

# Pennsylvania's Transformation Transfer Initiative Project

A Peer Supports Training Curriculum for  
Certified Peer Specialists Working with  
Older Adults

PA Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse  
Services (OMHSAS)

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# **Pennsylvania's Call For Change**

**Working Toward a Recovery-  
Oriented Mental Health  
Service System for Adults**

# PA Chose Several Priorities

- Peer Supports
- Housing
- Employment
- Older Adults
- Suicide Prevention

## Peer Supports as a Cornerstone for Change

- 2004 CMS MH Systems Transformation Grant
  - Developed training curriculum and certification process for Peer Specialists
  - Developed Medicaid-funded Peer Support services
  - CMS approved Medicaid-funded Peer Support in PA February 2007

## **OMHSAS Older Adult Advisory Committee Identified Older Adult Peer Services as a Priority Goal**

- Cross System Partnerships between Office of Mental Health, Department of Aging, Office of Long Term Living, and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Suicide Prevention
- Career Opportunities for Certified Peer Specialists

# Persons aged 65 yrs and older represent the fastest growing age group in the US

- PA has the third highest percentage of older adults in the nation

*(US Census Bureau, 2000)*

- **Older adults are less likely to seek treatment from mental health professionals due to stigma and isolation**  
*(Byrne, 2000; Bratter & Freeman, 1990)*
- **Services provided in non-traditional settings by peers are an effective alternative to engage older adults**

# **Pennsylvania TTI Grant Project- Specialized Training for Peer Specialists Working with Older Adults**

- Concept**
- Develop**
- Pilot**
- Revise**
- Data and Outcomes**
- Implement**

- 1. Partnered w/ University of Pennsylvania, with support from: Pa Dept of Aging, Office of Long Term Living & Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**
- 2. Formed statewide workgroup with broad stakeholder representation**
- 3. Developed curriculum**
- 4. Recruited and selected participants**

- 5. Pilot three regional 1-day older adult competency trainings; 20 each region w/ total 60 participants**
- 6. Pilot 3-day older adult enhanced training w/ 20 participants**
- 7. Encourage employment opportunities for Peer Specialists trained in working with older adults**

## After the TTI Grant, What's Next?

- Setting up state-wide year round training calendar for Certified Peer Specialists to meet certification, continuing education, and specialization needs

# Recovery

Recovery is remembering who you are through the darkness and using your strengths to become all that you were meant to be



***Support The Journey***

## References

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<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>