



Timothy Connors, a strong ally and leader in Peer Support Services

Timothy Connors is the Supervisor Consumer Recovery for Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. and he oversees a team of four certified peer specialists (CPS) helping HealthChoices Behavioral Health members in recovery from mental illness. His primary office is at the Bethlehem Care Management Center, and he also spends time at the Newtown Care Management Center.

As a CPS prior to his promotion in 2016 to his current role, Mr. Connors is intimately familiar with the personal role a peer specialist offers to someone dealing with mental illness. In his humble demeanor, Mr. Connors is not interested in seeking attention for his efforts that teach resiliency and wellness to those seeking a peer for comfort. Instead, he remains focused on offering support to those in all stages of mental health recovery.

Mr. Connors' perspective and knowledge has enabled him to advocate for improved systems of care adopted by Magellan. He also routinely offers trainings to colleagues and the community about mental health recovery to provide important education about mental health challenges. Examples of the trainings have included seminars covering Peer Support and Whole Health, Wellness Recovery Action Plan, and more. In 2016, Mr. Connors was an instrumental team leader for the Voice to Vision series of member-focused events held in the Lehigh Valley. At these events, Mr. Connors led group discussions that facilitated feedback from members while offering suggestions for resources and supports available within our community and with Magellan.

Mr. Connors volunteers his time to community leadership opportunities and special projects that center around his interest to increase peer support to those in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding counties. Currently he is a member of the Lehigh Valley Peer Support Network, a member of the Peer Employment Task Force, an event committee member for the Rally in the Valley event this May in Bethlehem, and a steering committee member for the Hearing Voices network in Montgomery County. In addition to these volunteer efforts, his professional outreach efforts continue to expand the areas of recovery support that include community support programs, member advisory work groups, and more.

The work of peer support is by nature personal and it should be comforting for those seeking help, to know that they have a strong ally, friend, and advocate supporting their recovery in Mr. Connors.