



**Senate Bill (SB) 823 Provider Webinar Q&A
February 17, 2021**

Link for Webinar Recording - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1689036090811456258>

Q: What happens if you get an ASAM certification above those issued by DHCS?

A: In order to meet SB 823 implementation requirements set forth in Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) No: 21-001, all DHCS licensed alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment (AOD) facilities shall obtain at least one DHCS Level of Care (LOC) Designation or at least one residential ASAM LOC Certification consistent with all of its program services. However, nothing precludes a facility from obtaining both a DHCS LOC Designation and ASAM LOC Certification.

Q: Is the ASAM training offered through DHCS and conducted by University California Los Angeles (UCLA)-Integrated Substance Abuse Programs a certification training?

A: The cost free UCLA trainings and technical assistance offered through DHCS does not result in a certification; however, continuing education credits are available. Additional training and technical assistance opportunities are available on the [DHCS LOC Designation](#) website.

Q: Is there a difference in the timeline from submission to license between the DHCS LOC designation and the ASAM LOC certification?

A: Please refer to [BHIN No: 21-001](#) for information regarding timeline submission of DHCS LOC Designation(s) and attestations to opt for ASAM/CARF Certification(s). For additional information regarding ASAM/CARF LOC Certification(s), contact [ASAM/CARF](#) directly for certification process.

Q: If a facility plans on offering detoxification services and is interested in obtaining the CARF certification (which does not include a Level 3.2-Withdrawal Management (WM) designation option), would the program be required to pursue the DHCS Level 3.2-WM designation to comply with the requirements of SB 823?

A: Yes, the DHCS licensed AOD facility with detoxification services will need to apply for DHCS Level 3.2-WM designation to be consistent with all the program services offered in the facility. ASAM LOC Certifications do not currently include Level 3.2-WM.

Q: Is DHCS working in conjunction with ASAM to coordinate these efforts?

A: DHCS and ASAM have been in communication over the past year in regards to California's implementation of SB 823. DHCS LOC Designations are not equivalent to or affiliated with the ASAM LOC Certifications developed by ASAM. An approval for a DHCS LOC Designation does not guarantee eligibility for an ASAM LOC Certification. However, an approved residential ASAM LOC Certification is sufficient to meet the DHCS requirement. Licensees must directly contact [ASAM/CARF](#) to obtain information regarding its certification process and requirements to obtain ASAM LOC Certification. Questions regarding this DHCS LOC Designations should be directed to the Licensing and Certification Division at LCDLOCDesig@dhcs.ca.gov.

Q: Since DHCS doesn't recognize PHP (day treatment) anymore. What will be done about the facilities that are ASAM 2.5?

A: DHCS is providing LOC designations to licensed AOD facilities under DHCS purview as required by SB 823. DHCS is approving Levels 3.1, 3.2-WM, 3.3, and/or 3.5, depending on the services provided within the AOD facility.

Q: Does SB 823 requirements apply to CDRHs that provide Withdrawal Management LOC 3.7/4.0?

A: SB 823 implementation is specific to DHCS licensed AOD facilities. At this time, DHCS is only approving Levels 3.1, 3.2-WM, 3.3, and/or 3.5, depending on the services provided in the facility.