

**Introduced by Senator Beall**

December 3, 2018

---

An act to add Article 1.4 (commencing with Section 14045.10) to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 10, as introduced, Beall. Mental health services: peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income persons receive health care benefits. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid provisions. Existing law provides for a schedule of benefits under the Medi-Cal program and provides for various services, including various behavioral and mental health services.

Existing law, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), an initiative measure enacted by the voters as Proposition 63 at the November 2, 2004, statewide general election, establishes the continuously appropriated Mental Health Services Fund to fund various county mental health programs. The act also requires funds to be reserved for the costs of the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Mental Health Planning Council, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, the State Department of Public Health, and any other state agency to implement all duties pursuant to certain programs provided for by the act, subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act. The act provides that it may be amended by the Legislature by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of each house as long as the amendment is consistent with,

and furthers the intent of, the act, and that the Legislature may also clarify procedures and terms of the act by majority vote.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services to establish, no later than July 1, 2020, a statewide peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification program, as a part of the state's comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder delivery system and the Medi-Cal program. The bill would include 4 certification categories: adult peer support specialist, transition-age youth peer support specialist, family peer support specialist, and parent peer support specialist. The certification program's components would include, among others, defining responsibilities and practice guidelines, determining curriculum and core competencies, specifying training and continuing education requirements, establishing a code of ethics, and determining a certification revocation process. The bill would require an applicant for the certification as a peer, parent, transition-age, or family support specialist to meet specified requirements, including successful completion of the curriculum and training requirements.

This bill would require the department to consult with OSHPD and other stakeholders in implementing the certification program, including requiring quarterly stakeholder meetings. The bill would authorize the department to use funding provided through the MHSA, upon appropriation, to develop and administer the certification program, and would authorize the use of these MHSA funds to serve as the state's share of funding to claim federal financial participation under the Medicaid Program.

This bill would authorize the department to establish a certification fee schedule and to require remittance of fees as contained in the schedule, for the purpose of supporting the department's activities associated with the ongoing administration of the certification program.

This bill would require Medi-Cal reimbursement for peer support specialist services to be implemented only if, and to the extent that, federal financial participation is available and the department obtains all necessary federal approvals. The bill also would authorize the department to implement, interpret, or make specific its provisions by means of informational notices, plan letters, plan or provider bulletins, or similar instructions, without taking regulatory action, until regulations are adopted. The bill would require the department to adopt regulations by July 1, 2022, and, commencing July 1, 2020, would require the

department to provide semiannual status reports to the Legislature until regulations have been adopted.

This bill would declare that it clarifies terms and procedures under the Mental Health Services Act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Article 1.4 (commencing with Section 14045.10)  
2     is added to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and  
3     Institutions Code, to read:

4  
5     Article 1.4. Peer, Parent, Transition-Age, and Family Support  
6             Specialist Certification Program  
7

8     14045.10. This article shall be known, and may be cited, as  
9     the Peer, Parent, Transition-Age, and Family Support Specialist  
10    Certification Act of 2019.

11    14045.11. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
12    following:

13    (a) With the enactment of the Mental Health Services Act in  
14    2004, support to include peer providers identified as consumers,  
15    parents, and family members for the provision of services has been  
16    on the rise.

17    (b) There are over 6,000 peer providers in California who  
18    provide individualized support, coaching, facilitation, and  
19    education to clients with mental health care needs and substance  
20    use disorder, in a variety of settings, yet no statewide scope of  
21    practice, standardized curriculum, training standards, supervision  
22    standards, or certification protocol is available.

23    (c) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and over  
24    30 states utilize standardized curricula and certification protocols  
25    for peer support services.

26    (d) The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
27    (CMS) recognizes that the experiences of peer support specialists,  
28    as part of an evidence-based model of care, can be an important  
29    component in a state's delivery of effective mental health and  
30    substance use disorder treatment. The CMS encourages states to  
31    offer comprehensive programs.

1 (e) A substantial number of research studies demonstrate that  
2 peer supports improve client functioning, increase client  
3 satisfaction, reduce family burden, alleviate depression and other  
4 symptoms, reduce hospitalizations and hospital days, increase  
5 client activation, and enhance client self-advocacy.

6 (f) Certification can encourage an increase in the number,  
7 diversity, and availability of peer support specialists.

8 14045.12. It is the intent of the Legislature that the peer, parent,  
9 transition-age, and family support specialist certification program,  
10 established under this article, achieve all of the following:

11 (a) Support the ongoing provision of services for beneficiaries  
12 experiencing mental health care needs, substance use disorder  
13 needs, or both by certified peer support specialists.

