



Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC): Approve Letter to the California Mental Health Planning Council to Support Peer Certification

Presented by: CFLC Chair Ralph E. Nelson Jr., M.D.
and CFLC Vice-Chair Tina Wooton
October 23, 2014



CFLC Committee

- As a 2014 Charter activity, the CFLC will develop strategies for the promotion of client and family employment in the mental health system and provide information to the MHSOAC in support of statewide peer certification.
- The Charter activity resulted from a priority identified in the 2014 MHSOAC Work Plan to exercise an active leadership role in policy development and endorse and promote strategies that transform the mental health system. One of these strategies is to seek to have Peer Certification move forward.
- The CFLC is recommending that the MHSOAC send a letter of support to the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) enjoining their efforts to move Peer Certification forward.



CMHPC efforts for Peer Certification

- The Peer Specialist Certification effort has been an issue that the CMHPC voted to champion at their October 2013 meeting.
- The CMHPC held a follow-up meeting on May 2, 2014 to gather individuals/groups who have been working on the Peer Certification process in order for them to share the work they had completed.
- Individuals at the meeting agreed that the next step to mapping out the Peer Certification process is to invite a larger group of stakeholders to develop a work plan to formalize how to accomplish Peer Certification.



CMHPC efforts for Peer Certification (Cont'd)

- At the follow-up meeting on July 1, 2014, suggested avenues for achieving Peer Certification were identified by the larger group of stakeholders and are enumerated as follows:
 - State Law recognition – A possible legislative proposal and an author to support the Peer Certification effort needs to be identified.
 - Program Oversight Body – needs to be identified that must have a peer connection to administer funds, issue local level contracts for training programs and administering the certification, including the examination and curriculum development processes; and,
 - Secure a funding source for contracts and administration.



What are Peer Specialists?

- Peer specialists may include any of the following who are functioning in positions specifically to provide services as a peer provider:
 - Clients with lived experience
 - Family members or parents of minor children with lived experience



Support for Using Peer Specialists

- Statewide Peer Certification is intended to standardize training requirements for Peer Specialists throughout CA.
- 31 other states have already implemented peer specialists as an essential service component in the public behavioral health system.
- There is a growing demand for a statewide structure to promote peer-provided recovery services in CA.
- Multiple studies have demonstrated that Peer Specialists are effective in improving recovery outcomes and are cost effective.
- Relationships are key between clients and Peer Specialists. Recovery often takes place when there are relationships with peers who believe in an individual's potential to recover.
- Now is the time, with the Affordable Healthcare Act, to provide “better services/outcomes, and lower cost”.



Findings from MHSA Community Forums regarding Peer Services

Peer employment has been consistently identified at the MHSA Community Forums as one of the most effective service strategies since implementation of the MHSA.

- ◆ Clients continue to feel they can identify with peers who have lived experience.
- ◆ County staff stated that hiring peers had positively changed how counties operate.



Development of MHSOAC 2015 Work Plan

As the MHSOAC develops the 2015 Work Plan, the importance of including transformative strategies for opportunities to improve the care, services and outcomes for persons with mental illness will be endorsed and promoted, including the employment of clients, family members and parents with lived experience working as Peer Specialists.

The Mental Health Services Act identifies the promotion of the employment of mental health consumers and family members in the mental health system as a required component of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's Five Year Plan for Workforce, Education and Training.



Development of MHISOAC 2015 Work Plan (Cont'd)

- There is a need to pull together all government entities that may have an interest in designing the implementation and administration of a statewide Peer Certification process.
- As roles and responsibilities are identified to accomplish statewide Peer Certification, the MHISOAC is interested in having an active role in the process.



Motion

Motion:

The Commission endorses the letter of support to the CMHPC regarding Peer Certification

