

Workforce and Employment Committee Agenda

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Courtyard by Marriott San Diego Old Town

2435 Jefferson St, San Diego, CA 92110

Santa Rosa Room

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 870 5969 3885 Passcode: WEC2024

Join by phone: (669)-900-6833 Passcode: 7355993

1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1:30 pm	Welcome and Introductions <i>CBHPC staff and All Members</i>	
1:35 pm	Nominate Chairperson and Chair-Elect for 2024 (action) <i>All Members</i>	Tab 1
1:40 pm	Approve October 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes <i>CBHPC staff and All Members</i>	Tab 2
1:45 pm	CBHPC Workgroups Update <i>CBHPC staff and All Members</i>	Tab 3
1:55 pm	Public Comment	
2:00 pm	Presentation of HCAI Research Data Center Dashboards & Certified Wellness Coaches <i>Anne Powell, Policy Section, Office of Health Workforce Development CA Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) Ellice Ramm, Research and Evaluation Section, HCAI</i>	Tab 4
2:25 pm	Public Comment	
2:30 pm	Update on Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification <i>Alexandria Simpson, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Lucero Robles, LCSW, Director, Quality Assurance and Compliance, California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)</i>	Tab 5
3:10 pm	Public Comment	
3:15 pm	Break	
3:30 pm	Presentations on Clubhouse Models (San Diego County) <i>May Vang, Director, East Wind Clubhouse Hung Tran, Vocational Specialist, East Wind Clubhouse Ericka Mancillas Vargas, Program Supervisor, Oasis Clubhouse Mary Ellen Baraceros, Regional Director, Oasis Clubhouse</i>	Tab 6

4:40 pm	Public Comment	
4:45 pm	Update on Occupational Therapists Provider Types <i>Deborah Pitts, WEC member, and All Members</i>	Tab 7
4:50 pm	Wrap up/Next Steps <i>CBHPC staff and All Members</i>	
5:00 pm	Adjourn	

The scheduled times on the agenda are estimates and subject to change.

Workforce and Employment Committee Members

Chairperson: TBD **Chair-elect:** TBD

Members: Susie Baker, John Black, Jessica Grove, Jessica Miller, Donald Morrison, Dale Mueller, Deborah Pitts, Maria Sierra, Walter Shwe, Arden Tucker

WET Steering Committee Members: Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Robb Layne, Simon Vue, Kristin Dempsey, Janet Frank, Olivia Loewy, E. Maxwell Davis, Robert McCarron, Kathryn Kietzman, Chad Costello, John Drebing, Heidi Strunk, Marcellus Brookshaw

Staff: Ashneek Nanua, Justin Boese

TAB 1

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Workforce and Employment Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

Agenda Item: Nominate Chairperson and Chair-Elect for 2024 (action)

Enclosures: None

How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides the opportunity for committee members to nominate the next Workforce and Employment Committee (WEC) Chairperson and Chair-Elect. The Chairperson and Chair-Elect are responsible for leading committee activities.

Background/Description:

Each standing committee shall have a Chairperson and Chair-Elect. The Chairperson serves a term of one year with the option for re-nomination for one additional year. The committee members shall nominate a Chairperson and Chair-Elect to be submitted to the Council's Officer Team for appointment in 2024.

The role of the Chairperson is outlined below:

- Facilitate committee meetings in person as well as virtual interim meetings.
- Participate in the Executive Committee Meetings.
- Participate in the Mentorship Forums in person on the Thursday evening of the quarterly meetings.
- Decide on the need for meetings in addition to quarterly meetings.
- Is included in all committee business and operations such as agenda development, speaker/presentation preparation, and any other matters relating to committee meetings, activities, or projects.

The role of the Chair-Elect is outlined below:

- Facilitate committee meetings as needed, in the absence of the Chairperson.
- Assist the Chairperson and staff with setting the committee meeting agenda and committee planning.
- Participate in the Executive Committee Meetings on Wednesday mornings during the week of quarterly meetings.
- Participate in the Mentorship Forums in person on the Thursday evening of the quarterly meetings.

