

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

REACH for Tomorrow

Community Integration Program

Peer Support Integration Policy

Policy Number: CI-PSI-026

Effective Date: 03/01/2026

Review Date: 03/01/2027

Responsible Party: Director of Medical & Clinical Services

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for integrating peer support into the Community Integration Program at REACH for Tomorrow. Peer support promotes recovery, empowerment, and community connection through shared lived experience.

Policy

REACH for Tomorrow recognizes the value of peer support as an important component of recovery-oriented services. Peer support services are integrated into Community Integration programming to provide encouragement, mentorship, and guidance from individuals with lived experience in recovery.

Definition of Peer Support

Peer support refers to support provided by individuals who have personal lived experience with mental health or substance use recovery and who are trained to assist others in their recovery journey.

Peer Support Activities

- Sharing lived experience to promote hope and recovery
- Encouraging engagement in recovery and community participation
- Facilitating peer-led discussions or support activities
- Providing mentorship and role modeling for recovery
- Assisting individuals in building social connections and recovery networks
- Supporting engagement with community resources and peer recovery groups

Integration with Community Integration Services

Peer support activities complement clinical and skill-building services by reinforcing recovery-oriented principles and encouraging meaningful community engagement. Peer supporters may participate in recovery activities, community events, and service planning discussions when appropriate.

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Staff Collaboration

Peer supporters work collaboratively with Community Integration staff to support individuals' recovery goals while maintaining the unique peer role focused on lived experience, encouragement, and mutual support.

Documentation Requirements

Peer support interactions and activities must be documented in the electronic health record when they are part of structured services. Documentation should reflect recovery-oriented engagement and connection to service plan goals.

Quality Monitoring

Peer support integration is monitored through supervision, program evaluation, and quality improvement activities to ensure alignment with Community Integration standards and CARF requirements.

References

CARF International. (2025). Behavioral Health Standards Manual – Community Integration Services.