



Peer Support Specialist Certification

PRESENTED TO: CLIENT AND
FAMILY LEADERSHIP
COMMITTEE (CFLC)-10.19.21

California Mental Health Services Authority (CaMHSA)

Introduction

Project Lead

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Project Co-Lead

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A Moment of Acknowledgement

- The California Mental Health Services Authority (CaMHSA) would like to acknowledge the dedication to advocacy by many in the getting Legislation passed for Peer Support Specialist Certification in California.
- Organizations who have trained the current Peers in the workforce today.
- Peers!
- Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

About CalMHSA

California Mental Health Services Authority

- Formed in 2009 through funding from the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) for the purpose of creating a separate public entity to provide administrative and fiscal services in support of its members.
- CalMHSA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of local county or city Mental and/or Behavioral Health Directors from each county to improve behavioral health outcomes for California.
- Statewide initiatives and program you may be familiar with include Each Mind Matters and CalHOPE.

Peer Support Specialist Certification

- Offers an additional pathway for Peers and Peer Supporters
- Offers an additional pathway for federal reimbursement for counties
- Builds on today's peer support work (mutual aid, community-based organizations, county contracted or county run programs)
- Supports workforce development



What's Next with Peer Certification



Legislation
SB 803

DHCS
BHIN 21-041

CaIMHSA

CaMHSA's Role in Peer Certification

- The California Mental Health Services Authority will continue to build on what is already in place.
- Collaborate with the California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations (CAMHPRO) for technical assistance and development of Stakeholder Advisory Council.
- CaMHSA has been identified as the entity who can represent counties in the implementation of a statewide Peer Certification program. Submit an implementation plan to DHCS, on behalf of counties opting into a peer certification program by **November 19, 2021**.

CaMHSa Timeline

OCTOBER 2021

- Community Input Sessions
- Convene Stakeholder Council (this is an ongoing council)
- Start the identification of organizations to provide training

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

- Submit Peer Certification Plan to DHCS (**November 19, 2021**)
- Report back on input session information (peer advocacy groups, counties, CaMHSa website)
- Start the development of exam questions (approx. 6-month process)

January – March 2022

- Input for identification of criteria for curriculum for Specializations (Crisis, Homelessness, Justice Involved)

May-July 2022

- Peer Certification Program Go-Live

Staying Informed

- California Mental Health Services Authority will report out on the information from these session in November-December. The information will be shared through peer advocacy organizations, county systems, CAMHPRO, the Stakeholder Advisory Council and the Department of Healthcare Services websites.
- Current information on the implementation requirements of SB 803 can be found on the Department of Health Care Services website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Peer-Support-Services.aspx>;
- For more information on the roles and responsibilities for county behavioral health agencies, certification programs (county-run or designated certification entity), and Department of Health Care Services in launching and maintaining the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification program https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_BL/Peer-Support-Services/Roles-and-Responsibilities.pdf
- Information on Peer Support Specialist Certification (PSSC) program administered by California Mental Health Services Authority will be available on website (updated as information becomes available: [California Mental Health Services Authority | Peer Certification \(calmhsa.org\)](https://calmhsa.org))
- Questions or comments can be sent to PeerCertification@calmhsa.org

SB803 Community Input Sessions

> LA County Input Sessions:

[October 5 @ 10 AM – 11:30 AM: Session I – Training and Exam](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 12 @ 5:30 PM -7 PM: Session II – Grandparenting](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 20 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Session III – Specializations](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

> Rural counties:

[October 13 @ 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM: Session I – Training and Exam](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 14 @ 10:00 AM- 11:30 AM : Session II – Grandparenting](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 19 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Session III – Specializations](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

> All other counties:

[October 5 @ 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM: Session I – Training and Exam](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 6 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Session I – Training and Exam](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 7 @ 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Session II – Grandparenting](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 12 @ 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Session III – Specializations](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 21 @ 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM: Session II – Grandparenting](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)

[October 26 @ 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM: Session III – Specializations](#)
[Spanish Flyer](#)



THANK YOU

CALIFORNIA MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES
AUTHORITY (CaIMHSA)

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