Motion #1: Nomination of a committee member as the WEC Chairperson for 2024.

Motion #2: Nomination of a committee member as the WEC Chair-Elect for 2024.

TAB 2

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Workforce and Employment Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

Agenda Item: Approve October 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes

Enclosures: October 2023 Draft WEC Meeting Minutes

Background/Description:

Committee members will review and approve the draft meeting minutes for the Workforce and Employment Committee October 2023 Quarterly Meeting.

Workforce and Employment Committee

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

October 18, 2023

Committee Members present: John Black, Walter Shwe, Arden Tucker, Jessica Miller, Donald Morrison, Maria Sierra, Alfonso Jimenez (stand in for Jessica Grove), Susie Baker

WET Steering Committee Members Present: Robb Layne, Chad Costello

Presenters: Clinton Ramstad, Lucero Robles, Alexandria Simpson, Venezia Vargas, Steven DeSilva

Staff present: Ashneek Nanua, Justin Boese, Naomi Ramirez

Meeting Commenced at 1:30 p.m.

Item #1 Approve June 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes

The Workforce and Employment Committee (WEC) reviewed the June 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved by the committee with no edits.

Action/Resolution

The June 2023 WEC Meeting Minutes are approved.

Responsible for Action-Due Date

The June 2023 WEC Meeting Minutes will be posted to the CBHPC website – October 2023

Item #2 CBHPC Workgroups Update

Ashneek Nanua, WEC staff, provided an update on the Children and Youth Workgroup (CYW) and Reducing Disparities Workgroup (RDW) meetings. The CYW invited youth representatives across the state to inform the youth about CBHPC and gather their perspectives on the challenges and barriers to pursuing and accessing mental health and substance use disorder services, as well as what the youth would like to see happen in the system. The goal is to have a working relationship with youth at future workgroup meetings and incorporate their voices and recommendations into the work of CBHPC. At the January 2024 Quarterly Meeting, the workgroup plans to share current behavioral health policies and efforts regarding children and youth and will invite the youth representatives back to inform them of these efforts.

The RDW is working on a list of questions for presenters invited to CBHPC meetings to build equity into their presentations. Additionally, the workgroup will host a screening of the film, *Color of Care*, and will share their thoughts of the film during the October 2023 RDW meeting. The Substance Use Disorder Workgroup is in the beginning phase of developing their work and will be meeting on the Thursdays of the quarterly meetings during the lunch hour.

Action/Resolution

The WEC will identify representatives to report on each CBHPC workgroup. The workgroup representatives will update the WEC on activities of each group.

Responsible for Action-Due Date

Ashneek Nanua – Ongoing

Item #3 Nominate Chairperson and Chair-Elect for 2024

WEC staff stated that Chairperson Vera Calloway and Chair-Elect Christine Frey have stepped down from CBHPC. Therefore, the WEC will need to nominate a new Chairperson and Chair-Elect for 2024. Staff reviewed the responsibilities of the committee Chairperson and Chair-Elect. John Black nominated Jessica Grove to be the Chairperson for the WEC in 2024. Jessica Grove was not present so staff will reach out to Jessica to gauge her interest. Arden Tucker offered to step in as an interim Chairperson until the WEC has secured an official Chairperson for 2024.

Action/Resolution

WEC staff will ask Jessica Grove if she is interested in becoming the WEC 2024 Chairperson and will work with Arden Tucker in the interim.

Responsible for Action-Due Date

Ashneek Nanua – January 2024

Item #4 2020-2025 Workforce Education and Training (WET) Five-Year Plan and HCAI Behavioral Health Updates

Clinton Ramstad, Grants Management Section of the Health Care Workforce Development Division at the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), presented updates on the HCAI behavioral health workforce programs and WET Five-Year Plan. Clinton reported that two Regional Partnerships have been paid in full while three Regional Partnerships payments are in progress.

