

The Preliminary Stages of A Scoping Review of the Intersections of the Training and Implementation of Peer Supporters in Clinical Early Psychosis Intervention Mental Health Teams

Tracy Windsor¹, Alicia Vicic², Rory Higgs³

¹ Dalhousie University, Faculty of Social Work; ² Interior Health; ³ University of British Columbia



Tracy Windsor
Social Worker / Peer Support
Advocate / Researcher / Educator



Introduction

- Peer support in clinical early psychosis intervention (EPI) programs is important, but **how are they trained and implemented in the EPI context?**
- While PSW roles and activities vary depending on their setting and context, initial peer support training programs tend to be generalist in nature [1], and **training specific to the role of peer support in the EPI context is lacking** [2, 3].

Materials & Methods

- This **scoping review** project will map existing knowledge on training and implementation of peer support services in early psychosis intervention programs in British Columbia and Canada.
- The search strategy for the scoping review is informed by meetings with a **Peer Support Reference Group** composed of peer supporters in early psychosis programs in British Columbia.

Preliminary Themes and Search Terms

Unclear protocols around **mitigating risk** (e.g., suicide intervention, duty to report, note-taking and documentation, etc.)

Simultaneous **co-optation** (e.g., being expected to act like a clinician) and **devaluation** of peer support (e.g., not being provided the same level of onboarding training as clinicians)

The importance of **relationships**

Building on **initial peer support training** for the EPI context

Navigating how to honour the **values and ethics of peer support while on a clinical team** (e.g., use of language; navigating power dynamics; peer support community of practice)

(Universal?) **workplace mental health support and accommodations** (that other staff may also benefit from)

Moving Away

from what's not working

Moving Towards

what might work

Moving Deeper

into what is working

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Peer Support Reference Group for their knowledge and expertise in determining key terms relevant to peer supporters in Early Psychosis Intervention teams, as well as the Early Psychosis Intervention Advanced Practice Program for their unwavering support of the Early Psychosis Peer Recovery Network of BC.

References

- [1] Charles, A., Nixdorf, R., Ibrahim, N., Meir, L. G., Mpango, R. S., Ngakongwa, F., Nudds, H., Pathare, S., Ryan, G., Repper, J., Wharrad, H., Wolf, P., Slade, M., & Mahlke, C. (2021). Initial training for mental health peer support workers: Systematized review and international delphi consultation. *JMIR Mental Health*, 8(5), e25528-e25528.
- [2] Hopkins, L., Pedwell, G., Wilson, K., & Howell-Jay, P. (2021). Implementing youth peer support in an early psychosis program. *The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education, and Practice*, 16(2), 85-98.
- [3] Nguyen, J., Goldsmith, L., Rains, L. S., & Gillard, S. (2022). Peer support in early intervention in psychosis: A qualitative research study. *Journal of Mental Health*, 31(2), 196-202.

With support from



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY



Interior Health



Early Psychosis Intervention