

## Questions Answered by Peer Specialists and Supervisors for the Article, “Voices of Peer Specialists”

1. What prompted you to become a Peer Specialist?
2. How long have you been working as a Peer Specialist?
3. Have you completed the Certified Peer Specialist training? If yes, how has it helped you?
4. What did you do before you became a Peer Specialist?
5. Describe your average day on the job/
6. What do you find is the most rewarding thing about being a Peer Specialist?  
What do you find is the most challenging?
7. Did you have a role model who inspired you?
8. What has helped/helps you the most with your own recovery?
9. What do you do to stay well and avoid burnout? Name some examples of self-care that you practice.
10. The role of Peer Specialist is relatively new in Massachusetts. Are your duties/job description well-defined?
11. How do you feel your co-workers relate to you? Are you treated as a professional, an equal and as a valuable staff member? Do you feel that your lived experience is viewed as an asset or a liability to you on the job by other staff?
12. The Recovery Model is relatively new and you were trained in this model and also role-model it to peers that you serve. Have you been asked to help educate your co-workers regarding this model vs. the medical model?
13. As Peer Specialists, we are able to role-model Hope and Recovery for our peers. Can you give some examples of how you are able to be that “light at the end of the tunnel” for others and empower them to create the life they want?
14. Do you feel that your wages reflect your expertise? Are you earning a living wage?
15. Do you feel that your own lived experience (emotional challenges, substance abuse and trauma) has helped you to be more effective when relating to the peers that you serve? How is this method different from what other workers do?
16. What do you feel is the most important message about Recovery that we can pass along to peers that we serve? Why do you think it is so important?
17. Do you have access to a support group for Peer Specialists who are working in the field? If yes, is it helpful? If you do not have access to a support group, would you like to be part of one?
18. What advice or words of wisdom would you give to someone who is considering this profession or who is new to the field?
19. Any other comments?