



Community Input Sessions- Peer Support Specialist Certification

TOPIC: TRAINING AND EXAM

Hosted by California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)

Moderator – Milan Fisher

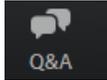
For over 20 years Milan has been a formidable ally and leader in the disability rights, peer recovery and mental health social justice space. As a seasoned business development and community liaison, she serves as a conduit between mental health and social justice organizations, peers, and the civic 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 SB 803 and BHIN 21-041
- Role of California Mental Health Services Authority and Timelines
- Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Overview (CaIMHSA)
- Q&A: Input opportunity
- 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, or 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 to you about the Peer Support Specialist Certification program.

When we use the term “Peers,” we are referencing to all the Peers noted in statute, including individuals in process of recovery from mental health or substance use disorder (or both), either as a consumer of services, or as a parent family member of the consumer.

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.

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.

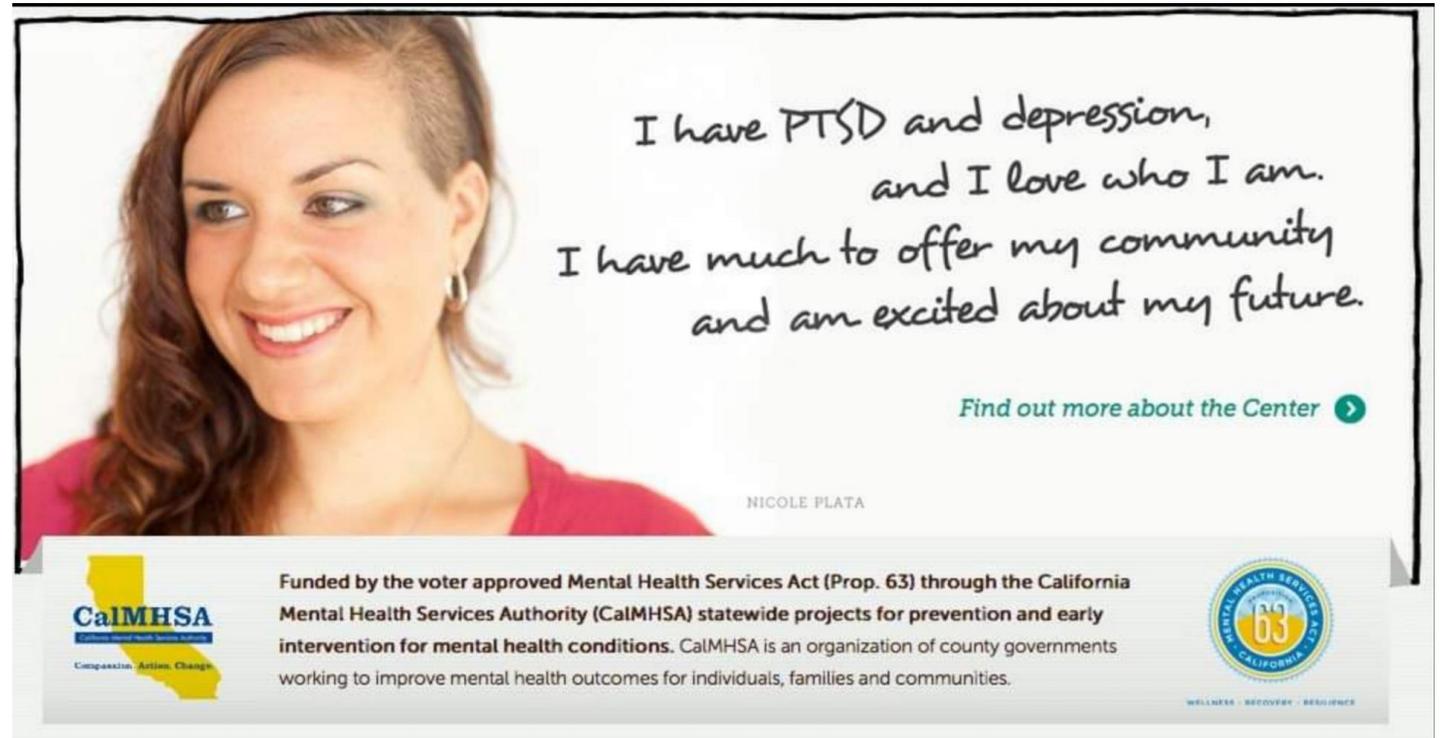
Nicole Doña, Peer Program Manager

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.



