

## **Medi-Cal Peer Certification Stakeholder Advisory Council Member**

### **Joseph Gray | Yolo County**

Joseph Gray is a Certified Medi-cal Peer Support Specialist with years of experience in the field. He is a person with lived experiences of the challenges faced by LGBT+, foster, and transitional-age youth. With a foundation built on extensive volunteerism, Joseph seamlessly transitioned into his position as a CMPSS, offering invaluable Peer-based behavioral health services for youth 12-24. Since 2015, he has passionately advocated for LGBT+ youth, those living with HIV/AIDS, and other opportunities to serve his LGBT+ community. Joseph's advocacy efforts began with grassroots and have reached the legislative arena. His accomplishments include speaking with congressional members, and their staff, advocating for crucial funding for HIV/AIDS programs in the Greater Sacramento area, and demonstrating his ability to navigate the legislative arena adeptly. As a motivational public speaker, he has spoken at the US National Conference on HIV/AIDS, Poz Radio, and other platforms. His impact was further solidified when he became the first Certified Medi-cal Peer Support Specialist at his agency. He presently serves as the Substance Use Disorder - Outreach and Education Coordinator at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Yolo County, drawing upon personal and professional expertise to provide community education and foster resilience. His vision embraces a future where young people and our most vulnerable have equitable access to essential Behavioral Health treatment. He persists in his advocacy for expanding peer-based services knowing first-hand the profound impact it has had on the lives of many others.