

CAMHPRO's Peer Empowerment Partnership (PEP)

PEP is a state-wide effort to support the roll-out of SB803 in a way that honors and amplifies the peer perspective, breaks down stigma, and prepares peers, providers, and managers throughout the state to value and embrace peer support as a mental health and substance use treatment profession.

Goal: To ensure that the peer perspective infuses and influences the expansion of the peer support specialist workforce, both locally and throughout the State of California. As much as possible, the peer perspective will be communicated by members of the peer community, on a statewide and local level. Peers will be the voice carrying the peer message and collaborating with the county and state leads on peer support specialists in the workforce. By bringing peers across the state to the table in dialogue with policy leaders, we not only shape the expanding peer support specialist workforce but also build longer-term relationships and break down stigma.

Local Outreach

- Local Trainers will support efforts to empower local peers who will influence their mental health/substance use systems through activity in local board meetings, stakeholder groups, and other efforts
3-5 Local Trainers in various locations around California will support 1-2 regions each (depending on part-time or full-time status)
- Local trainers will support local/regional peer groups to promote the voices of peers in their respective county's peer certification implementation
- Focus will be on outreaching and bringing to the table underrepresented and unrepresented peers from marginalized communities

State-Wide Outreach: Partnership

- Partner with California Mental Health Services Agency (CalMHSA) to maximize the peer voice in the implementation of peer certification
- Partner with Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) to maximize the peer voice in the development of their guidelines and principles

Substance Use

- Support the formation of a state-wide substance use advisory group to provide meaningful input regarding substance use services and the specific needs of substance use peers
- Guided by the advisory board's expertise, support a plan for services and advocacy that will meet the needs of people with substance use challenges

Training/Technical Assistance

- Provide training and technical assistance to DHCS-funded peer organizations and groups on peer certification implementations issues
- Provide trainings across the state—often in partnership with DHCS, CalMHSA and other partner agencies—to update peers and providers on the status of the roll-out of peer certification
- Provide advocacy trainings for local peer groups when requested

In all activities, ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the forefront of CAMHPRO's efforts, with special care to reach out to and amplify the voices of unserved, underserved, and marginalized populations who are eligible for or served by the public behavioral health system.