



What is peer review?

Peer Review is a process that consists of peers (team members) from different specialty courts observing one another's programs to measure alignment to best practices, share successful practices, address challenges, and help identify ideas for improvements. Peer Review aims to maximize adherence to established best practices to improve participant outcomes.

What are the benefits of peer review?

- ✓ Supports and enhances alignment with Best Practice Standards.
- ✓ Creates a learning community and connections between team members in different programs.
- ✓ Provides feedback on strengths and suggested improvements for better participant outcomes.
- ✓ Highlights programs' innovative and successful practices.
- ✓ Demonstrates program needs for grant applications, resource requests, and requests for technical assistance and training.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Prior to the Site Visit



Scheduling

The State Coordinator works with Peer Reviewers and the site under review to schedule the Peer Reviewer training and site visit.



Best Practice Assessment

The site under review completes the Best Practice Assessment (if not already completed). Peer Reviewers review the results.



Document Review

The site under review shares its program documents, such as Participant Handbook, Policy & Procedure Manual and MOUs with Peers.



Peer Reviewer Training

The State Coordinator facilitates a training for the Peer Reviewers on the process and each component of the site visit.

Site Visit (typically occurs over 2 days)

Staffing and Court Observations

Peer Reviewers observe a staffing meeting and court sessions. This is business as usual for the site under review.

Team Member Interviews

Peer Reviewers individually interview each specialty court team member at the site under review. All team members should have a scheduled interview (up to 50 minutes).

Components of the Site Visit

Participant Focus Group

Peer Reviewers facilitate a focus group with participants. The site under review will recruit participants but will not be present for the focus group.

Site Visit Debrief Meeting

The State Coordinator, Peer Reviewers, and the team being reviewed meet at the end of the site visit to discuss initial findings and address remaining questions.

After the Site Visit (within 2-3 weeks of the site visit)



Peer Review Report

Using a template, the Peer Reviewers complete a summary report of best practices, commendations, and recommendations. The State Coordinator reviews and assists. The site under review receives the report to read prior to the follow-up meeting.



Follow-Up Meeting

The State Coordinator, Peer Reviewers, and the site under review meet to discuss the report and findings in further detail and address questions.

