


PEER WORKER CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES*

▶ ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

 **Time:** 45 minutes

 **Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe 3 challenges they have experienced in defining and fulfilling their role as peer workers;
- Discuss 3 successes that they have experienced in carrying out their role as peer workers;
- Identify 3 types of support that would enhance their effectiveness as peer workers.

 **Training Method:** Small Group Discussion

 **In This Activity You Will...**

- Direct small groups to discuss questions about challenges/successes/additional resources for working as a peer and to record responses. (30 minutes)
- Ask the groups to report back to larger group. (15 minutes)

 **Materials:**

- Discussion questions on newsprint/board.

 **Preparation:**

- Trainer writes questions on newsprint/board.

Instructions

1. Introduce session, and break into groups of 4-6 people.
2. Instruct participants to discuss questions on the newsprint with their table groups and to share their personal experiences within their groups. Have each group appoint a recorder, who will be sharing the small group responses with the larger group. Allow up to 30 minutes for small group discussions.
3. Remind participants to move on to the next question at 10 and 20 minutes.
4. Ask recorders to share their responses with the larger group.
5. Write the successes on new newsprint.
6. Post the success newsprint on the wall – telling participants that we want to be reminded of the successes they have experienced throughout the training.

Summary

Wrap up exercise by pointing out upcoming sessions that will further address issues brought up by peers during this session.

* This module is part of the online toolkit Building Blocks to Peer Success. For more information, visit http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/training_toolkit. This module comes from the Comprehensive Peer Worker Training, Peer Advanced Competency Training (PACT) Project Harlem Hospital Center, Division of Infectious Diseases, 2008.

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SESSION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the challenges that you've experienced in defining and fulfilling your role as peer workers?
2. What are some of the successes you've experienced as peer workers?
3. What tools, trainings, or other types of support would help you improve your work as a peer?