



Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC) Teleconference Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 | Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MHSOAC

**1325 J Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, CA 95814**

****DRAFT****

Committee Members:

Staff:

Other Attendees:

Reneeta Anthony, Chair Khatera Tamplen Tina Wooton Andrea Crook Eve Eichwald Jean Marie Harris Richard Krzyzanowski Sally Mandujan Geoff McLennan Hector Ramirez Elizabeth R. Stone Ruth Tiscareno Sharon Yates	Kayla Landry Tom Orrock Norma Pate Lester Robancho Filomena Yeroshek	Richard Gallo Karin Lettau Michael Lim Anna Lubarov Steve McNally Keris Myrick Tom Steel Sally Zinman
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Committee members absent: Mayra Alvarez, Chris Barton, Crystal Harper, Pete Lafollette, and Darlene Prettyman

Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

Commissioner Reneeta Anthony, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She asked everyone to introduce themselves. She reviewed the meeting protocols.

Tom Orrock, Chief of Stakeholder Engagement and Commission Grants, called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Agenda Item 1: Action - Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Anthony asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the November 20, 2019, CFLC meeting.

Andrea Crook made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Hector Ramirez.

Vote recorded with participating members as follows:

- Approve: Commissioner Reneeta Anthony, Andrea Crook, Eve Eichwald, Jean Marie Harris, Richard Krzyzanowski, Geoff McLennan, Hector Ramirez, Elizabeth R. Stone, Ruth Tiscareno, and Sharon Yates
- Abstain: Sally Mandujan

Agenda Item 2: Information - Supporting Peers in the Mental Health Workforce

Chair Anthony stated the Committee will discuss strategies to increase support for peers in California's mental health workforce and will consider developing a strategy to support peers and peer providers to be presented to the Commission for approval.

Commissioners Khatera Tamplen and Tina Wooton provided information about past efforts to support peer certification.

Chair Anthony asked Sally Zinman to discuss Senate Bill (SB) 803, mental health services: peer support specialist certification.

Sally Zinman, Executive Director, California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations (CAMHPRO), summarized the technical changes made to SB 803 as of July 27th, which were included in the Fact Sheet in the meeting packet. She noted that the state cost, which has been a barrier in former iterations of the bill, has been removed. She stated SB 803 will validate that peers are a significant part of the mental health workforce.

Discussion

Mr. Krzyzanowski stated the amendments to SB 803 were an intelligent compromise recognizing that financially-related barriers have led to vetoes of past iterations. He stated the amendment gives up a state mandate for SB 803 to be implemented across all counties and mental health entities in California. The amendment allows counties to choose to implement it.

Mr. Krzyzanowski noted that many counties support SB 803 and will opt in. This is a step in the right direction for standardization, curriculum, and certification on the books. As counties implement, they will demonstrate how peer certification can succeed and be practical in a variety of situations. This will be a platform for further extension of SB 803 and acceptance by more counties.

Mr. Ramirez stated the need to ensure that the stakeholder voice is a part of the process.

Ms. Eichwald suggested that the Commission and this Committee assist rural counties that lack services and providers to leverage peers to help them better understand the importance of peer certification to improve the system of care.

Ms. Stone asked about the varying participation percentages.

Executive Director Ewing stated there are two parts: federal and non-federal participation. The first question is the percentage of funds that are covered by the federal government, which ranges from 50 to 90 percent depending on the program and eligibility. He stated the second question is who will pay the non-federal cost. Most non-federal mental health costs are paid solely by the counties as directed in the 1991 and 2011 Realignment plans.

Executive Director Ewing stated there is tremendous support for the establishment of peer certification. The primary issue of SB 803 is the billing feature and who will pay the non-federal share.

Tom Steel posted his email address in the chat section and offered to add individuals who respond to the LISTSERV for SB 803.

Ms. Stone asked about the training entity.

Public Comment

Sally Zinman answered Ms. Stone's question by stating the certifying body is not designated in the bill. It will be selected during the implementation phase.

Anna Lubarov stated training and unified certification will be a process. Each group does things their own way. Finding the information and connecting the dots is difficult. Something needs to be created that is unified. Seasoned peer workers need to be involved in that. She volunteered to help.

Discussion, continued

Ms. Harris stated the concern that consumers who are collecting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are often afraid to get more information about becoming employed as peer support specialists because they think it will affect their benefits. She stated the need to educate consumers on how being employed as a peer support specialist would affect their benefits and how that system works.

