

---

# AGENDA ITEM 6A

**Action**

**October 23, 2014 Commission Meeting**

**Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC): Approve letter to the California Mental Health Planning Council to support Peer Certification**

---

**Summary:** The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC) Chaired by Ralph E. Nelson Jr., M.D., and Vice-Chair Tina Wooton will present a draft letter in support of the California Mental Health Planning Council's (CMHPC) efforts regarding Peer Certification. The letter is being presented to the Commission for approval and is addressed on behalf of the MHSOAC Chair, Richard Van Horn, for transmittal to the CMHPC Chair, Monica Wilson.

A priority identified in the MHSOAC 2014 Work Plan is to exercise an active role in policy development, including endorsing and promoting strategies that will positively transform our public mental health system. Consistent with the 2014 Work Plan, the CFLC Charter includes developing strategies for promotion of client and family member employment in the mental health system. A transformative strategy that will improve the employment for persons with mental illness is a statewide certification for Peer Specialists. Multiple studies have shown the effectiveness that peer support provides and recovery outcomes are greatly improved when Peer Specialists are available to persons seeking support. The CMHPC is facilitating a process to engineer a roadmap regarding what steps are necessary to implement Peer Certification in California.

The Commission will be presented with an outline of activities focused on Peer Certification that demonstrates the value of peers in client engagement and services.

**Enclosure:** Letter from the MHSOAC Chair to the Chair of the CMHPC

**Handouts:** Power Point will be made available at the meeting.

**Recommended Action:** The MHSOAC accepts the letter recommended by the CFLC to support the efforts of the CMHPC regarding Peer Certification.

**Presenters:** Commissioner Ralph E. Nelson, Jr., M.D., Chair, CFLC, and Tina Wooton, Vice-Chair, CFLC.

**Motion:** The Commission endorses the letter of support to the CMHPC regarding Peer Certification efforts.