WEC staff asked if HCAI can share any updates regarding the development of the next WET Five-Year Plan and when Council members and public input will be included. Clinton indicated that conversations regarding the next WET Five-Year Plan are preliminary and does not have updates to share at this time. Committee members stated that they hope the public stakeholder input process for the development of the next WET Five-Year plan will be as robust as the process for the current Five-Year Plan in terms of collecting diverse input from a variety of agencies and organizations.

Action/Resolution

The WEC will invite HCAI representatives to subsequent meetings to provide updates.

Responsible for Action-Due Date

Ashneek Nanua – Ongoing

Item #5 Public Comment

Elizabeth R. Stone asked if HCAI can share any timelines or information regarding the development of Community Health Workers (CHW) Medi-Cal Benefit through the CalAIM Initiative. Clinton indicated that he would only be able to speak to the Peer Personnel Program under HCAI. DHCS dictates the terms that guide the organizations for peer personnel and HCAI is responsible for creating and maintaining the grant agreements for the organizations participating in the Peer Personnel Program.

Action/Resolution

N/A

Responsible for Action-Due Date

N/A

Item #6 Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Updates

Alexandria Simpson from the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Policy Division at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Lucero Robles, Director of Quality Assurance and Compliance for the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), presented updates on the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Benefit followed by a Q & A session with committee members. Alexandria Simpson shared a personal story highlighting why peer certification is important to her and then provided Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist updates from DHCS. She shared that the draft guidance for the program requirements was released for public comment and DHCS is currently updating the guidance based on the feedback received. DHCS also sent a survey to counties to assess program implementation which will be used to inform guidance and technical assistance development. Alexandria then provided an

overview of the differences between Peer Support Specialists, Community Health Workers (CHWs), and Behavioral Health Wellness coaches based on the scope of practice, whether lived experience is required, educational requirements, delivery system that each provider type would work in, and whether certification is required.

Lucero Robles provided updates from CalMHSA regarding peer certification. She provided updated statistics and demographics for certified individuals as well as updates regarding awarded scholarships and training providers. Lucero shared that CalMHSA now has a data dashboard available on their peer certification website. Additionally, the certification exam has been released in Spanish. The next steps include releasing a feedback survey to all certified Peer Support Specialists to evaluate the certification process. The survey will cover the peers' experience in training, certification process, career placement and outcomes, psychological and economic well-being, and demographics. CalMHSA will partner with RAND Corporation to release an evaluation report by December 2023. Additionally, the Continued Provider Training Applications will be open until December 2023.

Committee members engaged in a Q & A session with the presenters. Topics included CalMHSA's outreach efforts for specialization training, questions around CHW certification and delivery systems, diversity in the representation of CalMHSA's Stakeholder Advisory Council including the deaf and hard of hearing community, and availability of exams in non-English languages.

Action/Resolution

The WEC will continue to track and provide input for Senate Bill 803 implementation.

Responsible for Action-Due Date

Ashneek Nanua – Ongoing

Item #7 Public Comment

Chad Costello asked how detailed the questions for the post-certification survey to Peer Specialists will be. Lucero Robles stated that CalMHSA would like to look at how comfortable and prepared peers felt in approaching the certification process and would like to receive feedback more than one time.

Steve McNally asked if CalMHSA is planning to distribute 900 scholarships that have not yet been distributed. He also stated that it would be helpful to pool counties to view data on the data dashboard as opposed to one county at a time. Steve asked CalMHSA to capture how many peers are county staff versus non-county staff. He stated that it would be helpful for counties to use Memorandums of Understanding across counties as individuals may live in one county and work in a different county. Lucero stated that funding available for the grandparenting pathway scholarships has moved to the initial certification pathway. Regarding the data dashboard, CalMHSA recently added a data

element to their application to capture where individuals are working whether they are county staff or non-profits.

Elizabeth R. Stone expressed concerns that the surveys from CalMHSA and DHCS will only look at how peer certification is being implemented through the counties versus non-profits and other organizations. She indicated that peer-run organizations are losing their contracts to clinical programs that are already certified and is concerned that the state will not be able to gather a full data picture. She went on to say the surveys miss the barriers that individuals face during the certification process. Elizabeth shared that individuals with formal education are being certified in greater numbers than individuals with lived experience.

