

Governing Body: MARION COUNTY COMMUNITY AND PROVIDER SERVICES (CAPS)	Function: INTEGRATED DELIVERY SYSTEM (IDS) HANDBOOK	
Subject: Trauma Survivor Project (TSP)	Prepared By: CAPS	Original Date: 10/01/2007 Revised Date:

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Trauma Survivor Project (TSP) is designed to assist Mid-Valley Behavioral Care Network (MVBCN) providers in the development and implementation of chemical dependency, mental health and peer delivered services that are respectful, sensitive and responsive to the needs of male and female survivors of severe psychological trauma that is often related to severe sexual abuse, physical abuse and/or emotional abuse or neglect. This purpose is being fulfilled through outreach, training and technical assistance to regional providers and through peer-to-peer services.

In 2001, the MVBCN identified gaps in services to trauma survivors who are frequent users of police, hospital, detoxification, and other emergency services. A regional consensus-building committee developed recommendations for trauma-informed services at a two-day training conference in December of 2003. A key recommendation of the committee was for the MVBCN to support the development of a peer-to-peer consumer support program specifically designed to address the needs of trauma survivors with complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In the spring of 2005, Project ABLE, Inc (a peer run organization) was awarded a contract to develop and implement a volunteer peer-to-peer support program.

The TSP program provides trauma sensitive peer-to-peer supports for people that are in crisis, socially isolated or in need of additional community support. Multiple treatment episodes and struggles with relapse can be a dehumanizing and demoralizing experience. This often leads to hopelessness, despair and isolation. This is especially true for people with complex trauma issues. It is not uncommon for people with a range of trauma issues to bounce back and forth between the chemical dependency, mental health and crisis system. In addition, they are often involved with social service systems like child welfare, self-sufficiency programs, etc. Due to this, they often need more support than the average group of peers has to offer.

TSP offers a variety of peer supports that may include support such as, sitting with members in the emergency room, meeting with them while they are in the hospital, spending time with them in the community or supporting them with making community connections. Ultimately, the goal of TSP is to improve the quality of life and outcomes for people that have struggled with trauma, relationships and/or substance abuse, and living.

Project ABLE TSP Peer Volunteers are individuals who are trained to provide non-judgmental support, by listening, assisting with resources and sharing their experience and journey of recovery with others. TSP Volunteers may have intimate experience with addictions, PTSD, and/or childhood abuse.

TSP Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds, cultures, perspectives and skill sets. TSP Volunteers receive 24 hours of specialized training covering topics such as, boundaries, self-care, communication, listening skills, and the impact of trauma and its effect on the brain. In addition to the initial training, volunteers receive ongoing training and supervision. A contracted psychologist provides 24/7 back up for any volunteer needing additional support or consultation.

PROCESS AND/OR PROCEDURE:

Project ABLE, Inc. TSP Peer Support program provides peer support for up to one year to individuals who have a history of suicide or suicidal behavior, self-harming, and repeated utilization of residential and/or crisis services. Any Member that meets the above criteria may request TSP Peer support services.

It is important to note that choice is the single most important factor in determining whether or not someone is appropriate for a referral to TSP. These services are not appropriate or desired for everyone. If a Member chooses to participate only because they feel it serves as part of a treatment plan, it will undermine how much they will benefit and their potential to participate on their own in the future.

If a Member indicates interest in peer support they should be given information about the program and provided with a TSP request form, attached.

Request for services may be made directly by the Member and/or the Provider by completing and returning the attached request form. Providers may assist the Member with a direct request by offering to place a call or facilitate a meeting with a program representative.