I have PTSD and depression,
and I love who I am.
I have much to offer my community
and am excited about my future.

[Find out more about the Center](#)

NICOLE PLATA

 **Funded by the voter approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63) through the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) statewide projects for prevention and early intervention for mental health conditions.** CalMHSA is an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities.



WELLNESS · RECOVERY · RESILIENCE

Understanding SB803



	Mutual Aid (12 step)	Peer Run Organizations Community Based Organizations	SB803 Medicaid Certified Peer Support Specialists
Legitimacy	YES	YES	YES
Evidence	YES	YES	TBD (YES for other state certified peer supporters)
TRAINING	NOT REQUIRED	REQUIREMENT BASED ON PROGRAM/CBO	REQUIRED
Funding Source(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VOLUNTEER• MHSA• OUTSIDE FUNDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MHSA, COS BILLING,• OUTSIDE FUNDING• COUNTY CONTRACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FEDERAL MEDICAID MATCH on Approved Peer Provider Type services with COUNTY BH DOLLARS,• COS/MHSA

The image features a quote by Abigail Breslin. The background is a photograph of tall, thin grasses or reeds against a clear, light blue sky. The text is overlaid in white, with the main quote in a larger font and the author's name in a smaller font below it.

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



August 15, 2007

Dear State Medicaid Director:

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance to States interested in peer support services under the Medicaid program. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recognizes that the mental health field has seen a big shift in the paradigm of care over the last few years. Now, more than ever, there is great emphasis on recovery from even the most serious mental illnesses when persons have access in their communities to treatment and supports that are tailored to their needs. Recovery refers to the process in which people are able to live, work, learn and participate fully in their communities. For some individuals, recovery is the ability to live a fulfilling and productive life despite a disability. For others, recovery implies the reduction or complete remission of symptoms.

Background on Policy Issue

States are increasingly interested in covering peer support providers as a distinct provider type for the delivery of counseling and other support services to Medicaid eligible adults with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders. Peer support services are an evidence-based mental health model of care which consists of a qualified peer support provider who assists individuals with their recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders. CMS recognizes that the experiences of peer support providers, as consumers of mental health and substance use services, can be an important component in a State's delivery of effective treatment. CMS is reaffirming its commitment to State flexibility, increased innovation, consumer choice, self-direction, recovery, and consumer protection through approval of these services. The following policy guidance includes requirements for supervision, care-coordination, and minimum training criteria for peer support providers.