14 (b) Support coaching, linkage, and skill building of beneficiaries  
15 with mental health needs, substance use disorder needs, or both,  
16 and to families or significant support persons.

17 (c) Increase family support by building on the strengths of  
18 families and helping them achieve a better understanding of mental  
19 illness in order to help beneficiaries achieve desired outcomes.

20 (d) Provide part of a continuum of services, in conjunction with  
21 other community mental health services and other substance use  
22 disorder treatment.

23 (e) Collaborate with others providing care or support to the  
24 beneficiary or family.

25 (f) Assist parents, families, and beneficiaries in developing  
26 coping mechanisms and problem-solving skills in order to help  
27 beneficiaries achieve desired outcomes.

28 (g) Promote skill building for beneficiaries in the areas of  
29 socialization, recovery, self-sufficiency, self-advocacy,  
30 development of natural supports, and maintenance of skills learned  
31 in other support services.

32 (h) Encourage employment under the peer, parent, transition-age,  
33 and family support specialist certification to reflect the culture,  
34 ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health service  
35 experiences, and substance use disorder experiences of the people  
36 whom they serve.

37 14045.13. For purposes of this article, the following definitions  
38 shall apply:

39 (a) “Adult peer support specialist” means a person who is 18  
40 years of age or older and who has self-identified as having lived

1 experience of recovery from mental illness, substance use disorder,  
2 or both, and the skills learned in formal training to deliver peer  
3 support services in a behavioral setting to promote mind-body  
4 recovery and resiliency for adults.

5 (b) “Certification” means the activities of the certifying body  
6 related to the verification that an individual has met all of the  
7 requirements under this article and that the individual may provide  
8 mental health services and substance use disorder treatment  
9 pursuant to this article.

10 (c) “Certified” means all federal and state requirements have  
11 been satisfied by an individual who is seeking designation under  
12 this article, including completion of curriculum and training  
13 requirements, testing, and agreement to uphold and abide by the  
14 code of ethics.

15 (d) “Code of ethics” means the standards to which a peer support  
16 specialist is required to adhere.

17 (e) “Core competencies” are the foundational and essential  
18 knowledge, skills, and abilities required for peer specialists.

19 (f) “Cultural competence” means a set of congruent behaviors,  
20 attitudes, and policies that come together in a system or agency  
21 that enables that system or agency to work effectively in  
22 cross-cultural situations. A culturally competent system of care  
23 acknowledges and incorporates, at all levels, the importance of  
24 language and culture, intersecting identities, assessment of  
25 cross-cultural relations, knowledge and acceptance of dynamics  
26 of cultural differences, expansion of cultural knowledge, and  
27 adaptation of services to meet culturally unique needs to provide  
28 services in a culturally competent manner.

29 (g) “Department” means the State Department of Health Care  
30 Services.

31 (h) “Family peer support specialist” means a person with lived  
32 experience as a self-identified family member of an individual  
33 experiencing mental illness, substance use disorder, or both, and  
34 the skills learned in formal training to assist and empower families  
35 of individuals experiencing mental illness, substance use disorder,  
36 or both. For the purpose of this subdivision, “family member”  
37 includes a sibling or kinship caregiver, and a partner of that family  
38 member.

39 (i) “Parent” means a person who is parenting or has parented a  
40 child or individual experiencing mental illness, substance use

1 disorder, or both, and who can articulate his or her understanding  
2 of his or her experience with another parent or caregiver. This  
3 person may be a birth parent, adoptive parent, or family member  
4 standing in for an absent parent.

5 (j) “Parent peer support specialist” means a parent with formal  
6 training to assist and empower families parenting a child or  
7 individual experiencing mental illness, substance use disorder, or  
8 both.

9 (k) “Peer support specialist services” means culturally competent  
10 services that promote engagement, socialization, recovery,  
11 self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, development of natural supports,  
12 identification of strengths, and maintenance of skills learned in  
13 other support services. Peer support specialist services shall  
14 include, but are not limited to, support, coaching, facilitation, or  
15 education to Medi-Cal beneficiaries that is individualized to the  
16 beneficiary and is conducted by a certified adult peer support  
17 specialist, a certified transition-age youth peer support specialist,  
18 a certified family peer support specialist, or a certified parent peer  
19 support specialist.

