POLICY BULLETIN

No. 19-03

Issued Date: December 17, 2019

Issued By: Ellen DiDomenico, Deputy Secretary
Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Effective Date: December 17, 2019

Subject: Role of Certified Recovery Specialist Working with Overdose Survivors

Purpose: The purpose of this policy bulletin is to document modifications made to the DDAP Treatment Manual.

Audience: All SCAs and their contracted service providers.

Definitions:
Certified Recovery Specialists: A person who uses his or her lived experience of recovery from mental illness and/or addiction, plus skills learned in formal training, to deliver services in behavioral health settings to promote mind-body recovery and resiliency.

Policy: The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs is clarifying the role of Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) when working with Overdose Survivors. The changes are provided in the Department’s Treatment Manual Section 5.04 Overdose Survivors and the Certified Recovery Specialist Model. The updated manual clarifies that Certified Recovery Specialist cannot complete a level of care assessment but are available to provide screening and referral to a professional or provider qualified to clinically assess and refer to treatment. Additionally, Section 13, Appendix B, Glossary has been updated to include the definition of a Certified Recovery Specialist. The revised version of the DDAP Treatment Manual is published on our website (www.ddap.pa.gov) and can be found under the DDAP Document Library, Manuals page.

Questions regarding this Policy Bulletin may be directed to Jodi Skiles in DDAP’s Division of Treatment at joskiles@pa.gov or (717) 783-8200.
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