

CALIFORNIA PEER SUPPORT COALITION

The CA Peer Support Coalition is a newly formed statewide collaboration of consumer-run and consumer-led peer support organizations. We came together under the leadership of the CA Network of Mental Health Clients to address the opportunity to insert peer support language into the California State Plan Amendment for the MediCal 1915b Waiver.

Representatives from over 30 organizations met in both Southern and Northern CA to discuss our current practices in delivering Peer Support in California, and to further our quest for autonomy for Peer Support Specialists and Peer Run Organizations in CA. We spent time working together to brainstorm the benefits of working together in a Statewide Peer Support Coalition and our vision for the future of Peer Support in CA. We identified both the excellent services we are providing now, and services we may want to provide in the future. We reviewed other state's Medicaid plans to identify key language and definitions, (for the development of our own unique definition of both an individual Peer Support Specialist and a Peer Support Organization). In addition, we looked for descriptive phrases that reflect our values and practices, and took note of how services are billed in other states.

Our coalition formed three workgroups for ongoing collaboration:

- Language/Definitions Workgroup to define terms to ensure shared understanding of language and terms used in our Peer Support proposal
- Research Workgroup to explore practical application of Peer Support Medicaid plans in other states
- Conveners Workgroup: a leadership group to plan next steps for the Coalition as we move forward with work to strengthen funding and infrastructure for Peer Support as we approach the task of certification of Peer Support Training within the state of California

We are committed to maintaining and building peer support programs, especially as funding streams change and the integration of behavioral healthcare with primary is implemented. If you know of a consumer-run peer support organization that is not currently participating in our coalition, please have them contact us!

Peer Support saves lives! Nothing about us without us!

Our Goals for the initial meeting were to:

- ✚ Outline our definition of Peer Support
- ✚ Define what services can be funded by MediCal
- ✚ Help shape the language for our statewide proposal to fund Peer Support

CALIFORNIA NETWORK *of* MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS

Reaching Across Our Regions



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