



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor



WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

RICHARD VAN HORN
Chair

August 15, 2014

DAVID PATING, M.D.
Vice Chair

WILLIAM BROWN
Sheriff
Commissioner

Ms. Monica Wilson, Chair
California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC)
P O Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

VICTOR G. CARRION, M.D.
Commissioner

LOU CORREA
Senator
Commissioner

Dear Chair Wilson,

DAVID GORDON
Commissioner

On behalf of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), I would like to convey the Commission's enthusiastic support for your efforts to move forward with discussions about a statewide certification process for peer service providers that includes clients, family members, parents and/or caregivers.

PAUL KEITH, M.D.
Commissioner

BONNIE LOWENTHAL
Assemblymember
Commissioner

Your intent to develop a road map that will identify necessary next steps to implement Peer Certification in California is a critical step necessary to move this vital issue forward. The MHSOAC applauds the California Mental Health Planning Council for initiating this process and including the various state partners necessary to make this a reality.

LEEANNE MALLEL
Commissioner

RALPH NELSON, M.D.
Commissioner

We know that the inclusion of persons with lived experience in the provision of care can be critical in helping persons with mental illness move toward recovery. To date the Commission has conducted MHSOAC Community Forums throughout California that have involved more than 1,500 participants. When asked about the most effective service strategies to come out of the MHSOAC, the availability of peer service providers is consistently identified. A priority identified in the MHSOAC's 2014 Work Plan is to exercise an active role in policy development, including endorsing and promoting strategies that will positively transform California's public mental health system. The MHSOAC views statewide certification for Peer Specialists as a transformative strategy that will improve the care, services and outcomes for persons with mental illness.

LARRY POASTER, PhD
Commissioner

ANDREW POAT
Commissioner

TINA WOOTON
Commissioner

SHERRI GAUGER
Interim Executive Director

The Commission will continue to support these efforts through discussion and participation with other essential partners in the Planning Council's process to identify the steps necessary to implement statewide Peer Certification. The Commission also looks forward to a discussion about the various roles each entity might play in the design, implementation and administration of a statewide Peer certification process for persons with lived experience of mental illness.

Ms. Monica Wilson
Page Two

Again, we thank you for your willingness to facilitate complicated discussions about what it will take to accomplish statewide peer certification. We know that the successful implementation of such a statewide process will improve individual and system outcomes for persons with mental illness by increasing opportunities for persons with lived experience of mental illness to provide peer support throughout California's mental health system.

Sincerely,

RICHARD VAN HORN,
Chair
Mental Health Services
Oversight and Accountability Commission

cc: Jane Adcock, Executive Director, CMHPC
Client and Family Leadership Committee Members
Lupe Alonzo-Diaz, Deputy Director, Healthcare Workforce Development Division
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development