

Close, Not Crossed: Ethics, Boundaries, and Self-Care in Peer Support

For Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS)

Peer specialists build authentic relationships grounded in lived experience—an essential strength that also creates ethical challenges around boundaries, dual relationships, and role clarity. This training explores common dilemmas, how dual relationships naturally arise, and practical strategies for navigating gray areas while staying recovery-oriented and genuine. It also reframes self-care as an ethical responsibility, equipping participants with tools to maintain healthy boundaries, reduce burnout, and sustain effective peer support.

OBJECTIVES

1. Define professional boundaries and dual relationships within the context of peer support and explain how they differ from traditional clinical roles.
2. Identify common boundary challenges and ethical “gray areas” faced by peer specialists in real-world settings.
3. Apply ethical decision-making strategies to navigate boundary concerns and dual relationships while honoring peer values such as mutuality and shared power.
4. Explain how self-care functions as an ethical responsibility and identify self-care practices that support healthy boundaries and reduce ethical risk.

LOCATION

Zoom Webinar

COST

No fee to attend this training.

SPEAKER



DAVID STOECKER

CPS, LCSW, CRP

David Stoecker is the Executive Director of Better Life in Recovery and co-founder of the Springfield Recovery Community Center. A nationally recognized peer and behavioral health leader, he helped create Missouri’s Peer Specialist certification training and harm reduction certification used by Missouri and IC&RC prior to the 2025 EO. David is an Advanced WRAP Facilitator, author of Hope Dealer, and producer of Not My Child. He is a Missouri Mental Health Champion and SAMHSA Voice Award recipient who regularly trains on ethics, recovery, risk reduction, and peer practice.

The speaker certifies that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials presented in this training.

Thursday, May 14, 2026

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. noon (Central)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL: Introductory

The training is approved for **3.0 continuing education credits for Nebraska CPSS**. Credits will be awarded to participants who attend the entire training.

SPONSORS

Sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.



This training is funded in whole by funds from state funds subgranted from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health.

REGISTER ONLINE

go.unl.edu/2026-peer-ethics

