



## TIMELINE OF CALIFORNIA STAKEHOLDER EFFORTS & LEGISLATION FOR STATE CERTIFICATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PEER SPECIALISTS

2011

- California Network of Mental Health Clients (CNMHC) holds 2 regional forums to examine pathways to state certification & monthly teleconferences begin
- Dept of Mental Health (DMH) funds CNMHC<sup>1</sup> to research & gather input on standardization of peer/youth/family/parent support specialist positions (July, 2011 to June 2014)

2012

- Conduct surveys, key informant interviews, monthly stakeholder input webconferences
- First research report released on National and CA Practices.<sup>2</sup>
- 5 regional stakeholder forums held. Forum Findings & Draft Recommendations Report released.<sup>3</sup>
- Four workgroups draft values & ethics, definitions, crosswalk of 16 curricula, & billing research

2013

- Statewide Summit held with over 225 attendees to refine stakeholder recommendations and to vet draft documents developed by workgroups.
- Final Recommendations for State Peer/Youth/Family/Parent Support Specialist<sup>4</sup> Certification and the creation of unique billing for the service and providers.

2014

- Last Report on Engaging State-Level Agencies in Certification of Peer Specialists<sup>5</sup> released
- Peer Certification contract ends. CAMHPRO continues educating CA agencies and stakeholders
- County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) expresses support for State legislation.

2015

- CAMHPRO & stakeholders submit legislative proposal, CBHDA sponsors bill with Senator Leno as author. Bill adopts most of the stakeholder recommendations made. Requires Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS) to administer and create unique billing code for peers.
- Bill passes CA Senate w/o opposition, but stalls in Assembly before last vote, due to DHCS not being aligned with bill.

2016

- CBHDA, DHCS, and key stakeholder organizations negotiate to pass bill. DHCS refuses to create new CA medicaid billing code, as 30+ other states have done & as recommended by US Center for Medicaid in 2007.
- DHCS submits 'technical amendments' to bill, that compromise the intent of the bill and undermine the integrity of genuine peer support services.
- Senator Leno *pulls the bill on recommendations of CBHDA, and consumer family member agencies*

2017

- Stakeholders support options & craft new legislative proposal

1. This contract was under Working Well Together (WWT), a former collaborative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness California (NAMI), United Advocates for Children, and Families (UACF), the California Institute for Mental Health (now CIBHS) and CNMHC for which contracts were transferred to then a partnership of CAMHPRO and Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services (PEERS). The WWT contract ended in June, 2014. CAMHPRO began managing contracts independently in January, 2015. 2. Certification of Consumer, Youth, Family and Parent Providers: A Review of the Research <https://camphro.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/sb614-report-2012.pdf>; 3. Certification of Consumer, Youth, Family and Parent Peer Providers: A Summary of Regional Stakeholder Meeting Findings at <https://camphro.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/sb614-report-june-2012.pdf> 4. Final Report: Recommendations from the Statewide Summit on Certification of Peer Providers at <https://camphro.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/sb614-report-2013.pdf> 5. Certification of Peer Support Specialists in California: Engaging State-Level Agencies, June 2014 at <https://camphro.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/sb614-report-july-2014.pdf>

## Official National & State Certifications\*

- Over 40 States have State Certified Peer Specialist protocols
- 2 States in process of developing State protocol for certifying peers
- Billing Medicaid for Peer Services is the primary impetus
- U.S. Veterans Administration Certifies Peer Specialists
  - Employs over 1,000 Peer Specialists (5 grades)

California's Final Stakeholder Recommendations for State Certification of Consumer, Youth, Family and Parent Peer Support Specialists can be found in the Stakeholder Reports housed on the CAMHPRO website at

<https://camhpro.org/peer-certification-sb614/> or in the last report in Appendix J at <https://camphro.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/sb614-report-july-2014.pdf>.

Below are highlights of the 17 recommendations.

### Stakeholder Recommendation: Certifying Body Function

For each category of peer support specialist: youth, adult, older adult, family of adult, parent of child/youth, the Certifying Body develops

- Formal Definitions, Scope of Practice, Values & Ethics
- Core competencies and standardized training content
- Trainer and training entity qualifications
- Standards for supervision of peer support specialists
- Administers Certification exam
- Certifies training entities throughout the state for trainings that meet competencies, to retain cultural & regional diversity

### Stakeholder Recommendation: Education & Experience

State Certification Training

- 80 hours of training by accredited programs with testing
- Plus 25 optional hours for specialty emphasis
  - whole health, forensics, co-occurring, foster care, etc.
- Continuing Education for re-certification

Experience

- Lived experience with mental health challenges or family
- 6 months as full time peer specialist intern, work or volunteer

### Stakeholder Recommendation--Supervision

- Policy that outlines key qualifications necessary for the Supervision of Peer Support Specialists
- Prefer supervisors have lived experience & expertise in peer support
- Define specific qualities and skills required for the supervision of Peer Specialists, that align with the values and philosophy of peer support

\*Map of Peer Specialist Training and Certification Programs by State, Kaufman, L., Kuhn, W., & Stevens Manser, S. 2016. Peer Specialist Training and Certification Programs: A National Overview. Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin. <https://camphro.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/peer-specialist-training-and-certification-programs-national-overview-2016-update.pdf>. New Mexico *does* have training and certification.

