



## Medi-Cal Peer Certification Stakeholder Advisory Council

Date: December 10, 2021                      Time: 1:00-4:00p  
 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84361414645> or Dial In: 1-669-900-9128  
**Webinar ID: 843 6141 4645**

Participants			
Name	County	Name	County
Kevin Freitas	Butte County	Jason Robison	Log Angeles County
Adelaida Moore	Modoc County	Kristen Mungcal	San Bernadino County
Patricia Barrett	San Joaquin County	Camille Dennis	Los Angeles County
Rayshell Chambers	Los Angeles County	Kim Murphy	Alameda County
Min Suh	Orange County		
Roberto Roman	Contra Costa County		
Iris Allen-Willis	Marin County		
Karin Lettau	San Diego		
Martha Contreras	Los Angeles County		
Maria Arteaga	Santa Barbara County		

Topic	Notes
Welcome & Check-Ins	Please share: Name, County, & Organization Ice Breaker: what is the nicest compliment you have ever received?
House Keeping	We went over the ways to comment and communicate while the Webinar is being conducted, being on a phone line or a computer.
Meeting Agreements	We reviewed our previously drafted agreements – no changes.
Overview of Feedback from October Input Sessions	<p>We discussed &amp; reviewed the different sections that the Input Sessions addressed, they are as follows:</p> <p><b>Session 1: Training and Examination</b>            We reviewed what the Behavioral Health Information No: 21-041 (BHIN 21-041) requires and what the areas of flexibility are. And we also addressed the roles and responsibilities of CaIMHSA and the DHCS. The input sessions were conducted with a</p>



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	<p>total of 551 interested parties. We will work to verify if it was 551 unduplicated parties.</p> <p><b>Training Curriculum:</b> Participants were asked to indicate what is most important when taking a peer certification training, the most common responses included: Content: basic peer support specialist competency (33%), role play (11%), and lived experience (7%) Administration: For Peers, by Peers (33%). Our council feels that peers should be among trainers so they can provide their field experience in their peer work. BHIN 21-041 also states that peers have to be among trainers as an advocacy effort.</p> <p><b>Training Method:</b> Participants were asked what the potential pros and cons to the following training methods are: in person, virtual, mixed (hybrid), or self-paced (web-based on-demand). Some of the pros identified for In-Person training are: camaraderie and connection with peers and trainer, and roleplaying. Some pros identified for Virtual trainings are: accessibility, it is safe and accommodating. Some of the cons identified had to do with Self-Paced training are: lack of live interaction and engagement and not accessible for technology challenged peers. Our council identified a need to have multi-lingual trainings and examination methods to reflect the needs of the community they are serving. Another topic that was address is also the affordability of trainings, not every peer will have an employer that will pay for the trainings. And we also have to keep in mind that peers have day jobs, and we need</p>
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	<p>to be flexible in the training methods we provide so that everyone can attend the peer training sessions.</p> <p><b>Standard Examination:</b> CaIMHSA will oversee hiring a qualified exam developer to ensure a standardized exam that speaks to the mandatory 17 core competencies. Participants were asked how much time an individual should have to initiate taking the standardized exam, once they have completed their peer training. The most popular feedback stated that there should be no restrictions as to when the exam should be taken, after completing the course, or to take the exam within six months of completing the training course. Some of our council members stated that the exam should be taken when the peer feels ready to take the exam. Everyone takes a different time to absorb material when they are learning, but the sooner you take the exam after completing the course, the better, since the information is still fresh in your mind. Our council also identified the importance of digital literacy, not everyone is comfortable on a computer and there needs to be accommodations for someone that doesn't want to take the test on a computer. Perhaps we can introduce a verbal accommodation for those that feel uncomfortable taking the test on a computer.</p> <p><b>Retake the Exam:</b> Participants were asked what is a reasonable number of time that an individual may be able to retake the exam. The overall feedback from the participants was unlimited retakes or a maximum of three attempts. Our council</p>
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	<p>members stated that there should be unlimited retakes because if you failed the exam multiple times and you are still trying to pass the exam, it shows you have passion for this type of work. You can teach exam topics, but you can't teach passion.</p> <p>Participants were also asked what a reasonable time might be to wait in between exam attempts, the most common feedback we received was no wait time. Our council determined that there shouldn't be a waiting period, but if a waiting period needs to be established to wait for 30 days so you have ample time to review and prepare for the exam. One of our council members also suggested that if there is a peer that has multiple failed attempts that we should partner them with a mentor to help the peer study and guide them through the certification process or establish some type of waiting period to address the material that the peer is struggling with. Another suggestion was to have multi-tiered exams to address the peer's different experience levels, such as, beginner, intermediate, and advanced exams to address the different experience levels. One of our council members also established the importance of having multiple version of the exam to avoid any memorization of the exam after multiple failed attempts.</p> <p><b>Supervision Standards:</b> BHIN 21-041 states that CaIMHSA must submit a plan of how the certification program's training curriculum will meet all Federal and State requirements for the certification and oversight of peer support specialists. BHIN states the curriculum</p>
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	<p>includes the initial certification, lapsed certification, area of specialization for parent, caregiver and family member peers and peer supervisors.</p> <p>The participants were asked what the most important skills for someone are who supervises peer work, the feedback we received is as follows. Most important skill was perceived to be peer lived experience, along with mentorship and coaching. We introduced the topic of Supervision to our council members, but due to time constraints we agreed to fully discuss at our next Medi-Cal Stakeholder Advisory Council meeting.</p>
<p>Collecting CBO Stakeholder Contact Info by Region</p>	<p>CaIMHSA is seeking to improve communications strategies to better inform community stakeholders on the ongoing developments of Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification through CaIMHSA. We will use the information to create a database and distribution list of stakeholders to keep informed.</p>
<p>Please provide the information in the spreadsheet provided for your region</p>	<p>We will be creating a live Google doc per region that the Stakeholder Advisory council members can add the CBO information to.</p>
<p>Wrap up &amp; Appreciation</p>	<p>Our council members are appreciative of the wiliness and investment that everyone is putting into the peer certification program. In addition to, the input that is being provided in all the meetings, it shows the passion that our council members have for the work we are doing and the change we are working on implementing</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>The community is interested in learning more on how to become Site Certified. We informed our council members that we are working on an infographic to address the Site Certification questions.</p>



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	<p>Part of the public’s input suggested providing tiered pricing for the exams, that way it can be made affordable to the county and to a peer paying solely out of his/her own pocket. The public has also expressed an interest in knowing what the price of an exam will be before we chose a vendor, the public also suggested providing an option similar to attorneys, such as, being eligible to take the exam without conducting the peer certification training.</p> <p>The links provided in the chat are as follows: -Peer Certification Informational Session 11/15 : <a href="https://www.calmhsa.org/wp-content/uploads/English_CaIMHSA-Peer-Certification-Informational-Session-11.15.21.pdf">https://www.calmhsa.org/wp-content/uploads/English_CaIMHSA-Peer-Certification-Informational-Session-11.15.21.pdf</a> - Peer Certification landing page: <a href="https://www.calmhsa.org/peer-certification">https://www.calmhsa.org/peer-certification</a> -DHCS information on language and cultural competency: <a href="https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/BHIN-20-070-Threshold-Languages-Data.pdf">https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/BHIN-20-070-Threshold-Languages-Data.pdf</a></p>
Thanks!	Thank you for your participation, we will meet again on <b>January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 1:00-4:00p</b> via Zoom.