



Peer Support Specialist For Behavioral Health Medi-Cal Services Listening Session #2

Hosted by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Listening Session Structure and Goals
- Overview of SB 803
- Process Requirements for Setting Up a Certification Program
- Break
- County Pilot Program Initiating and Reporting
- Closing Comments and Next Steps



DHCS Peer Certification Website

Current information regarding the implementation of Senate Bill 803, and the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program can be found online:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Peer-Support-Services.aspx>



Listening Session Format

- Listening Session #2 (today) will focus on the following areas:
 - Process requirements for setting up a certification program
 - Code of Ethics
 - Initial Certification and Biennial Renewal Process
 - Grandfathering & Reciprocity
 - Complaints, Corrective Action, Suspension, Revocation, Appeals
 - How to initiate and report on the county pilot program
 - Required Submission Items
 - Periodic Reviews
 - Annual Program Reports



Listening Session Format

For each topic, DHCS will:

1. Present the information specified in SB 803 statute
2. Provide a prompt related to areas that are not specified in statute
3. Solicit stakeholder feedback on the prompt



How to Provide Feedback

1. “Raise your hand” to provide verbal feedback during the Listening Session
2. Submit your feedback in writing:
 - Type your comments in the chat/questions box located on your GoToWebinar control panel
 - Send an email to peers@dhcs.ca.gov with the subject line “Listening Session 2”– Feedback on the topics addressed in this session will be accepted through March 16, 2021



SB 803 Overview

- Enacted January 1, 2021.
- Requires DHCS to seek federal approval to establish Peer Support Specialist as a Medi-Cal provider type, able to provide distinct peer support services
- DHCS is proposing to add peers as a unique provider type within specific reimbursable services and to allow counties to opt-in to provide this valuable resource
- DHCS will post information regarding proposed federal authorities on the peers webpage for public comments.



SB 803 Overview

By July 1, 2022, DHCS shall:

- Establish statewide requirements to use in developing certification programs
- Define the qualifications, range of responsibilities, practice guidelines, and supervision standards for peer support specialists
- Determine curriculum and core competencies required for certification, including areas of specialization
- Specify peer support specialist employment training requirements
- Establish code of ethics
- Determine continuing education requirements



SB 803 Overview

By July 1, 2022, DHCS shall (continued):

- Determine process for initial certification
- Determine process for investigation of complaints and corrective action
- Determine process for an individual employed as a peer support specialist on January 1, 2022, to obtain certification
- Determine requirements for peer support specialist certification reciprocity between counties and out of state



SB 803 Overview

- For certain topics, the Senate Bill establishes in law the requirements. These cannot be altered by DHCS.
- Other areas are not specified, and those areas are the focus of today's Listening Session.



DHCS Peer Certification Timeline

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| January 2021 | Peer Support Listening Session #1 • <i>Materials are available on the DHCS website</i> |
| March 2021 | Peer Support Listening Session #2 |
| April 2021 | Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting |
| June-July 2021 | Disseminate initial BH Information Notice on Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Standards |
| August-December 2021 | State technical assistance for Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Standards available to counties (<i>more information to come</i>) |
| January 2022 | Seek federal approvals deemed necessary to implement SB 803 |



Recap of Listening Session #1

- Listening Session #1 was held January 22, 2021
 - *Training Requirements:*
 - Employment training
 - Core competencies
 - Areas of specialization
 - *Scope of Practice*
 - Range of responsibilities
 - Qualifications
 - Practice guidelines
 - Supervision standards
- Most common feedback:
 - initial training should be more than 40 hours;
 - consumers should be peers to consumers, parents to parents, and family to family;
 - add resiliency planning to the range of responsibilities;
 - peers should be supervised (at least) by someone with peer support specialist experience
- A more detailed feedback summary can be found on the [DHCS website](#)



Process Requirements for Setting Up a Certification Program

Code of Ethics
Biennial Renewal Process
Complaints, Corrective Action, Suspension, Revocation, Appeals
Grandfathering & Reciprocity



Process Requirements for Setting Up a Certification Program

| Topic | Statute | Initial Research |
|----------------|---|--|
| Code of Ethics | Peer support specialists must affirm the code of ethics via signature initially and biennially. | No additions recommended to language in statute. |
| | A specific code of ethics is not specified in the legislation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAMHPRO Working Well Together Code of Ethics for Peer Providers in California• State of California AOD Counselor Code of Conduct• CCAPP Mental Health Professionals Code of Conduct for CMHRS, QMHS, and Mental Health Peers |



Feedback

- Should peer support specialists certify the code of ethics more frequently than once every two years?
- Are there other code of ethics for behavioral health professionals and/or peers that the state should consider when deciding the code of ethics certification requirement?



