

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification

Behavioral Health Advisory Board
November 30, 2022



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1

Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- Certification Process
- In Orange County
- Looking Ahead

2

2

Prior to today...

- **Sept 2020** – Gov. Newsom signs SB-803, to enact into law starting in 2021
- **Jan 2021 to Jun 2021** – DHCS hosts listening sessions to establish guidelines
- **July 2021** – BHIN on PSS Certification program standards issued
- **Nov 2021** – CalMHSA submits implementation plan to DHCS
- **Mar 2022 to June 2022** – DHCS presented on implementation for DMC/SMHS
- **May 2022** – CalMHSA launches certification website, allocates scholarships
- **Oct 2022** – Early test takers take certification exam

3

3

Important things to remember

County Opt-in

Gov. Newsom signed SB-803 once revisions were made to not burden State budget and therefore it became a County-by-County opt-in program.

List of participating Counties can be found on DHCS website.

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist

PSS becomes a new provider type that can provide distinct set of services under Medi-Cal.

OC has opted into implementation for both DMC-ODS and SMHS.

Certifying entity and representing entity: CalMHSA

CalMHSA has been identified as State's certifying entity responsible for certification, examination and enforcement of professional standards.

Currently, OC and most counties are being represented by CalMHSA.

4

4

Minimum Qualifications

1. Be at least 18 years of age
2. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent degree
3. Self-identify as having experience with the process of recovery from a mental illness or substance use disorder, either as a consumer of these services or as the parent, caregiver or family member of one
4. Be willing to share their experience as a person with lived experience
5. Have a strong dedication to recovery
6. Agree, in writing, to adhere to the DHCS PSS Code of Ethics
7. Successfully complete the training requirements for a peer support specialist
8. Pass the certification examination

5

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Grandparenting Requirements

Individuals currently employed in a peer role can get grandparented if they meet these additional requirements:

1. Be employed as a peer specialist as of January 1, 2022
2. Have 1550 hours as peer specialist in 1 year or 1550 hours in 3 years, with 500 hours completed within the last 12 months
3. Completed 20 hours of CE in the last 2 years, including 6 hours in law and ethics
4. Completed a Peer training
5. Provide three letters of recommendation from supervisor, colleague/ professional, and one self-recommendation

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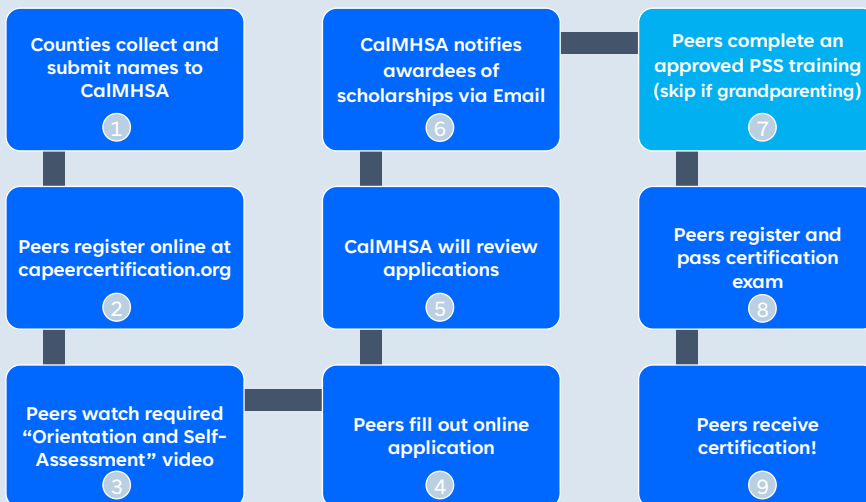
Certification Scholarships

- Issued by DHCS, scholarships covers **fees** for: **application, training and exam**
- Currently intended for County peer workforce recommended by County
- 5000 Statewide scholarships, 336 allocated for Orange County
- Nov 30, 2022 – Deadline for Counties to submit recommendations
- Dec 31, 2022 – Deadline to submit application for peers
- Awardees have 12-months to use scholarship before expiration

7

7

Path to Certification via Scholarship



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In Orange County

- OC Peer workforce of 200+ across MHRS
- Peer workforce trained by CalMHSA certified training vendor/curriculum
- Certification encouraged for all peers
- MHRS collecting & submitting scholarship recommendations since May

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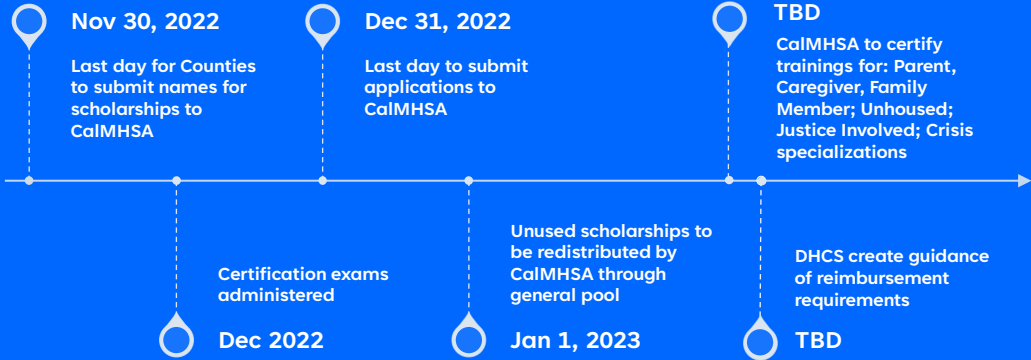
In Orange County

- Announced scholarship and deadline reminders
- Certification exam prep courses at REI
- 138 OC peers recommended for scholarships currently
- Certification and peer career ladder

10

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Looking Ahead



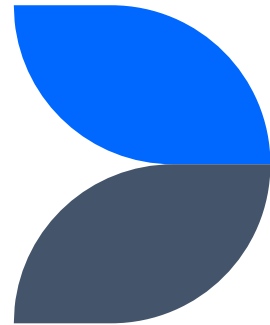
Helpful Links

CalMHSA Peer Certification Website:

www.capecertification.org

DHCS Peer Support Services Website:

www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Peer-Support-Services.aspx



Thank you!

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