

Abstract

The thesis deals with the issue of the current involvement of peer consultants in the care of mentally ill people in the context of identifying their specific needs. The aim of the thesis is to identify the benefits of employing peer consultants for themselves and for the social and health care system of mental health care. At the same time, the thesis aims to identify possible barriers or challenges that arise in the practice of peer consultant work, as well as in their employment. The author uses the concept of recovery and implementation theory to theoretically and conceptually anchor the thesis. Through the perspective of experts working in the field and peer consultants, the thesis provides a mapping of the benefits of the peer consultant role and an overview of their specific needs. At the same time, the author identifies the existence of significant barriers in the current set-up of the system of peer consultant involvement, which are mainly caused by the legislative non-anchoring of their position. The author concludes with recommendations for the future development of peer consultant involvement.