



Peer Support Specialist For Behavioral Health Medi-Cal Services

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Agenda

- Background
- Overview of SB 803
- Peer Certification Program Timeline
- Listening Sessions
- Contact Information



Background

- Currently, peer support specialists are only authorized to deliver covered services in the Medi-Cal program in a limited fashion.
 - Specialty Mental Health Services (1915b):
 - Peers and peer services are not currently distinct provider and service types in California's Medicaid State Plan. Peers can be reimbursed as "other qualified providers" for Medi-Cal Rehabilitative Mental Health Services and Targeted Case Management.



Background

- Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (1115):
 - Peer-to-peer services are covered as a component of recovery services.

- Drug Medi-Cal (State Plan):
 - Peers are not currently included in California's Medicaid State Plan as providers under the Drug Medi-Cal program.



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 the Listening Sessions



DHCS Peer Certification Timeline

January 2021	Peer Support Listening Session #1
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



Listening Session #1

Held January 22, 2021

- Subjects Covered:
 - Training
 - Core competencies
 - Areas of specialization
 - Scope of Practice
 - Range of responsibilities
 - Qualifications
 - Practice guidelines
 - Supervision standards



Listening Session #1

Held January 22, 2021

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.



Listening Session #2

Held March 2, 2021

- Subjects Covered:
 - 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

A more detailed feedback summary will be available on the DHCS website.



DHCS Peer Information/Contact Us

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> *

**Including brand new FAQs & Listening Session #1 Feedback!*

Submit your feedback:

peers@dhcs.ca.gov