Community Input Sessions - Peer Support Specialist Certification

TOPIC: GRANDPARENTING AND SUPERVISION

Hosted by California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)
Moderator – Milan Fisher

For over 20 years Milan has been a formidable leader in the disability rights, peer recovery and mental health social justice space. As a seasoned business development and community liaison, she serves as a conduit between mental health and social justice organizations, peers, and the civic entities that promote their advancement. Milan is a highly skilled and intuitive advocate, facilitator, and community organizer.
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• Acknowledgement and Appreciation
• Brief Overview of Senate Bill 803 (SB 803) and Behavioral Health Information Notice 21-041 (BHIN 21-041).
• Role of the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and Timeline
• Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Overview by CalMHSA
• Q & A: Interested Party Input
• Closing Comments/Next Steps
Housekeeping and Groundwork

• This session is scheduled for 1-hour and 30 minutes

• The session is being recorded

• To raise your virtual hand during the question-and-answer period, please use the "Raise Hand" feature located under the raise hand tab on Zoom.

• For those on telephone who want to offer a verbal comment:
  • Press "*9" – to raise your hand to be called on
  • Once called on, press "*6" – to unmute and mute

• Submit your questions & comments in writing by using the Q & A Box

• We kindly ask individuals who share input to be mindful of others and keep comments to a 1 minute maximum to permit other’s opportunity to also provide input

• Lastly, we ask that commentary be respectful, constructive, and that we respect comments made by others
Note on Language

We acknowledge that language and terminology reflects the evolving conceptualization of conditions and that different terms will be used by different people across different contexts over time.

For this presentation, we will use commonly used terms, descriptions, and accepted vocabulary or idioms during our dialogue.

Some people may find the language stigmatizing or prefer to use other words to describe similar content, however, our intention is not to be stigmatizing, but to bring you information about the Peer Support Specialist Certification program.

When we use the term “Peers,” we are referring to all the Peers noted in the statute. This includes individuals in the process of recovery from mental health or substance use disorder (or both). This term encompasses those that are either a consumer of services, a parent, or a family member of the consumer receiving services.
Introductions

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.

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

- Keris Jän Myrick, M.B.A., M.S., Certified Personal Medicine Coach – CPMPC. Keris is a leading mental health advocate and executive and has held many high-level positions targeting mental health innovation, transformation, and peer development workforce.
Peer Host Spotlight

Mary Hogden is currently employed by Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Office of Peer Support Services as the Manager of Peer Organizing Community Change (formerly the Pool of Consumer Champions). The POCC is a 1600-member mental health and substance use Peer group that works to transform the Behavioral Health system to a peer driven recovery, culturally responsive and holistic in its services and supports. Mary also serves as the board chair of the California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations (CAMHPRO) and the Supported Housing Community Land Alliance (SHCLA).
Acknowledgements
Taking a moment

• CalMHSA would like to acknowledge the many years of dedication and advocacy by many of you here today in the getting Legislation passed on Peer Support Specialist Certification.

• Organizations who have provided training for Peers

• Peers in the workforce today

• Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
About CalMHSA

California Mental Health Services Authority

• Formed in 2009 through funding from the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) for the purpose of creating a separate public entity to provide administrative and fiscal services in support of its members.

• CalMHSA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of local county or city Mental and/or Behavioral Health Directors from each county to improve behavioral health outcomes for California.

• Statewide initiatives and program you may be familiar with include Each Mind Matters and CalHOPE.
Nicole Doña, Peer Program Manager

Latina with lived-experience of PTSD, BPD & Bipolar

Started as a volunteer peer advocate on a Speaker’s Bureau

Worked my way up to being hired full-time as an admin, coordinator, specialist and now manager

Advocating for diversity and peer perspectives in every step and at every level of the process.
Understanding SB803
understanding Senate Bill 803
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mutual Aid (12 step)</th>
<th>Peer Run Organizations Community Based Organizations</th>
<th>SB803 Medicaid Certified Peer Support Specialists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legitimacy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evidence</td>
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<td>TRAINING</td>
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<td>Funding Source(s)</td>
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<td>MHSA</td>
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Never let anyone try and make you into something that you're not. Remember what it is that you want, and always stay strong in that.

