

Scope of Practice

Defining a professional or para-professional role is often called a *Scope of Practice* and defines the procedures, actions, and skills a professional can undertake in a given field (i.e., all healthcare professionals have a scope of practice). Scope of practice helps define where one job function ends and another begins. At times, issues may arise when one profession bumps into another profession. Another way to describe it is a way to “*stay in our lane.*” Scope of practice is different from a job description. Your workplace will have a job description that will fit within the context of the peer support scope of practice.

Scope of Practice – Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist

Recovery Support

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Willingness to share your own recovery story in a meaningful and hopeful way
- Provide peer support that is mutual and respectful
- Assist others in developing a wellness or recovery plan
- Understand the key components of the recovery process
- Facilitate a peer support group
- Connect others to community resources
- Have a working knowledge of the mind-body connection and its relation to recovery
- Provide education around wellness and recovery
- Ability to actively listen and be present in the moment

Mentoring

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Act as a role model for wellness and recovery
- Assist others in recognizing and building natural supports
- Be able to support others in planning and achieving their own goals at their own pace
- Utilize a strength-based approach

Professional Responsibility

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Fulfill necessary training and continuing education requirements
- Understand the role of peer support in the system
- Understand and abide by a code of ethics and standards
- Be able to work as part of a treatment team
- Understand the importance of confidentiality and HIPAA
- Understand mandatory reporting and why this is necessary
- Participate in clinical supervision
- Understand risk factors for suicide

Advocacy

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Provide education around self- advocacy
- Assure those they work with know their rights and responsibilities
- Provide referrals to other community supports