

5122-26-21

**Qualified behavioral health specialists.**

(A) A "qualified behavioral health specialist" or "QBHS" is an individual who provides care coordination, client monitoring, or both and has, at a minimum, completed the training and education specified in paragraph (B) of this rule.

(B) An individual seeking to become a QBHS is to complete a minimum of forty-six hours of training or education. That training or education is to be completed in two phases:

(1) Phase I: At least sixteen hours of training or education covering the following topics in the amounts specified is to be completed through ebased academy prior to the individual having contact with a client or resident:

(a) Introduction to qualified behavioral health specialist support and services - one hour;

(b) History of substance use, mental health, and advocacy for qualified behavioral health specialists - two hours;

(c) The recovery environment for qualified behavioral health specialists - one and one-quarter hours;

(d) Cultural competency for qualified behavioral health specialists - one and one-half hours;

(e) Ethics and boundaries for qualified behavioral health specialists - two hours;

(f) The spirit of motivational interviewing for qualified behavioral health specialists - one and one-half hours;

(g) Trauma-informed care for qualified behavioral health specialists - one and one-quarter hours;

(h) Understanding human trafficking for qualified behavioral health specialists - one hour;

(i) Health and wellness for qualified behavioral health specialists - one and one-half hours;

(j) Supervision for qualified behavioral health specialists - two hours; and

(k) Realities of recovery support for qualified behavioral health specialists - one hour.

(2) Phase II: At least thirty hours of training or education covering the following topics in the amounts specified is to be completed not later than ninety days

after the individual's first day of employment:

- (a) Introduction to qualified behavioral health specialist and certified services - four hours;
- (b) Recovery planning across multiple pathways - four hours;
- (c) Establishing caring and collaborative relationships using communication tools and techniques - eight hours;
- (d) Creating trauma-informed interactions - four hours;
- (e) Recognizing and managing crisis: prevention, intervention, and post crisis support - three hours;
- (f) Understanding the community behavioral health system (ADAMHS boards, OhioRise, ombudsmen, Ohio department of medicaid, OhioMHAS, and disability rights ohio) - two hours;
- (g) Ethics and boundaries in the workplace - six hours;
- (h) Collaboration, teamwork, quality documentation, and reporting - three hours;
- (i) Health, wellness, and recovery - three hours;
- (j) Growth and change as a qualified behavioral health specialist: leadership, career paths, and advocacy - three hours and ten minutes.

(C) A QBHS is to complete, at a minimum, thirty hours of continuing education every two years covering the following topics in the amounts specified:

- (1) Ethics (may include confidentiality and overview of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) - three hours;
- (2) Boundaries - three hours;
- (3) Diversity and inclusion/cultural sensitivity - two hours;
- (4) System navigation and care coordination - one hour;
- (5) Trauma-informed care - two hours;
- (6) Human trafficking - one hour;
- (7) Behavioral health knowledge (may include recovery and resiliency) - one hour;
- (8) Basic principles related to health and wellness - one hour;

(9) Principles of coaching as applied to the QBHS delivery of services - two hours;

(10) Other topics as identified by provider/employer - fourteen hours.

The continuing education to be completed under this paragraph is sufficient if it was provided by a continuing education program sponsored or approved by the department or approved by the counselor, social worker, and marriage and family therapist board; chemical dependency professionals board; state board of psychology; board of nursing; or state medical board.

(D) A QBHS is to be supervised at all times by at least one of the following:

(1) A person licensed under Chapter 4757. of the Revised Code to practice as an independent social worker;

(2) A person licensed under Chapter 4757. of the Revised Code to practice as a licensed professional clinical counselor;

(3) A person licensed under Chapter 4758. of the Revised Code to practice as an independent chemical dependency counselor;

(4) A person licensed under Chapter 4757. of the Revised Code to practice as an independent marriage and family therapist;

(5) A person licensed under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code to practice as a psychologist; or

(6) A "psychiatrist" as defined in section 5122.01 of the Revised Code.

Supervision is sufficient if the supervising professional is available to the QBHS on-site or through teleconferencing or videoconferencing and the supervisor supervises not more than eight QBHSs at a given time. Supervision is to be documented.

(E) A QBHS is to attest that the QBHS has read, understands, and will comply with the following code of ethics:

A QBHS in its role, relationships, and areas of responsibilities will do all of the following:

(1) Use the strength-based model when working with individuals.

(2) Respect the rights and dignity of those they work with.

(3) Adhere to privacy and confidentiality of those they serve.

- (4) Conduct themselves in a professional manner, including (a) never intimidating, threatening, or harassing those they serve; (b) never using undue influence, physical force, or verbal abuse with those they serve; (c) never making unwarranted promises of benefits of those they serve; and (d) maintaining high standards of personal conduct.
- (5) Conduct themselves in a culturally competent manner which includes not practicing, condoning, facilitating, or collaborating in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, or mental or physical disability.
- (6) Conduct themselves in a manner that fosters healthy behaviors.
- (7) Not enter dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve.
- (8) Not engage in sexual or intimate activities with colleagues or those they serve.
- (9) Not accept gifts from, or give gifts of significant value to, those they serve.
- (10) Comply with statutes and rules regarding the mandatory reporting of harm, abuse, or neglect.