Abigail Breslin
Dear State Medicaid Director

August 15, 2007

SM 07-311

Page 3 – State Medicaid Director

3) Training and Credentialing

Peer support providers must complete training and certification as defined by the State. Training must provide peer support providers with a basic set of competencies necessary to perform the peer support function. The peer must demonstrate the ability to support the recovery of others from mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Similar to other provider types, ongoing continuing educational requirements for peer support providers must be in place.
What’s Next with Peer Certification

Legislation
SB 803

DHCS
BHIN 21-041

CalMHSA
CalMHSA’s Role
CalMHSA’s Role in Peer Certification

• The California Mental Health Services Authority will continue to build upon your work.

• California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations (CAMHPRO)

• CalMHSA has been identified as the entity who can represent counties in the implementation of a statewide Peer Certification program. CalMHSA will submit an implementation plan to DHCS, on behalf of counties opting into a peer certification program. Plan submission deadline is November 19, 2021.

• BHIN 21-041 set standards; some flexibilities exist which is why we are here today. CalMHSA would like to hear your input through these sessions.
Diary of CalMHSA Timeline

**OCTOBER 2021**
- Input Sessions
- Convene Stakeholder Council (this is an ongoing council)
- Start the identification of training organizations

**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021**
- Submit Peer Certification Plan to DHCS (November 19, 2021)
- Report back on input session information (peer advocacy groups, counties, CalMHSA website)
- Start the development of exam questions (approx. 6-month process)

**January – March 2022**
- Input for identification of criteria for curriculum for Specializations (Crisis, Homelessness, Justice Involved)

**May-July 2022**
- Peer Certification Program Go-Live
Program Standards
SB 803 - Peer Support Specialist

“An individual who is 18 years of age or older, who has self-identified as having lived experience with the process of recovery from mental illness, substance use disorder, or both, either as a consumer of these services or as the parent or family member of the consumer, and who has been granted certification under a county peer support specialist certification program.”
1. Be at least 18 years of age.

2. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent degree.

3. Be self-identified as having experience with the process of recovery from mental illness or substance use disorder, either as a consumer of these services or as the parent, caregiver or family member of a consumer.

4. Be willing to share their experience.

5. Have a strong dedication to recovery.

6. Agree, in writing, to adhere to a code of ethics.

7. Successfully complete the curriculum and training requirements for a peer support specialist.

8. Pass a certification examination approved by DHCS for a peer support specialist.
Grandparenting
Grandparenting (part 1 of 3)

Requirements:

- Individuals must be employed as a peer by January 1, 2022
- May seek peer certification through the grandparenting process by December 31, 2022
- After December 31, 2022- individuals seeking peer certification would need to follow the “initial certification process”
Grandparenting (part 2 of 3)

**OPTION 1**

- 1 year of paid or unpaid work experience (1,550-hours) as a peer specialist

AND

- 20 hours of continuing education (CEs), including law and ethics.

**OPTION 2**

- 1,550-hours in 3 years, with 500-hours completed within the last 12 months, working as a peer specialist

AND

- 20 hours of continuing education (CEs), including law and ethics.
Grandparenting (part 3 of 3)

AND has all of the following:

- **Completion of a peer training(s)**

- 3 Letters of Recommendation as outlined:
  - One from a supervisor
  - One from a colleague/professional
  - One self-recommendation describing their current role and responsibilities as a peer support specialist

- Pass the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Exam
Input Opportunity: Continued Education (CE)

“20 hours, including law and ethics”

Any thoughts or input on these initial questions below?

1. Trainings shall be completed up to 2 years prior to the date of application for grandparenting?

2. General number of hours for law and ethics is 6-hours, does this sound like a reasonable standard?
Input Opportunity:

“Completion of training”

1. What **training types** should be considered? (example, WRAP, trainings funded by Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) (formerly, OSHPD, etc.)

