magellan Healthcare Recovery and Resiliency eLearning Center](#) is your resource for training and educational information on peer support, recovery and resiliency, and a comprehensive listing of health topics. We offer these learning opportunities free of charge, in a convenient format for individuals who work in the healthcare field, families and anyone interested in the topics.

Magellan has been creating and sharing the eMpowered for Wellness e-newsletter for more than six years, starting with our first issue in the fall of 2012. We continue to offer thought provoking articles on a range of topics, along with resources to advance peer support and peer-provided services throughout healthcare systems and in the community.

Please share this e-newsletter with friends and colleagues, and encourage them to [join our email list](#) to receive it along with occasional announcements about new resources and shared learning opportunities!

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