

# Copeland Center For Wellness and Recovery



March 29, 2006

**Subject:** An Open Letter to Recovery Project Leaders across the Nation concerning Qualifications for Facilitating WRAP Classes

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is written in response to numerous requests I have received for clarification about just who is qualified to facilitate WRAP classes, and who can facilitate the training of, and officially certify, WRAP Facilitators. In a time when program planners and chief decision-makers are attempting to foster recovery-oriented system transformation and bring peer supporters into the service system, these are critical questions, the answers to which can have a profound impact on the overall success of important and expensive initiatives. This letter represents the perspective of the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery, which was established by Mary Ellen Copeland in order to promote personal, organization and community wellness and empowerment through recovery education and WRAP.

The only persons who can accurately claim to represent the teachings of Mary Ellen Copeland are those who have fulfilled the qualifications for becoming a Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitator and who hold a Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitator Certificate issued by Mary Ellen Copeland or an Advanced Level Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitator who has been certified by Mary Ellen Copeland to train and certify WRAP Facilitators. Those qualifications include: have completed a full WRAP class (either a public WRAP class or the WRAP Correspondence course); and have lived experience with WRAP, and have completed a five-day Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitator Certification course.

If you are considering employing or contracting with someone to facilitate WRAP classes and you wish to confirm their qualifications, I encourage you to contact Nancy Haldeman at the Copeland Center at 866-436-9727 or [nancy@copelandcenter.com](mailto:nancy@copelandcenter.com) and she will check our registry for you. If the person you are negotiating with does not appear to be on our registry, please allow us the opportunity to track down the qualifications before deciding not to hire that individual. We are constantly updating our records but may not have everyone listed; there may be individuals who have been certified by an Advanced Level trainer but whose name was not provided to our registry. We have created this service to assure you about the qualifications of your selected trainer, but we do not wish data entry errors to exclude a qualified trainer. If there is any question, it will help us if you can ask the facilitator to contact us directly.

**Historical Note:** Since its origin, WRAP has reflected what Mary Ellen was learning from people about their experiences with recovery, and it was always her intention to promote the continued

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sharing of information about recovery and WRAP as widely as possible. Because WRAP is simple, easy to understand and appeals to our common sense, it is understandable that people who have discovered its power will want to share what they have learned. Mary Ellen has always encouraged people to learn from each other, and sharing one's enthusiasm about WRAP is truly a wonderful and positive thing, which we hope will continue to happen all the time.

This letter is in no way intended to constrain one-on-one sharing about WRAP, or group discussions of WRAP. However, facilitating formal WRAP classes requires strict adherence to a clear set of values, ethics and proven practices which we hold to be sacrosanct. Mary Ellen has carefully established a formal training process for assuring fidelity to those values, ethics, and practices. This training and our certification process is the Copeland Center's way of assuring the public of a superior quality learning experience. Anyone who has taken a WRAP class and who is interested in becoming a certified Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitator is eligible to take the certification course and earn the qualifications to facilitate WRAP classes. However, only those who have completed this course and earned certification are truly qualified to facilitate these classes.

Trainers of Facilitators: There are similar but even more critical concerns related to the training and certification of Mental Health Recovery Educators/WRAP Facilitators. Please be advised that the **only** persons who are authorized to train and certify Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitators are those individuals who have been recognized by Mary Ellen Copeland and the Copeland Center as Advanced Level Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitators (sometimes called Master Level WRAP Facilitators). The Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery has recently revised its certification process for becoming an Advanced Level Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitator, and if you are seeking a qualified trainer to certify WRAP Facilitators, I strongly encourage you to check with Nancy Haldeman at the Copeland Center at 866-436-9727 or [nancy@copelandcenter.com](mailto:nancy@copelandcenter.com) and she will check our registry for you. The Copeland Center will not recommend or refer you to anyone we do not know to have fully demonstrated the capabilities for certification. Additionally, the Copeland Center has a cadre of Advanced Level Mental Health Recovery Educator/WRAP Facilitators on contract, and we will be happy work out arrangements for a workshop for you.

I hope this clarifies the matter of facilitator qualifications; however, if you have any remaining questions, please do not hesitate to call on me. I am deeply concerned with assuring the recovery community that WRAP training is of the highest quality and serves the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

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