Action/Resolution

N/A

Responsible for Action-Due Date

N/A

Item #8 California Clubhouse Presentation

Venezia Vargas, Program Director, and Steven DeSilva, Social Practitioner, from California Clubhouse in San Mateo presented on their program. The presenters provided a background and overview of the Clubhouse International Model which is a non-clinical, strength-based approach to recovery that includes work-mediated relationships and social support. The presenters then reviewed core programs and community resources for CA Clubhouse. Programs include services under the Business Unit and Hospitality Unit. CA Clubhouse offers career development opportunities through workshops, supported employment, transitional employment, and supported education and training opportunities. Venezia and Steven shared that Clubhouse services have great impacts in the community such as reducing hospitalization, lowering suicide and self-harm rates, improving treatment outcomes, and reducing substance abuse. The presenters then reviewed the best practices, challenges, and demographics of their program.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, WEC members engaged the presenters in a Q & A session. Council members asked about the number of locations and if there is enough space. There is one Clubhouse in San Francisco that is currently unaccredited but follows Clubhouse International rules and the presenters found that there is enough space for services. The WEC applauded CA Clubhouse for including weekends and holidays in their programming and placing an emphasis on the needs of the individuals being served.

Action/Resolution

N/A

Responsible for Action-Due Date

N/A

Item #9 Public Comment

Robb Layne, California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executive (CAADPE), stated that one of the best things from the policy perspective is using terms like recovery for both mental health and substance use disorders. He asked the presenters to speak on their work around substance use disorders and harm reduction. Steven DeSilva stated that Clubhouse does not address any particular diagnosis or disorder but has members that are active in their recovery or pursuing recovery. There is no minimum requirement for days of sobriety to enter the program but members are asked not use the day that they come into the program. There are Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings listed at the Clubhouse. The Clubhouse social practitioners educate members on recovery, offer to take members to meetings and offer peer support and sober spaces.

Elizabeth R. Stone shared excitement that DHCS is promoting the Clubhouse model. She asked about the credentials and training, including peer support training, of Clubhouse staff as well as how the program is funded. Venezia Vargas stated that the San Mateo Clubhouse does not have credentialing requirements. California Clubhouse is not currently billing to Medi-Cal. There is a possibility to bill Medi-Cal in the future but there is fear around the documentation for Medi-Cal billing. California Clubhouse currently receives funding from grants, corporate sponsorships, donors, and the county.

Action/Resolution

N/A

Responsible for Action-Due Date

N/A

Item #10 Update WEC Work Plan for 2024 & Discuss Year-End Report

Committee staff reviewed the WEC's comments for the WEC Work Plan that were provided during the June 2024 Quarterly Meeting. There was one edit to modify Objective 1.3 to add language stating, "...in consideration of local different needs in rural and urban areas." Walter Shwe motioned approval of the WEC 2024 Work Plan with the suggested language changes. Arden Tucker seconded the motion. There was

no public comment on the motion. Alfonso Jiminez, Donald Morrison, and Maria Sierra abstained. The WEC approved the changes to the Work Plan through a roll call vote.

WEC staff reviewed the accomplishments of the committee throughout 2024 and asked if there were any items that committee members would like to see highlighted in CBHPC's Year-End Report for 2024. The WEC indicated that they would like to highlight the committee's efforts to track the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification and gather CalMHSA, DHCS, California Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations (CAMHPRO), and Cal Voices to present to the full Planning Council body on their perspectives of peer certification in an organized and structured manner. CBHPC was recognized as a neutral place and a safe space to discuss these issues in an educational manner and the Planning Council modeled this for other organizations.

Action/Resolution

WEC staff will finalize changes to the Work Plan and post it to the CBHPC website.

