CalMHSA Project Leads

- Lucero Robles, MSW, LCSW - Director of Quality Assurance at California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). Social Worker with 20 years of experience working in the community behavioral health field in multiple counties. I have provided services directly to individuals and families and has held administrative roles within the behavioral health systems.

- Nicole Doña is the Peer Program Manager at California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). She has experience developing programs targeting stigma reduction as well as supporting access to care.
Acknowledgement

- Acknowledgement of individuals, parents/caregivers, organizations for their advocacy and success in getting legislation passed and affirming the value of peer support in the behavioral health workforce in California.

- Acknowledgement of organizations providing peer support training, advocacy, and support to our communities.

- Acknowledge the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for the development of state standards for the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program through community input.

- CalMHSA recognized the integral value of peer support in the behavioral health workforce for engagement and ongoing recovery.

- Thank you to those who have provided CalMHSA with feedback along the way.
WHO  California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is a JPA (Joint Powers Authority) supporting the Public Behavioral Health system. We implement programs on the County’s behalf.

WHAT  Our Peer Support Specialist Certification program meets all federal and state requirements and supports state-wide standardization for the California Behavioral Health system. CalMHSA will administer and monitor all business functions of the program, including the administration of standard examinations for certification.

Where we have been

- Researched national on peer certification programs and local peer training programs
- Met with other state's leaders in peer work to learn what is and is not working in their programs
- Met with local mental health leaders providing peer training
- Met with local substance use programs offering training for counselors
- Collaborated with the California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations (CAMHPRO) for developed a Stakeholder Advisory Council that provides program recommendations
- Contracted subject matter experts in Peer work to design peer program
- Held 12 Community Input Session in October 2021 for community feedback where flexibilities exist within state standards
- Working with the Department of Health Care Services to identify funding
Senate Bill 803 (SB 803)

- A Peer is someone who self-identifies as having a lived-experience with the process of recovery from mental health and/or substance use disorder, as a consumer of these services or as the parent or family member of the consumer.
- Recognizes that Peers, Family Members, Parents, and Caregivers are critical members of California’s behavioral health workforce.
- Approved by Governor Newsom on September 25, 2020, which was the final step in creating the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Act of 2020.
- The statue requires the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS):
  - “to establish statewide requirements for counties or their representatives to use in developing certification programs for the certification of peer support specialists, who are individuals who self-identify as having lived experience with the process of recovery from mental illness, substance use disorder, or both.”
A County or an organization acting on behalf of a County may develop a plan that identifies how all the statutory requirements will be met.

These plans are subject to DHCS approval and a County or Counties acting jointly must identify a source to fund the activities in the plan.

A Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Programs can be established either by counties, or an agency representing counties.

Does not make changes to current funding used for peer support services.
Goals of SB 803

1) Add Certified Peer Support Specialist as Medi-Cal Billable Provider

2) Add Peer Support Services as a Medi-Cal Billable Service

Creating an opportunity for an additional pathway for Medi-Cal reimbursement for peer support services.
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Role and Timeline

- **Jan.–May 2021**: Extensive Stakeholder Input
- **June–July 2021**: Released Behavioral Health Information Notice on Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Standards (BHIN 21-041)
- **Aug.–Dec. 2021**: State Provides Technical Assistance to Implementing Entities
- **JULY 2022**: Seek Federal Approvals
CalMHSA will implement, administer, and monitor a Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program in that meets state requirements.

- Certification Training:
  - Peer Support Specialist
  - Specializations:
    - Parent, Caregiver, Family Member
    - Crisis
    - Justice Involved
    - Unhoused
  - Certification Exam (Peer Support Specialist)*
  - Grandparenting for current peer workers interested in certification

- Supervisor Training
- 40-hour condensed training for lapsed certifications
- Biennial Renewals
- Out of State Reciprocity
- Complaints, Corrective Actions, and Appeals
- Audit and Monitoring
- Data Collection and Submission

*11/16/21- In response to community input and through collaboration with DHCS, the certification exam standard has been confirmed to be one exam.
# CalMHSA Peer Certification Program

## 1. Stakeholder Advisory Council
- Developed with DHCS Technical Support contractor, CAMHPRO
- Membership representative of California’s Medi-Cal beneficiaries & eligible populations
- Makes ongoing recommendations to certification program

## 2. “Certificant” Registry
- The Registry for individuals seeking certification
- Develop, deploy, and administer a web-based certification registry.
  Registry supports:
  - Business functions of the peer certification program
  - Candidate application submission, document uploads, certification status search feature
  - Data collection for submission to DHCS and county audits

## 3. Exam Development
- Develop standardized exam using subject matter expert (contractors) and exam development vendor (RFP)
- Create standard examinations for Peer Support Specialist

## 4. Training
- Authorize training vendors (RFP): peer certification; specializations; continued education
- Procure web-based training for CalMHSA Learn for:
  1) Peer Support Specialist
  2) Supervisor Training
  3) “Lapsed Certification” - Training for certifications that have lapsed for 4+ years

## 5. Program Oversight
- Host and administer exams
- Audits and Monitoring
- Complaints, Actions, and Appeals
- Data Collection and Submission
- Program Evaluation and Outcomes
1. STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Membership through application process
- Membership reflective of California’s Medi-Cal beneficiaries and eligible populations, including hard-to-reach populations
- Provides recommendations for training development and program implementation
- Supports goals for collective outcomes
2. CERTIFICANT REGISTRY

- Supports all business practices
- Modeled after other certifying boards (e.g.: BBS and Board of Medicine)
- Search feature of Certificant certification status
- Data Collection
Peer Support Specialist
4. TRAINING

Authorized Training Vendors for Peer Certification, Specializations, and Continued Education

CalMHSA Learning Management System
5. PEER CERTIFICATION ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT

- PROGRAM INTEGRITY OVERSIGHT
- SUPPORTS ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM
- RECEIVES RECOMMENDATIONS-STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL
- EXAM ADMINISTRATION
- PROGRAM EVALUATION AND OUTCOMES
Conduct Community Input Sessions
Convene Stakeholder Council (ongoing group)
Start identification of training organizations

November – December 2021
- Submit Proposal to DHCS (11/19/21)
- Report back on Community Input Sessions
- Start exam development
- Identification of criteria for Parent, Caregiver, Family Member Peers

January – March 2022
- Identification of criteria for Specialization for Providers for Crisis, Unhoused, & Justice Involved persons

May – July 2022
- Go-Live with Peer Certification Program
Funding Sources

- Exploring funding opportunities with the Department of Health Care Services
  - Funding for development and implementation
  - Certification of Peers
Next Steps

▸ Submit proposal to DHCS and secure funding
▸ Identify Exam Vendor
▸ Identify and convene Stakeholders for development of content curriculum for Specializations (topic-focused and time-limited)
  ▶ Prioritizing Parent, Caregiver, Family member specializations
  ▶ Crisis; Unhoused; and Justice Involved
▸ **Recruit Peers** to inform programs at CalMHSA
▸ Continue to update the counties and community. Please visit [CalMHSA.org](http://CalMHSA.org) to stay informed.
▸ **Resource document on roles and responsibilities by DHCS**
Comments or Questions?

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