

# TEXAS CERTIFICATION BOARD



**Texas Certification Board**

*presents*

## **Mental Health Peer Specialist Full Certification**

### **APPLICATION PACKAGE**

Revised November, 2019

AS AUTHORIZED BY THE

### **Health and Human Services Commission**

Texas Administrative Code Title I, Part 15,  
Chapter 354 – Medicaid Services,  
Subchapter N-Peer Specialist Services

#### **TEXAS CERTIFICATION BOARD**

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# About the Mental Health Peer Specialist (MHPS)

## Statement of Purpose

The Mental Health Peer Specialist credential standardizes qualifications of those working in Recovery Support within the field of, mental health, and/or co-occurring disorders. The following MHPS credentialing guidelines have been developed by the **Texas Certification Board**.

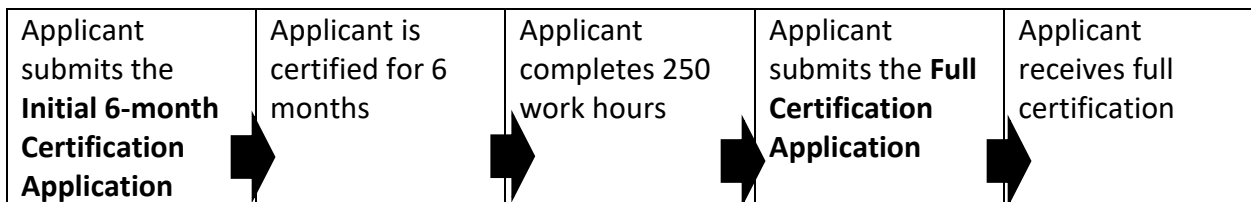
## Statutory Limitations

Certification as a MHPS is not to be construed as authorization to charge or collect fees for services rendered if to do so conflicts with any statutory limitations. Where the statute requires that a MHPS be supervised by a licensed provider, they shall be so supervised.

## Authority

The authority of the Certification Board is derived from those persons who are dedicated to service as peer specialist and who are most affected by certification. This authority is embodied as an autonomous body associated with the statewide association of alcohol and drug abuse counselors, the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals, Inc. Recognition of this certification is voluntary. The credibility of this certification results from the standards that are maintained, the performance level established by the Certification Board, and most importantly, the competency and integrity of those holding the certification.

## Process for Certification



The initial certification can last up to 6 months. In that time, you must complete your 250 work experience hours under the supervision of a certified Peer Specialist Supervisor (PSS). When you have completed your 250 hours, you will submit this application. The 2 years will be cumulative between the two certifications.

## Mental Health Peer Specialist Initial Certification Requirements

The minimum requirements for certification of a MHPS initial 6-month certification shall include academic achievement and adherence to a code of ethics, including the following:

1	<p><b>Education Level:</b> Verification of a minimum education level of a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED). (Complete the enclosed formal education form and include official documentation via copy of transcripts or diploma).</p>
2	<p><b>Attestation of initial online assessment</b> The initial online assessment is available on the HHSC Website. You will find an attestation that you must initial to confirm you reviewed the online assessment on page 7.</p>
3	<p><b>Core Training:</b> Proof of Core training and passing score on the core training knowledge assessment. Core Training must be through an approved certified instructor or training entity. <b>Please provide copies of training certificates from approved training entities.</b></p>
4	<p><b>MHPS Supplemental Training:</b> Proof of supplemental MHPS training and passing score on supplemental MHPS training knowledge assessment. MHPS training requires at least 40 education hours specific to the MHPS domains through an approved certified MHPS trainer or training entity. <b>Please provide copies of training certificates from approved training entities.</b></p>
5	<p><b>Ethics standards:</b> Sign and agree to comply with the ethical standards pertaining to Mental Health Peer Specialist listed in this application.</p>
6	<p><b>Criminal History:</b> Texas administrative code requires submission of a background check.</p>
7	<p><b>Lived Experience:</b> You must attest that you have lived experience as a peer and current self-directed recovery.</p>

## Mental Health Peer Specialist Full Certification Requirements

After receiving the initial MHPS, you have 6 months to complete the 250 work experience hours.

8	<p><b>Work experience:</b> 250 hours of Volunteer or paid work experience specific to MHPS. These hours must begin AFTER initial certification and be completed within 6 months. <b>These hours must be supervised by a certified Peer Specialist Supervisor (PSS).</b></p>
9	<p><b>Letter of recommendation from supervisor:</b> Along with a completed work experience form, the Texas Administrative Code requires that the applicant's supervisor provide a letter of recommendation.</p>

## Submission Checklist

- Certification Application
- Work/ Volunteer Experience documentation
- Supervisor letter of recommendation

## Mental Health Peer Specialist (MHPS) Certification Application

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State/ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Main) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Secondary) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever undergone any disciplinary actions for violation of ethics?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

## Supervised Work Experience Form

Have a certified Peer Specialist Supervisor (PSS) complete this form to document the 250 hours of supervised volunteer and/or work experience after initial certification. **A letter of recommendation from the supervisor is also required for certification.**

Applicant Info		
Last Name _____	First Name _____	MI _____
Supervisor Info		
Last Name _____	First Name _____	
Phone _____	Email _____	
Certification Number: _____		
Employer Info		
Employer Name _____		
Address _____		
City/ State/ Zip _____		
Phone (Main) _____		

Date	Hours	Supervisor Initials

I hereby verify the above-named applicant has completed the hours documented on this form.

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_