



Certified Peer Support Specialist Training
Hosted by SC SHARE
Focusing on Co-Occurring Disorders

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SC SHARE's Certified Peer Support Specialist Training:

Achieving a peer support certification demonstrates a strong understanding of mental illness, substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and dedication to personal and professional growth. Time Spent in the classroom, completing homework, and sitting for the exam requires commitment and we believe the return on investment is extremely worthwhile for preparing for employment in the behavioral health industry. Individuals obtaining a CPSS designation will have the satisfaction of completing an intensive certification program and gain an added competitive edge in the industry as a paraprofessional.

SC SHARE hosts two trainings per year. The class size is capped at 20. The class is kept to a manageable size so that students can grapple at a deeply personal level with the material during the discussion sessions.

Class runs 9am - 5pm Monday through Friday for 40 hours of intensive classroom training with 12 hours dedicated to a homework and final presentation. An exam date is scheduled two weeks after classroom training. Certificates are issued by mail two weeks following the exam.

Our training philosophy:

"We work on ourselves in order to help others. And we help others as a vehicle for working on ourselves." (Ram Daas & Paul Gorman, How Can I Help?)

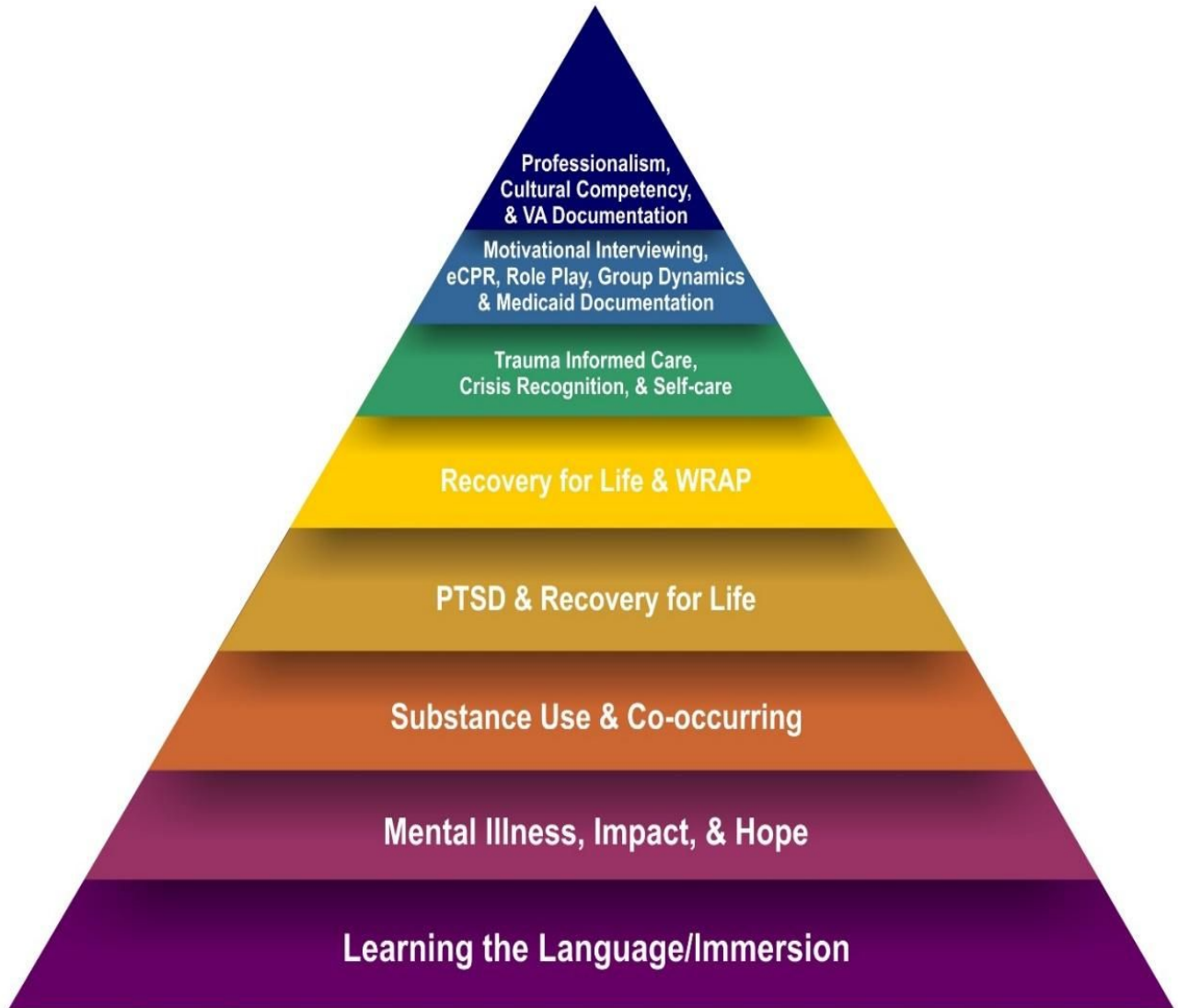
We see this training as just as much of a personal training as a professional training. We focus on co-occurring disorders throughout the training blending mental illness and substance use information to support integrated care knowledge.

This is a "do no harm" training with a job readiness concentration.

Training Structure:

- Lectures
- Videos
 - A Day in the Life of a CPSS*
 - Anderson Cooper's CNN news story on Schizophrenia
 - Kevin McCauley's *Memo to Self: Protecting Sobriety with the Science of Safety*
- Role plays
- Small group and skill building exercises
- Testimonies from working CPSS

Curriculum Overview:



Statements from the Training Evaluation:

“This was taught and tested not to fail you but to better prepare you for the job.”

“This whole experience has been a gift and a blessing. I’m a better person just from being a part of this training. The training exceeded my expectations”

“I loved the dynamic presentations on relevant topics related to the recovery process.”

“I learned that I am the expert in living with mental illness and I’ve earned a seat at the table.”

“I have a better understanding of mental health and substance use.”

“There are many pathways – I believe that and at first I didn’t.”

“I learned to NOT ask why but instead to ask what happened – this gives the person the power to be open.”

“I wouldn’t change or trade this experience for anything! I feel like SC SHARE taught me how to ride a bike with training wheels so that when I’m employed without training wheels I will be successful!”

“I hated when training was over! This was a very good life changing experience.”

“It was a wealth of information.”

“I feel very prepared. They gave me all of the tools that I need to make a difference with my peers.”