

Building a Strong Governing Board

A peer recovery support services (PRSS) program benefits from having a strong board that is dedicated to the mission of the organization, representative of the local recovery community, and effectively prepared for their governing role.

Diverse Recovery Representation

Does the board of directors have broad representation from diverse segments of the recovery community in its membership?

- A majority of the members of the board of directors are people with lived experience of recovery representing diverse segments of the recovery community.
- The board chair or co-chair position is required to be a person with lived experience of recovery.
- New board members are actively recruited to balance the skills and expertise of the board.

Diverse Cultural Representation

Does the PRSS program have representation on its governing body that is reflective of the cultural diversity of the community?

- Board members represent the cultural diversity in the community served.

Selection Process

Does the PRSS program have bylaws that are clear about the board member selection process?

- Position descriptions exist for directors including responsibilities, communication, and evaluation of board performance.
- Board positions have established terms.
- Recruitment and selection process is documented.

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Board Preparation and Training

Does the board of directors receive information and/or training on issues of interest to communities of recovery?

- Board is informed on the many paths to recovery.
- Board receives training on ethics, conflicts of interests, and boundaries.
- Board receives information on local community strengths and needs assessment results.
- Board receives updates on emerging research on best practices in peer support.
- Board receives updates on public policy issues--local and national--affecting communities of recovery.
- Orientation guide and participant materials have been developed/ are in use.
- Board receives training on how to effectively serve on a board of directors.
- Board receives training in how to read financial statements.
- Board has ongoing education regarding cultural competence.

Transparent and Accountable

Is the board of directors transparent and accountable to those served (e.g. organization, recovery community, greater community and funders)?

- Board posts, publicizes and gives public notice of meetings well in advance.
- Agendas and minutes from board meeting are widely posted/distributed.
- Meetings are open to the public with opportunities for all attendees to comment.
- Board has written bylaws that are available for public review.
- Corporate records are kept in accordance with the law (e.g. board meeting minutes).

Participatory Process

Does the board of directors regularly use participatory processes to solicit views of diverse segments of the recovery community?

- Many ways exist for stakeholders and allied organizations to give insight, feedback, and advice.