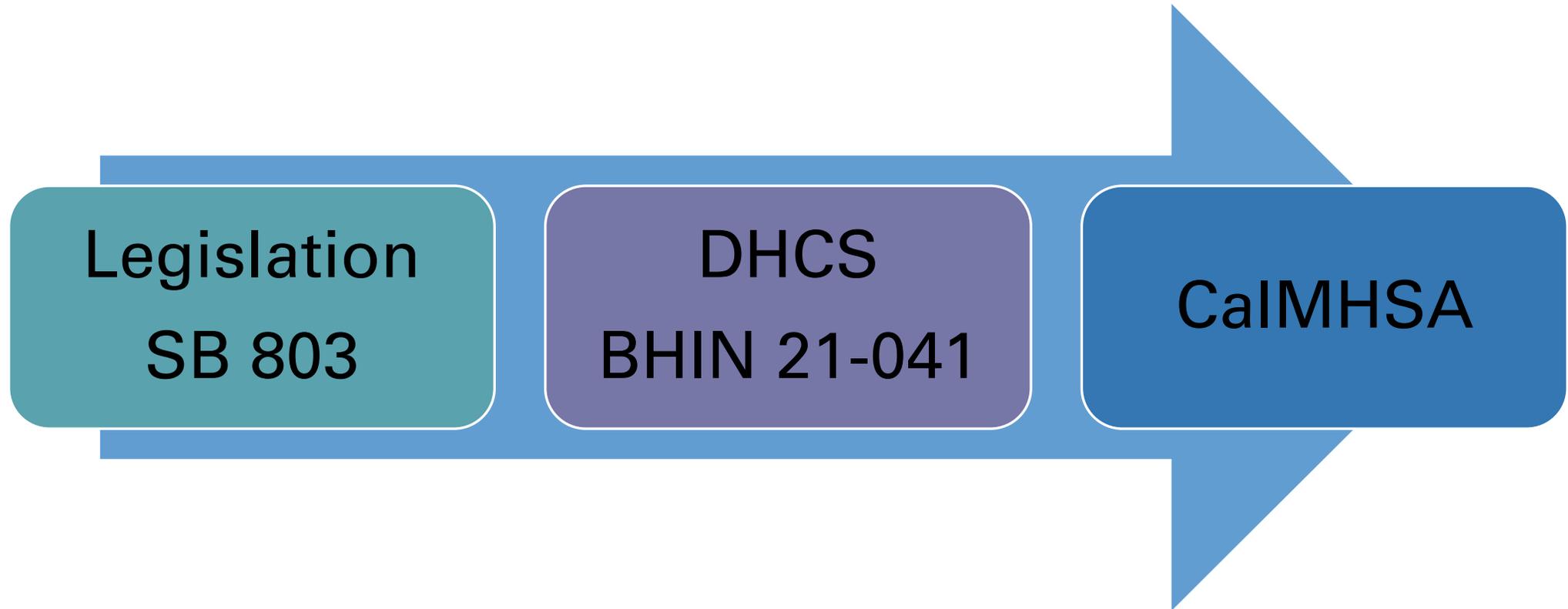
As States develop behavioral health models of care under the Medicaid program, they have the option to offer peer support services as a component of a comprehensive mental health and substance use service delivery system. When electing to provide peer support services for Medicaid beneficiaries, State Medicaid agencies may choose to collaborate with State Mental Health Departments. We encourage States to consider comprehensive programs but note that regardless of how a State models its mental health and substance use disorder service delivery system, the State Medicaid agency continues to have the authority to determine the service delivery system, medical necessity criteria, and to define the amount, duration, and scope of the service.

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



CaIMHSA'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.

CaMHSa 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, CaMHSa 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.”

SB 803 – Minimum Requirements for Certified Peer Support Specialist

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.

Training

Input Opportunity: Training

Multiple training entities will be selected to provide peer training that will lead to the peer certification exam.

1. When you think about taking a training toward peer certification, what is most important to you?
2. What are some pros or cons for:
 - In-Person training
 - Virtual-Live Facilitated (example platform is Zoom)
 - Mix between in-person and virtual
 - Self-Paced Web-Based (On-Demand)

Exam

Input Opportunity: Exam

1. Following the completion of peer training, how much time may an individual have to initiate an exam?
2. What might be a reasonable number of times that an individual may be able to retake the exam?
3. If an individual does not pass the exam, what might be a reasonable time to wait in between attempting the exam again?

Ways to Stay Informed

SB803 Community Input Sessions

> 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](#)

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, CAMHPRO, 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 \(calmhsa.org\)](https://www.calmhsa.org/peer-certification))
- Questions or comments can be sent to PeerCertification@calmhsa.org

Input Opportunity

PLEASE USE THE LINK TO
PROVIDE US WITH YOUR
INPUT

[COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION
QUESTIONS](#)