Responsible for Action-Due Date

Ashneek Nanua – January 2024

Item #11 Public Comment

Elizabeth R. Stone asked to modify Objective 2.1(a) to state "Identify successful programs that are happening at the local level and where they are located." She also expressed confusion about Objective 2.3 on the listening session. Staff clarified the goal of the objective. Elizabeth recommended that the objective be reworded to state "...provide the perspectives of each model on the community needs, benefits, and challenges." Elizabeth encouraged the committee to capitalize Behavioral Health Wellness Coaches in Objective 1.6. For Objective 1.3, Elizabeth asked if language around clinical training was the best word or whether the word could be modified to reflect a more recovery-oriented approach. Donald Morrison recommended the language be changed to state, "...to include training appropriate to scope of practice...". Committee members agreed with the language changes proposed by Elizabeth and Don.

Action/Resolution

N/A

Responsible for Action-Due Date

N/A

Item #12 Wrap Up/Next Steps

The WEC discussed the following next steps for the January 2024 Quarterly Meeting:

- Invite a Clubhouse from San Diego County to present to the WEC
- Invite HCAI representatives to update the committee on the WET Five-Year Plan and HCAI's behavioral health programs unless there are no new updates
 - Potentially ask HCAI about the potential impact on the education and peer grants if Proposition 1 (Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal) passes
- Invite DHCS and CalMHSA to provide updates on the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Benefit

Naomi Ramirez encouraged committee members to keep the Work Plan in mind as well as think about the end product to report on and accomplish.

Action/Resolution

WEC staff will work with WEC leadership to plan the agenda for the next meeting.

Responsible for Action-Due Date

Ashneek Nanua – January 2024

Item #13 Public Comment

Elizabeth R. Stone encouraged the WEC to ask HCAI to discuss Community Health Worker (CHWs) certification at future meetings and how it parallels with Peer Certification as CHWs are not able to hold both certifications at the same time. She expressed issues with billing for Peer Workforce Investment (PWI) grants and grants for EPIC, an electronic medical record software system. Elizabeth encouraged the WEC to ask CalMHSA where peers are working and to look into their work environments.

Stephanie Ramos, CalVoices, recommended looking into why an individual is not able to hold both CHW and Peer Support Specialist Certifications. She encouraged the WEC to look into how Proposition 1 will affect the peer workforce and the next step for peers who are working in programs that will be cut with funding redistribution. Stephanie also encouraged conversations around parity for the roles of peers, CHWs, and Behavioral Health Wellness Coaches.

Action/Resolution

N/A

Responsible for Action-Due Date

N/A

TAB 3

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Workforce and Employment Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

Agenda Item: CBHPC Workgroups Update

Enclosures: None

How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides the opportunity for the Workforce and Employment Committee to coordinate the activities of the CBHPC workgroups in accordance with the WEC Work Plan.

Background/Description:

CBHPC's Executive Committee would like to ensure that the Planning Council's workgroups are integrated into the work of all committees. The WEC will select a representative for CBHPC Workgroups: Reducing Disparities Workgroup, Children and Youth Workgroup, and Substance Use Disorder Workgroup. Committee members who attended each workgroup will report on discussions held during each workgroup meeting to identify any points of collaboration with WEC activities and Work Plan items.

CBHPC workgroups:

- **Reducing Disparities Workgroup**
 - Representative: TBD
- **Children and Youth Workgroup**
 - Representative: TBD
- **Substance Use Disorder Workgroup**
 - Representative: TBD

TAB 4

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Workforce and Employment Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

Agenda Item: Presentation of HCAI Research Data Center & Certified Wellness Coaches

Enclosures: [HCAI Workforce Programs/Recommendations Update \(December 2023\)](#)
[HCAI Research Data Center Update \(December 2023\)](#)
[HCAI Health Workforce Dashboards Webpage](#)
[HCAI Behavioral Health Programs Webpage](#)

How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides the Council members with information regarding the implementation of the 2020-2025 Workforce Education and Training (WET) Five-Year Plan, which will help the Council members fulfill their duty to oversee plan implementation. The WEC will also be informed on HCAI's current workforce programs.

