

Definition/ Glossary for Youth Peer Support Specialist

Code of Ethics

Coaches share guidance and feedback to the KYPSS and provide skill development and knowledge needed to complete KYPSS tasks.

Code of Ethics is a set of professional expectations that KYPSS agree to uphold in order to preserve the integrity of the position.

Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) are publically funded community services for Kentuckians with social, emotional, behavioral, intellectual and substance use disabilities whose services are provided through the fourteen regional CMHC boards. Regional Boards are private, non-profit organizations established to serve residents in a designated multi-county area.

Cultural Competency is the development of competencies that result in the ability to effectively and respectfully interact with people from different cultures and diversities including knowledge, attitude and behavior.

Dual relationships are second relationships with a family, youth or professional that is not in the role of the KYPSS position and may create actual or potential conflicts between the professional duties of the KYPSS. It is important for a KYPSS to distinguish situations when one of these relationships are problematic or unethical as a KYPSS needs to maintain a professional relationship with a provider who has previously provided them services as a youth with a mental health need. It is very important for KYPSS to understand what is meant by boundaries and a boundary violation. A boundary violation occurs when a KYPSS is involved in a dual relationship that is exploitive, inappropriately suggestive, manipulative or deceptive. Should a conflict of interest occur, the KYPSS could be seen as unfair in his/her decision making.

Empowerment refers to a social process that helps people gain control of their own lives through assisting an individual youth to identify their own goals, needs and to feel capable and responsible for reaching their fullest potential.

Kentucky Youth Peer Support Specialist is a youth aged 18 to 35 who has or is receiving at least one state funded service for an emotional, social, behavioral, and/or substance use disability. The specialist will provide mentoring and supports to other youth through various methods and will work toward enhancing the youth and family involvement within the System of Care.

Reclaiming focuses on a youth's ability to cope in a positive and proactive way with their social, emotional, behavioral and/or substance abuse disability that is affecting their ability to function at the highest potential with the family and community.

Supervision will be directly provided by a qualified mental health professional (QMHP) who is identified by the hiring agency. A coach and supervisor will work together to teach and support the KYPSS.

A System of Care is created when systems that serve families and children with various mental health and substance use disabilities form a partnership for the purpose of providing inclusive supports and services. These would include but are not limited to education, public health, the judicial system, mental health system, faith community, family organizations, and natural supports. This would happen in a coordinated community-based environment.

Youth is interpreted as an individual between the ages of 18 to 35 for the purpose of the KYPSS role.

Youth-guided is one of the core principles and values of a System of Care. It includes family and caregivers but speaks specifically to youth voice and choice regarding goals, needs and decision making regarding the services and supports for youth. It mandates that youth are equal partners at all levels in the system including but not limited to the:

- Individual level (self) to lead team meetings and services for yourself,
- Program level to provide youth voice on what is or is not working in a specific service or program, and
- System level to provide a youth voice that affects decisions about finances, policies/ procedures, evaluations, and governance agencies.

A **youth network** is a formal or informal infrastructure established by an organized group of youth that collaborate to provide a united voice and create and family-driven and youth-guided System of Care.