2. What is acceptable “proof” for demonstration of completion of training?

3. Is there a specific timeframe that would be acceptable to satisfy this standard?
Supervision
Supervision Standards

Option 1
- Have a Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program certificate
- Have 2 years of experience working in the behavioral health system
- Have completed a DHCS approved peer support supervisor training

Option 2
- Be a non-peer behavioral health professional (includes registered and certified Substance Use Disorder counselors)
- Have 2 year of experience working in the behavioral health system
- Have completed a DHCS approved peer support supervisor training

Option 3
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Have 4 years of direct experience working in behavioral health (may include peer support services
- Have completed a DHCS approved peer support supervisor training
Input Opportunity: Supervision Standards

“Peer support supervisory training curriculum”

1. What are the most important skills for someone who supervises peer work?
2. What training topics might be included in the supervisor curriculum?
3. What objectives shall be met by the training content?
Ways to Stay Informed
Staying Informed

- California Mental Health Services Authority will report out on the information from these session in November-December. The information will be shared through peer advocacy organizations, county systems, CAMPRO, the Stakeholder Advisory Council and the Department of Healthcare Services websites.

- Current information on the implementation requirements of SB 803 can be found on the Department of Health Care Services website: https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Peer-Support-Services.aspx;

- For more information on the roles and responsibilities for county behavioral health agencies, certification programs (county-run or designated certification entity), and Department of Health Care Services in launching and maintaining the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_BL/Peer-Support-Services/Roles-and-Responsibilities.pdf

- Information on Peer Support Specialist Certification (PSSC) program administered by California Mental Health Services Authority will be available on website (updated as information becomes available: California Mental Health Services Authority | Peer Certification (calmhsa.org)

- Questions or comments can be sent to PeerCertification@calmhsa.org
Department of Health Care Services in launching and maintaining the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program [https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_BL/Peer-Support-Services/Roles-and-Responsibilities.pdf](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_BL/Peer-Support-Services/Roles-and-Responsibilities.pdf)

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<th>Task</th>
<th>County Certification Program</th>
<th>DHCS</th>
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<td>Certification Process</td>
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<td>Maintain record of past and present peer support specialists and the status of certification (active &amp; lapsed)</td>
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<td>Review applications for peer support specialist certification to ensure applicant meets all standard requirements</td>
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<td>Organize peer support specialist trainings and continuing education to include development of curriculum with state oversight and approval</td>
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<td>Provide certification training and exams when reasonable accommodation requests are made</td>
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<td>Peer support specialist certification exam, to include:</td>
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<td>• Developing exam questions to include written and practical application portions, seeking necessary approvals from the state</td>
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<td>• Proctor exam as necessary for individuals seeking peer support specialist certification</td>
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<td>• Grade exams and provide scores to individuals</td>
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<td>Grandparenting</td>
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<td>• Review applications for grandparent peer support specialist certification per a state-approved process</td>
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<td>• Evaluate unique grandparent applications that do not meet the standard application requirements on a case-by-case basis</td>
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<td>Reciprocity</td>
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<td>• Review applications for reciprocal peer support specialist certifications from other states per a state-approved process</td>
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<td>• Review applications for reciprocal peer support specialist certification from one California Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program to another</td>
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LA County Input Sessions:

- **October 5 @ 10 AM – 11:30 AM**: Session I – Training and Exam
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 12 @ 5:30 PM – 7 PM**: Session II – Grandparenting
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 20 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**: Session III – Specializations
  Spanish Flyer

Rural Counties:

- **October 13 @ 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**: Session I – Training and Exam
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 14 @ 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**: Session II – Grandparenting
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 19 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**: Session III – Specializations
  Spanish Flyer

All other counties:

- **October 5 @ 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**: Session I – Training and Exam
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 6 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**: Session I – Training and Exam
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 7 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**: Session II – Grandparenting
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 12 @ 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**: Session III – Specializations
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 21 @ 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**: Session II – Grandparenting
  Spanish Flyer
- **October 26 @ 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**: Session III – Specializations
  Spanish Flyer
Input Opportunity

PLEASE USE THE LINK TO PROVIDE US WITH YOUR INPUT

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION QUESTIONS