WEC Work Plan: This agenda item corresponds to Work Plan Objectives 1.4 & 1.6:

Objective 1.4: Identify data that shows the gaps of the hard-to-fill behavioral health professions on a statewide level including information about local partnerships providing education and training opportunities.

Objective 1.6: Support building the workforce of individuals with lived behavioral health experience through advocacy and recommendations for the statewide certification, training, and Medicaid reimbursement for Peer Support Specialists, Community Health Workers, and Wellness Coaches, including the promotion of equitable opportunities for career growth.

Background/Description:

Representatives from the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) will present on data dashboards pertaining to California's healthcare workforce, including the Race & Ethnicity Dashboard, Workforce Education and Registered Nurse Pathways Dashboards, and Languages Dashboard. HCAI representatives will then provide information about the certified Wellness Coach provider type, which is a \$338.3 million multi-year initiative that aims to build a larger, more diverse, and representative behavioral health workforce with lived experience in California.

Please contact WEC staff at Ashneek.Nanua@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov for copies of the presentation.

TAB 5

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Workforce and Employment Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

Agenda Item: Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Updates

Enclosures: DHCS Medi-Cal Peer Support Services Update Presentation
CalMHSA Medi-Cal peer Support Specialist Program Presentation
(Please contact Ashneek Nanua at Ashneek.Nanua@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov for a copy of this document)

How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides committee members with updates regarding the implementation of Peer Support Specialist Certification from the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The WEC will use this information to advocate for best practices and policies for Peer Support Specialists working in the public behavioral health system.

WEC Work Plan: This agenda item corresponds to WEC Work Plan Objective 1.6:

Objective 1.6: Support building the workforce of individuals with lived behavioral health experience through advocacy and recommendations for the statewide certification, training, and Medicaid reimbursement for Peer Support Specialists, Community Health Workers, and Wellness Coaches, including the promotion of equitable opportunities for career growth.

Background/Description:

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will provide updates on their activities for the implementation of the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Benefit.

Additional Resources:

[Senate Bill 803 – Bill Text](#)

[DHCS Peer Support Services Webpage](#)

[CalMHSA Peer Certification Webpage](#) and [CA Peer Certification Website](#)

Medi-Cal Peer Support Services

California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC)

Agenda

- » Department of Health Care Services Updates
- » Questions & Answers



DHCS Updates



Guidance Update: Peers “Omni”-BHIN

» **BHIN 24-XXX: Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Implementation**

- Supersedes BHINs 21-041; 22-006; 22-018; 22-026; 22-061; 22-062; 22-067; 23-003; 23-010; and 23-012.
- Streamlines existing Medi-Cal Peer Support Services guidance into single go-to source.
- Addresses stakeholder feedback received since release of BHIN 22-026.
- Makes clarifications and policy updates, including:
 - Program plan submission requirements for certification programs
 - Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist oversight roles
 - Guidance on use of Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist taxonomy and other claiming updates
 - Lapsed certification process
 - County opt-in process
 - Code of Ethics revised to incorporate stakeholder feedback

» **Next steps**

- Final Peers "Omni-BHIN" will be published in the first quarter of 2024.

Other Program Updates

- » Continuing to explore development of unique identifier for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist claims.
- » Developing updated Frequently Asked Questions.
- » Ongoing partnership with counties and CalMHSA on Medi-Cal Peer Support Services benefit implementation.

Performance Monitoring

- » DHCS surveyed counties on Medi-Cal Peer Support Service implementation in October 2023.
- » Survey asked counties about their provider network, workforce development, the experience of Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists and the benefit's impact on members.
- » Findings will be finalized in the first quarter of 2024 and will inform future technical assistance and guidance to address implementation barriers.

Questions?

Please send any follow-up questions to Peers@dhcs.ca.gov



TAB 6

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Workforce and Employment Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

Agenda Item: Clubhouse Model Presentation (San Diego County)

Enclosures: East Wind Clubhouse Presentation (Please contact Ashneek Nanua at Ashneek.Nanua@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov for a copy of this document)

How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides the WEC with information on the Clubhouse model in San Mateo County. Committee members will have the opportunity to engage in discussion and strategize advocacy efforts to increase the value of employment in behavioral health recovery services.

