

- Must meet the education and experience requirements for a Qualified Paraprofessional in Mental Health (QPPMH) as defined by Virginia DBHDS:
 - a. Registered with the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (IAPRS) as an Associate Psychiatric Rehabilitation Provider (APRP), as of January 1, 2001; or
 - b. Has an Associate's degree in one of the following related fields (social work, psychology, psychiatric rehabilitation, sociology, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, human services counseling) and has at least one year of experience providing direct services to persons with a diagnosis of mental illness; or
 - c. An Associate's or higher degree, in an unrelated field and at least three years experience providing direct services to persons with a diagnosis of mental illness, gerontology clients, or special education clients. The experience may include supervised internships, practica, and field experience.
 - d. A minimum of 90 hours classroom training in behavioral health and 12 weeks of experience under the direct personal supervision of a QMHP providing services to persons with mental illness and at least one year of clinical experience (including the 12 weeks of supervised experience).
 - e. College credits (from an accredited college) earned toward a bachelor's degree in a human service field that is equivalent to an associate's degree and one year's clinical experience.
 - f. Licensure by the Commonwealth as a practical nurse with at least one year of clinical experience.

Individuals may meet the training requirements in subsection *d.* above if they have completed a peer specialist training program. VSH may also assist otherwise qualified individuals with securing the needed training hours.