Process Requirements for Setting Up a Certification Program

| Topic | Statute | Initial Suggestion |
|--|--|--|
| Biennial Renewal Process (every two years) | Maintenance and renewal requires: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adhere to the code of ethics and biennially sign an affirmation.2. Complete any required continuing education, training, and recertification requirements. | No additions recommended to language in statute. |



Feedback

- Would you like to see any additional items added to the biennial renewal process?



Process Requirements for Setting Up a Certification Program

| Topic | Statute | Initial Suggestion |
|--|---|---|
| Complaints, Corrective Action, Suspension, Revocation, Appeals | The state must determine a process for investigation of complaints and corrective action, including suspension and revocation of certification and appeals. | DHCS will approve county's related processes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complaints are investigated by counties in a specified time frame• Substantiated allegations require either education hours, suspension, and/or revocation• Appeal process to be determined by the county or an agency representing the county |



Feedback

- Should the state add any other considerations to the complaint, corrective action, suspension, revocation and/or appeal process?



Process Requirements for Setting Up a Certification Program

| Topic | Statute | Possible Considerations |
|--|---|---|
| Process for existing peers to become certified specialists (grandfathering-in) | Determine a process for an individual employed as a peer support specialist on January 1, 2022, to obtain certification under this article. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time frame?• Certification exam?• Required work or volunteer hours?• Different pathways? |



Feedback

- What is an appropriate timeframe to require already employed peer support specialists complete these requirements after January 1, 2022 (6 months? 12 months?)
- Should grandfathered peer support specialist be required to pass the certification exam?
- Could a minimum number of hours worked as a peer support specialist substitute for the required training component?
- Should there be different pathways to becoming a grandfathered peer support specialist?



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Process Requirements for Setting Up a Certification Program

| Topic | Statute | Initial Suggestion |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| County and State Reciprocity | Determine requirements for peer support specialist certification reciprocity between counties, and for peer support specialists from out of state. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer support specialists from outside of California will need to meet the state minimum qualifications• California peer support specialists already certified with a California county who seek employment with a new county must have an active certification in a state approved peer support specialist program• Certification requirements shall be standardized across all counties |



Feedback

- Are there additional state and/or county reciprocity considerations the state should make in developing these requirements?



County Pilot Program Initiating and Reporting

Required Submission Items
Periodic Reviews
Program Reports



County Pilot Program Initiating and Reporting

| Topic | Statute | Initial Suggestion |
|------------------|--|--|
| Submission Items | Peer Support Specialist Program Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Description of how the program will meet federal and state requirements for certification and oversight | No additions recommended to language in statute. |
| | Fee schedule (counties will submit and DHCS approves) | No additions recommended to language in statute. |
| Periodic Reviews | No language related to this topic specified in statute. | DHCS would include state reviews in county triennial review protocols. Counties would need to submit their Peers Training Plan to DHCS for approval and institute monitoring and quality assurance |



Feedback

- Should counties be required to submit additional information when they participate in the peer support specialist program?
- Are there additional items missing from the periodic county reviews conducted by the state?



County Pilot Program Initiating and Reporting

| Topic | Statute | Considerations |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Program Reports | No language related to this topic specified in statute. | What information is useful for stakeholders to have included in program reports? |



Feedback

- What information is useful for stakeholders and programs to have included in program reports?



Appendix



Definitions from SB 803

(a) “**Certification**” means the activities related to the verification that an individual has met all the requirements under this article and that the individual may provide peer support specialist services pursuant to this article.

(b) “**Certified**” means all federal and state requirements have been satisfied by an individual who is seeking designation under this article, including completion of curriculum and training requirements, testing, and agreement to uphold and abide by the code of ethics.

(c) “**Code of ethics**” means the standards to which a peer support specialist is required to adhere.

(d) “**Core competencies**” means the foundational and essential knowledge, skills, and abilities required for peer specialists.



Definitions from SB 803

(e) “**Cultural competence**” means a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system or agency that enables that system or agency to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. A culturally competent system of care acknowledges and incorporates, at all levels, the importance of language and culture, intersecting identities, assessment of cross-cultural relations, knowledge and acceptance of dynamics of cultural differences, expansion of cultural knowledge, and adaptation of services to meet culturally unique needs to provide services in a culturally competent manner.

(f) “**Department**” means the State Department of Health Care Services.

(g) “**Peer support specialist**” means 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.



Definitions from SB 803

(h) “**Peer support specialist services**” means culturally competent services that promote engagement, socialization, recovery, self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and identification of strengths. Peer support specialist services include, but are not limited to, prevention services, support, coaching, facilitation, or education that is individualized and is conducted by a certified peer support specialist.

(i) “**Recovery**” means a process of change through which an individual improves their health and wellness, lives a self-directed life, and strives to reach their full potential. This process of change recognizes cultural diversity, and inclusion, and honors the different routes to resilience and recovery based on the individual and their cultural community.