WEC Work Plan: This agenda item corresponds to Work Plan Objectives 1.3 and 2.1:

- **Objective 1.3:** Build the Council's understanding of County specific workforce development initiatives and their successes and challenges.
- **Objective 2.1:** Expand Council's knowledge in order to build and make available a current inventory of employment and education support services available to mental health and substance use disorder consumers in each of California's counties. Such inventory must consider limitations created by unequal access or opportunities due to social inequities.

Background/Description:

The WEC expressed interest in elevating the importance of employment and productive role engagement in behavioral health services as a key component of recovery. The WEC has engaged various counties and programs with the goal of evaluating the strengths and areas of needed improvement of each employment model.

The [East Wind Clubhouse](#) and [Oasis Clubhouse](#) will present an overview of their programs including strengths, challenges, and best practices of the programs. East Wind Clubhouse focuses on culturally appropriate programming to Southeast Asian refugees, immigrants, and other underserved populations and strives to help clients find self-reliance. The Oasis Clubhouse provides a safe, positive, and dynamic environment where Transition Age Youth (TAY) can learn valuable skills, give, and receive support, and connect with peers who have similar life experiences. The WEC will use this information to evaluate the current landscape of employment initiatives for individuals with behavioral health conditions.

Presenter Biographies:**May Yang, Director, East Wind Clubhouse**

May Yang is a seasoned mental health professional who double majored in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Her degree led her to the non-profit mental health arena where she feels passionately about providing direct services to underserved communities and populations. May has worked for the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) for over 30 years as East Wind Clubhouse Director. She is a family member of a loved one who lives with mental health challenges, so she uniquely understands and has a deep compassion for this population. May is a strong believer of the mental health recovery model and strengths-based services.

Hung Tran, Vocational Specialist, East Wind Clubhouse

Hung Tran is a multifaceted individual whose life has been defined by a passion and commitment to serve in the arenas of tech industry and social services. His journey unfolds with a unique blend of military service, academic achievement, and a flourishing career in the technology and mental health settings. Hung served as a proud member of the United States Marine Corps for eight years.

As a Vocational Specialist at UPAC-East Wind Clubhouse, he contributes to the organization's success in a dynamic and diverse capacity. His role allows him to leverage his academic background and military experience to support individuals with SMI in their vocational/employment journeys.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
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Agenda Item: Update on Occupational Therapists Provider Types

Enclosures: [WEC Letter: Occupational Therapists as LMHPs and LPHAs](#)
[SPA 23-0026 Public Notice and SPA Pages \(ca.gov\)](#)

How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides the Council members with the opportunity to discuss efforts to support and expand the behavioral health workforce by advocating to include qualified Occupational Therapists as Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHPs) in the Specialty Mental Health Services system and as Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts LPHAs in the Substance Use Disorder system in California.

WEC Work Plan: This agenda item corresponds to WEC Work Plan Objective 1.6:

Objective 1.6: Collaborate with other Planning Council committees to ensure that Occupational Therapists and other master's level, state-licensed health providers with mental health practice education are identified as licensed mental health professionals (LMHPs) for Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) and Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts (LPHAs) for Substance Use Disorders system.

Background/Description:

The Workforce and Employment Committee has advocated for the inclusion of Occupational Therapists (OTs) as LMHPs for several years as these providers are trained and qualified to provide services to individuals with behavioral health conditions. In November 2022, the WEC submitted a letter requesting DHCS to allow OTs to be considered Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHPs) in the Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) system and Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts (LPHAs) in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS). Committee members expressed interest in tracking the outcome of this request.

Committee member, Deborah Pitts, and the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) has met with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on numerous occasions to move forward these efforts. DHCS has submitted a State Plan Amendment in Fall 2023 to include OTs as LMHPs and LPHAs to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Deborah Pitts will provide an update to the WEC regarding recent efforts to establish OTs as LMHPs and LPHAs.