20 (l) “Recovery” means a process of change through which an  
21 individual improves his or her health and wellness, lives a  
22 self-directed life, and strives to reach his or her full potential. This  
23 process of change recognizes cultural diversity and inclusion, and  
24 honors the different routes to resilience and recovery based on the  
25 individual and his or her cultural community.

26 (m) “Transition-age youth peer support specialist” means a  
27 person who is 18 years of age or older and who has self-identified  
28 as having lived experience of recovery from mental illness,  
29 substance use disorder, or both, and the skills learned in formal  
30 training to deliver peer support services in a behavioral setting to  
31 promote mind-body recovery and resiliency for transition-age  
32 youth, including adolescents and young adults.

33 14045.14. No later than July 1, 2020, the department shall do  
34 all of the following:

35 (a) Establish a certifying body, either through contract or through  
36 an interagency agreement, to provide for the certification activities  
37 described in this article.

38 (b) Provide for a statewide certification for each of the following  
39 categories of peer support specialists, as contained in federal

1 guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
2 Services, State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) #07-011:

3 (1) Adult peer support specialists, who may serve individuals  
4 across the lifespan.

5 (2) Transition-age youth peer support specialists.

6 (3) Family peer support specialists.

7 (4) Parent peer support specialists.

8 (c) Define the range of responsibilities and practice guidelines  
9 for the categories of peer support specialists listed in subdivision  
10 (b), by utilizing best practice materials published by the federal  
11 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the  
12 federal Department of Veterans Affairs, and related notable experts  
13 in the field as a basis for development.

14 (d) Determine curriculum and core competencies required for  
15 certification of an individual as a peer support specialist, including  
16 curriculum that may be offered in areas of specialization, including,  
17 but not limited to, transition-age youth, veterans, gender identity,  
18 sexual orientation, and any other areas of specialization identified  
19 by the department. Core competencies-based curriculum shall  
20 include, at a minimum, training related to all of the following  
21 elements:

22 (1) The concepts of hope, recovery, and wellness.

23 (2) The role of advocacy.

24 (3) The role of consumers and family members.

25 (4) Psychiatric rehabilitation skills and service delivery, and  
26 addiction recovery principles, including defined practices.

27 (5) Cultural competence training.

28 (6) Trauma-informed care.

29 (7) Group facilitation skills.

30 (8) Self-awareness and self-care.

31 (9) Cooccurring disorders of mental health and substance use.

32 (10) Conflict resolution.

33 (11) Professional boundaries and ethics.

34 (12) Safety and crisis planning.

35 (13) Navigation of, and referral to, other services.

36 (14) Documentation skills and standards.

37 (15) Study and test-taking skills.

38 (16) Confidentiality.

39 (e) Specify training requirements, including  
40 core-competencies-based training and specialized training

1 necessary to become certified under this article, allowing for  
2 multiple qualified training entities, and requiring training to include  
3 people with lived experience as consumers and family members.

4 (f) Establish a code of ethics.

5 (g) Determine continuing education requirements for biennial  
6 certification renewal.

7 (h) Determine the process for biennial certification renewal.

8 (i) Determine a process for investigation of complaints and  
9 corrective action, which may include suspension and revocation  
10 of certification.

11 (j) Determine a process for an individual employed as a peer  
12 support specialist on January 1, 2020, to obtain certification under  
13 this article.

14 14045.15. (a) In order to be certified as an adult peer support  
15 specialist, an individual shall, at a minimum, satisfy all of the  
16 following requirements:

17 (1) Be at least 18 years of age.

18 (2) Have or have had a primary diagnosis of mental illness,  
19 substance use disorder, or both, that is self-disclosed.

20 (3) Have received, or be receiving, mental health services,  
21 substance use disorder services, or both.

22 (4) Be willing to share his or her experience of recovery.

23 (5) Demonstrate leadership and advocacy skills.

24 (6) Have a strong dedication to recovery.

25 (7) Agree, in writing, to abide by a code of ethics. A copy of  
26 the code of ethics shall be signed by the applicant.

27 (8) Successfully complete the curriculum and training  
28 requirements for an adult peer support specialist.

29 (9) Pass a certification examination approved by the department  
30 for an adult peer support specialist.

31 (10) Successfully complete any required continuing education,  
32 training, and recertification requirements.

33 (11) Meet all applicable federal requirements.

34 (b) To maintain certification pursuant to this section, an adult  
35 peer support specialist shall do both of the following:

36 (1) Abide by the code of ethics and biennially sign an  
37 affirmation.

