



PARENT-PEER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Certification as a Family Peer Specialist for Parents
Who are employed in a Maine Behavioral Health Home Organization

“Transforming Families and Systems through Parent Knowledge and Their Lived Experiences”

Dates: April 24, 26, and 28, 2023 (a 3 day certification training)
Location: Virtual
Held from: 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 30 minute lunch break
Cost: \$450 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 is vetted and fully meets the following criteria:

1. Applicant has minimum of **3+ years** of lived experience in parenting or in a parenting role (meaning biological parent, caregiver, foster parent or grandparent) with at least one child/youth whom lived with you for 3 or more years who has emotional, developmental, behavioral, substance use or mental health concerns.
2. Applicant is able and willing to articulate their lived experiences with that child/youth and
3. Applicant additionally has **3+ years** of lived experience with that one child/youth in navigating some or all of 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: both the # of years of lived experience and navigating SOC is determined/calculated from the date your when child/youth received their first mental health diagnosis to today's date. It is not calculated 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 in each of the 11 required Domain Areas (required by Maine and set forth by the National Certification Commission for Family Support for Family Peer Specialists). Graduates are certified as "Family Peer Specialists" as is required for employment in Maine Behavioral Health Homes. In accordance with the Code of Ethics for Family Peer Specialists to continue to have current general areas of knowledge that are in compliance with laws and regulations, duty to persons served and duties to the profession and will abide by the standards of practice.

BHH Organizations – Are you in need of Family Peer Specialists now? Contract options are available that also include monthly progress notes! G.E.A.R. Family Peer Specialists have both Maine and National certifications and are available to help you meet the State requirements of having this family peer support 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

Administration: 10 Caldwell Rd, Augusta, Maine 04330 • (207) 626-3448 (voice & TTY); Fax (207) 626-3453