

Closing Session

General Session: State Peer Certification Bill Update- Shannon McCleerey-Hooper

Working Well Together – Grassroots Peer Support Advocacy Years

Governor Signs Bill 9/25/2020

DHCS Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 21-041

- DHCS to develop state standards for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Programs
 - 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 the process for initial certification
 - Determine curriculum and core competencies required for certification, including areas of specialization
 - Specify peer support specialist employment training requirements
 - Establish a code of ethics
 - Determine a biennial certification renewal process, including continuing education requirements
 - Determine a “grandparenting process” for existing Peer Support Specialists currently certified and providing services
 - Determine a process for investigation of complaints and corrective action
- CalMHSA has been identified as the agency who will be submitting the Peer Certification implementation plan
- Training entities are being vetted by CalMHSA– contracts should be awarded in November 2021
- Peer Support has been classified by DHCS as a specific modality of service, provided by a person with lived experience, trained in the practice of peer support, so there will be specific Medi-Cal billing codes with which Peer Support Specialists will bill – it is unique to peers.
- The examination process has not yet been identified
- More to come