Ms. Harris asked if there are provisions in the employment opportunities in different counties for supported employment to have the ability to take mental health days without adversely affecting consumer employment status.

Chair Anthony stated the Social Security Administration, the entity that handles issues about SSI, does presentations about their employment program.

Commissioner Wooton stated the Department of Rehabilitation can also help.

Ms. Tiscareno stated Los Angeles has a 10-day parent peer academy. She agreed that the funding is confusing since it has to do with Medi-Cal. Parent partners or advocates who are employed are mostly part of crisis programs. Peer certification will help highlight true peers. She suggested seeing where to truly support providers to understand who a peer is, what they do, and how they can do this.

Chair Anthony stated more information will be available on SB 803 by the next Committee meeting. She suggested continuing the discussion on how peers can be supported.

Public Comment

Karin Lettau, Director of Training and Employment, CAMHPRO, stated stakeholders made 17 recommendations that were vetted by thousands of Californians. The recommendation on training was that there be multiple training entities to reflect the regional diversities and that the training content be standardized. The speaker stated their understanding that the certifying body would be the entity to certify the trainings. The speaker encouraged everyone to participate in CAMHPRO's Peer Workforce Committee meeting, which is held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Michael Lim asked why the governor's veto for the last iteration of this bill was not overridden by the Legislature. The speaker asked if a cost benefit analysis has been done in terms of applying the potential cost savings to the cost of implementing the SB 803 program.

Michael Lim stated SB 855, health coverage: mental health or substance use disorders, will expand the mental health parity bill. There was a CalMatters article on the fact that there are many individuals moving from private insurance to Medi-Cal because of Medi-Cal's better coverage in mental health services. Expanding the parity bill would help many families.

Steve McNally agreed with building the financial case for peers. The speaker suggested that the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) show the number of peers who are currently employed in each county and what the projections could be, and the federal fund participation rates for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which varies dramatically by county. The speaker also suggested that the CBHDA learn how Realignment funding is being spent since that is part of the reimbursement. The county community planning process needs to be improved as it would solve many issues being discussed.

Richard Gallo, consumer and advocate, suggested doing a survey to discover gaps including wages and to consider all groups of peer counseling such as senior and youth programs. The speaker recommended the website www.db101.org for calculators and information about impacts on benefits.

Discussion, continued

Commissioner Wooton stated, along with federal entities that do training for peer certification such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Mental Health America, and others, CAMHPRO has done Working Well Together, a California assessment-type training, and Cal Voices has done Wise University statewide.

Commissioner Wooton stated working in the system or working for contractors still has underlying stigma and discrimination that happen to peers, family members, and parent partners in the workplace. She stated the need to think about the workplace and how things affect peers who are working in the system. She suggested adding stigma and discrimination to the list of strategies.

Commissioner Wooton stated peers are employed in agencies such as the Indian Health Centers and as promotoras and different positions outside of the system. These peers bring

a wealth of diversity to the system even though they are not employed in the system. They should also be considered.

Chair Anthony asked what this Committee can do to support workers acting in the peer designation in the workforce no matter what their capacity.

Mr. Orrock stated the Committee can support peers by ensuring they are paid appropriately, that workplaces feel safe for peers, and that there is appropriate training available so peers can meet the core competencies listed in the SAMHSA document, which was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Orrock stated there are a number of strategies that this Committee could discuss besides peer certification. He stated the need to narrow those strategies and identify what is currently needed in the mental health workforce.

Public Comment

Keris Myrick, Chief Executive Officer and President, Project Return Peer Support Network, stated feedback from past peer certification bills is that the Legislature is concerned about what happens in the current budget not about the savings seen in out years. The speaker stated they can provide a document of the various things that have been done and the technical assistance that has been provided to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Department of Finance (DOF), which are major players in how this peer certification bill moves forward.

Chair Anthony asked Keris Myrick to send that information to staff to post on the website.

Anna Lubarov agreed that stigma is a major issue and looked forward to a robust discussion on that at the next Committee meeting. The speaker suggested supporting peer workers by creating a statewide network to support working consumers, creating a warmline for individuals to call to discuss their employment issues, and sending a survey to everyone currently working and asking how to support them. The speaker stated benefit support is crucial. The speaker suggested including part-time jobs because not everyone can work full-time.

Andrea Crook suggested a discussion on Committee priorities at the next meeting.

Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Chair Anthony discussed future meeting dates. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.