



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

DATE: February 14, 2017

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 17-008

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTORS  
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS  
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION  
CA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES  
COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES,  
INC.  
CALIFORNIA OPIOID MAINTENANCE PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: Peer Support Services in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver

#### PURPOSE

The intent of this notice is to inform counties of the requirements to provide substance use disorder (SUD) peer support as a component of recovery services in the DMC-ODS Waiver. This notice provides guidance regarding the development of a SUD Peer Support Training Plan and a county SUD Peer Support Designation Program.

#### BACKGROUND

DMC-ODS Waiver Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) Section 138 allows coverage of peer-to-peer substance abuse assistance services as a component of recovery services. As a component of recovery services, SUD peer support services cannot be reimbursed for any other service modality in the DMC-ODS. Peer support services are an evidence-based behavioral health model of care, which consists of qualified peer support staff who assist beneficiaries with their recovery from SUDs. Counties utilizing SUD peer support services must comply with all federal Medicaid regulations and policy guidance. Counties are responsible for the development of a SUD Peer Support Training Plan and are to provide a county SUD designation for SUD peer support staff consistent with the requirements outlined in the STCs of the Waiver and in state guidance.

#### DISCUSSION

If the county chooses to offer SUD peer support services through the DMC-ODS, the county must submit a training plan to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for

approval prior to providing billable SUD peer support services. The county's training plan must describe the following:

1. Client Plan Development, Documentation, Supervision, and Oversight  
SUD peer support services must be provided within the context of a comprehensive, individualized client plan that includes specific goals. The amount, duration, and scope of the services must be specified in the client's plan. This may include the plan for ongoing recovery and relapse prevention that was developed during discharge planning when treatment was completed. Counties should implement a person-centered treatment planning process to promote beneficiary participation in the development and implementation of the client plan. Peer support staff should actively engage and empower the beneficiary, and/or individuals selected by the beneficiary, in leading and directing the design of the client plan, ensuring that the plan reflects the needs and preferences of the beneficiary in achieving specific, individualized goals that have measurable results. Counties must describe the supervision provided to SUD peer support staff.
2. Training and Designation  
Counties must ensure that SUD peer support staff complete training and receive a county designation as specified in the DHCS-approved county SUD peer support training plan. The SUD peer support-training plan must outline a methodology, which assures that SUD peer support staff obtain a basic set of competencies necessary to perform and document the peer support function. The training plan must have a method to evaluate the peer's ability to support the recovery of beneficiaries from SUDs.

Counties shall also assure that covered services are provided by peer support staff that are eligible for participation in the Medi-Cal program. Counties should review both the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) excluded list and also the Medi-Cal suspended or ineligible list. Both can be accessed at: <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/SandILanding.asp>.

The following attachment contains the SUD Peer Support Plan Guide and instructions required for submission. For questions pertaining to peer support services in the DMC-ODS, please contact Kevin Masuda at [Kevin.Masuda@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Kevin.Masuda@dhcs.ca.gov) or 916-327-3098.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Karen Baylor, Ph.D., LMFT, Deputy Director  
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services

Attachment