



PARENT-PEER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Certification as a Family/Parent Peer Specialist for
Parents who are employed in Maine's Behavioral Health Homes



"TRANSFORMING FAMILIES AND SYSTEMS THROUGH
PARENT KNOWLEDGE AND THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES"

Training dates, location and times:

Dates: June 20, 22 and 24th, 2022
Location: Virtual
Held from: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 30-60 minute lunch break
Cost: \$375 per person

Contact: G.E.A.R. Parent Network Director, Cindy Seekins, Director at cseekins@crisisandcounseling.org
for training application registration form. Have questions? Call 207-441-7216 or 1-800-264-9224

Applicant Criteria:

1. Applicant must have **3+ years** of lived experience in parenting or in a parenting role (meaning biological parent or caregiver, foster parent or grandparent) with at least one child/youth that lived with you for 3 or more years who has emotional, developmental, behavioral, substance use or mental health concerns.
2. Applicant is also able and willing to articulate their lived experiences and
3. Applicant additionally also has **3+ years** of lived experience with that one child/youth in navigating the child serving systems of care such as children's behavioral health, child welfare, special education or juvenile justice on behalf of that child. (**Note: # of years of lived experience and navigating SOC is determined from the date your child/youth received their first mental health diagnosis to today's date and is not from time of their birth. In the case of caregivers, foster parents or grandparents it would be from date the child/youth came to live with you to today's date if still living with you or the date they left placement**)

Training Includes: 2 hours of parent peer training in each of the 11 required Domain Areas as required by Maine and set forth by the National Certification Commission for Family Support (22+ hours plus 2 hours of discussion and activities = 24 hours total). Each graduate is certified as a "BHH parent/family peer specialist" as is required for Maine Behavioral Health Homes certification.

BHH Organizations - Are you in need of Parent/Family Peer Specialists now? Contract options are available that also include monthly progress notes! G.E.A.R. Parent/Family Peer Specialists have both Maine and National certifications and are available to help you meet the requirements of having this parent specialist role!

Since its inception, family involvement has been a core value of systems of care and a core component of family involvement is the ability for parents and caregivers with lived experience and experience navigating services and systems to help other parents (e.g., parent-to-parent peer support).



G.E.A.R. Parent Network is a Parent-to-Parent Network of Information & Support for Parents of Children with behavioral health needs, is a program of Crisis & Counseling Centers, Inc. and is funded by the Department of Health & Human Services, the United Way and Private Donations

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