

**Peer, Parent, Transition-Age,  
and Family Support Specialist  
Certification: SB 614 (Leno)**

**Presentation to the MHSOAC  
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# SB 614 (Leno)

- SB 614 establishes a Peer, Parent, Transition-Age, and Family Support Specialist Certification Program to be administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

# SB 614 (Leno)

- Establishes a standard of practice;
- Legitimizes the role by establishing recognized standards of practice and a code of ethics;
- Provides peer support employees with a professional voice;
- Qualifies services for federal financial participation of at least 50%; and
- Allows for portability from one county to another.

# California is Lagging Behind

- The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs and more than 34 states have already established programs for the certification of peers.
- The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid released guidance in 2007 for establishing a certification program for peers.

# Peer Support is an Evidence Based Practice

- Studies demonstrate that peer support specialists reduce hospitalizations and hospital days, improve client functioning, increase client satisfaction, reduce family concerns, alleviate depression and other symptoms, and enhance client self-advocacy.

# Peer Support Offers Tremendous Benefits

- Peers can be used as health-care navigators to facilitate access to needed services;
- Peer assistance improves treatment outcomes, and service treatment efficiency;
- Peers can facilitate integration and coordination of services across mental health and health care sectors; and
- Peers offer a strong ability to diversify and extend the mental health workforce.

# Wide Range of Support

- **Alameda County Network of Mental Health Clients**
- **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO**
- **California Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry**
- **California Alliance of Child and Family Services**
- **California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc. (CAADPE)**
- **California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations (CAMHPRO)**
- **California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems**
- **California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA)**
- **California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH)**
- **California Healthcare Districts (ACHD)**
- **California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies**
- **California Mental Health Planning Council**
- **California Mental Health Services Authority CalMHSA**
- **California State Association of Counties (CSAC)**
- **Common Sense Kids Action**
- **County of Kern, Department of Mental Health**
- **County of Sacramento**
- **County of Los Angeles**
- **County Welfare Directors Association of California**
- **Disability Rights California**
- **Mental Health America of California**
- **Mental Health America of Los Angeles**
- **Mental Health Association of San Francisco**
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California**
- **National Association of Social Workers-California Chapter**
- **NorCal Mental Health America of Northern California**
- **Pacific Clinics**
- **Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services (PEERS)**
- **Project Return Peer Support Network**
- **Public Policy Committee of the Pool of Consumer Champions (POCC)**
- **Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO)**
- **San Bernardino County**
- **SEIU California**
- **Steinberg Institute**
- **Telecare Corporation**
- **United Advocates For Children and Family**
- **Urban Counties Caucus**
- **Western Center on Law and Poverty**

# SB 614 (Leno)

- SB 614 makes sense from both a policy and fiscal perspective and can serve to provide more comprehensive assistance to people in need.
- This measure has passed the Assembly and Senate unanimously

# Contact Information

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