

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council  
Workforce and Employment Committee  
Wednesday, June 16, 2021 (Tab amended on 6/15/21)**

**Agenda Item:** Discussion of DHCS Recommendations Re: Peer Specialist Certification

**Enclosures:** [April 2021 Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#)

[Presentation](#) (slides 13-42)

[Medi-Cal Code of Ethics for Peer Support Specialists in California](#)

WEC Peer Support Specialist Recommendation Letter #1

WEC Peer Support Specialist Recommendation Letter #2

**How This Agenda Item Relates to Council Mission**

*To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.*

This agenda item provides committee members with the opportunity to review and comment on the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) initial policy recommendations for statewide Peer Support Specialist Certification in California.

**WEC Work Plan:** This agenda item corresponds to WEC Work Plan Strategic Goals 1.0 and 2.0

**Strategic Goal 1.0:** Provide leadership and collaborate with other stakeholders to support the growth and quality of California's behavioral health workforce, reduce the workforce shortage and build sustained mechanism for ongoing workforce education and training to insure a recovery-oriented workforce.

**Strategic Goal 2.0:** Ensure through advocacy that any California mental health consumer who wants to work or be self-employed has minimal barriers and timely access to employment support services and pre-employment services across the lifespan to secure and retain a job or career of choice.

**Background/Description:**

The WEC developed recommendations for the design and implementation of the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program during the DHCS stakeholder process in March 2021. DHCS provided initial recommendations based on stakeholder feedback during the April 2021 Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee (BH-SAC) meeting. Committee members will engage in the following tasks:

- 1) Discuss areas of potential opposition or concern from DHCS' initial recommendations for the Peer Certification Program
- 2) Identify any WEC policy recommendations for peer certification that may have been misrepresented or misunderstood by DHCS and provide written clarification
- 3) Review and provide input on the Medi-Cal Code of Ethics for Peer Support Specialists