

## 2024 International IPS Learning Community Annual Meeting

### Breakout Group: IPS Specialists & Peer Specialists

Facilitators: Chris Knoper and Matt Diehl

- Matt: if a participant doesn't make it to the initial appointment, more likely not to engage at all.
  - o IPS has been implemented in many settings. BEES study- it has been hard to get that initial engagement.
- **Discussion topic: How to help people engage?**
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- Peer support- key to engagement.
  - o Peer support is very big in San Diego. Peer specialists are part of the clinical team. Valued role. Seeing it on ACT teams, hospitals, club houses.
  - o Peer specialists have lived experience. Largely mental health but could be others. (For example, family member has a mental health diagnosis.)
  - o Chris: having lived experience gives helpful insights.
  - o Kiara: IPS trainer in middle TN. Was a peer support specialist, worked on the MH team. Engagement goes down between employment specialist and client because of subconscious stigma. ES may not feel comfortable meeting with the client. Hypotheticals impact engagement.
    - As a peer, required to go to the client's house. Sets the expectation at the beginning. Allowed to transport them. Without those interactions, lack of rapport.
  - o In NC, piloting peer support.
    - Work hand in hand with the client. Peer works well with both ES and client. If something happens, the peer often finds out first.
    - If homeless, peer goes out in the community to find them. If they go missing, peer knows where to look.
    - Try to match the client to the right peer.
    - In NC, peer need one year in recovery and participate in training.
    - Peers not expected to do job development.
    - UNC has a peer support training.
  - o Is peer support same as case management?
    - Depends who you ask. Blurry line.
    - Some teams have distinct roles.
    - Case management model: CRAM- coordinate, refer, assess, monitor
    - How to help peers know what their role is? E.g. not medication management
    - Role clarity is very important. Co-create a process to define the peer support role.
    - Patti: made a brochure to define her role as a peer. Set expectations.
  - o **Need for more research to assess how peers affect IPS outcomes. Also need training on IPS through the lens of peer support.**