38 (2) Complete any required continuing education, training, and  
39 recertification requirements.



1 14045.16. (a) In order to be certified as a transition-age youth  
2 peer support specialist, an individual shall, at a minimum, satisfy  
3 all of the following requirements:

- 4 (1) Be at least 18 years of age.
- 5 (2) Have or have had a primary diagnosis of mental illness,  
6 substance use disorder, or both, that is self-disclosed.
- 7 (3) Have received, or be receiving, mental health services,  
8 substance use disorder addiction services, or both.
- 9 (4) Be willing to share his or her experience of recovery.
- 10 (5) Demonstrate leadership and advocacy skills.
- 11 (6) Have a strong dedication to recovery.
- 12 (7) Agree, in writing, to abide by a code of ethics. A copy of  
13 the code of ethics shall be signed by the applicant.
- 14 (8) Successfully complete the curriculum and training  
15 requirements for a transition-age youth peer support specialist.
- 16 (9) Meet all applicable federal requirements.

17 (b) To maintain certification pursuant to this section, a  
18 transition-age youth peer support specialist shall do both of the  
19 following:

- 20 (1) Abide by the code of ethics and biennially sign an  
21 affirmation.
- 22 (2) Complete any required continuing education, training, and  
23 recertification requirements.

24 14045.17. (a) In order to be certified as a family peer support  
25 specialist, an individual shall, at a minimum, satisfy all of the  
26 following requirements:

- 27 (1) Be at least 18 years of age.
- 28 (2) Be self-identified as a family member of an individual  
29 experiencing mental illness, substance use disorder, or both.
- 30 (3) Be willing to share his or her experience.
- 31 (4) Demonstrate leadership and advocacy skills.
- 32 (5) Have a strong dedication to recovery.
- 33 (6) Agree, in writing, to abide by a code of ethics. A copy of  
34 the code of ethics shall be signed by the applicant.
- 35 (7) Successfully complete the curriculum and training  
36 requirements for a family peer support specialist.
- 37 (8) Pass a certification examination approved by the department  
38 for a family peer support specialist.
- 39 (9) Meet all applicable federal requirements.

(b) To maintain certification pursuant to this section, a family peer support specialist shall do both of the following:

(1) Abide by the code of ethics and biennially sign an affirmation.

(2) Complete any required continuing education, training, and recertification requirements.

14045.18. (a) In order to be certified as a parent peer support specialist, an individual shall, at a minimum, satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) Be at least 18 years of age.

(2) Be self-identified as a parent.

(3) Be willing to share his or her experience.

(4) Demonstrate leadership and advocacy skills.

(5) Have a strong dedication to recovery.

(6) Agree, in writing, to abide by a code of ethics. A copy of the code of ethics shall be signed by the applicant.

(7) Successfully complete the curriculum and training requirements for a parent peer support specialist.

(8) Meet all applicable federal requirements.

(b) To maintain certification pursuant to this section, a parent peer support specialist shall do both of the following:

(1) Abide by the code of ethics and biennially sign an affirmation.

(2) Complete any required continuing education, training, and recertification requirements.

14045.19. (a) This article shall not be construed to imply that an individual who is certified pursuant to this article is qualified to, or authorized to, diagnose an illness, prescribe medication, or provide clinical services.

(b) This article does not alter the scope of practice for a health care professional or authorize the delivery of health care services in a setting or manner that is not authorized pursuant to the Business and Professions Code or the Health and Safety Code.

14045.20. The department shall consult with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP), peer support and family organizations, mental health services and substance use disorder treatment providers and organizations, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, and the California Behavioral Health Planning Council in implementing this article. Consultation shall initially include, at

1 a minimum, quarterly stakeholder meetings. The department may  
2 additionally conduct technical workgroups upon the request of  
3 stakeholders.

4 14045.21. To facilitate early intervention for mental health  
5 services, community health workers may partner with peer, parent,  
6 transition-age, and family support specialists to improve linkage  
7 to services for the beneficiary.

8 14045.22. The Legislature does not intend, in enacting this  
9 article, to modify the Medicaid state plan in any manner that would  
10 otherwise change or nullify the requirements, billing, or  
11 reimbursement of the “other qualified provider” provider type, as  
12 currently authorized by the Medicaid state plan.

13 14045.23. The department may utilize Mental Health Services  
14 Act moneys to fund state administrative costs related to developing  
15 and administering this article, subject to an express appropriation  
16 in the annual Budget Act for these purposes, and to the extent  
17 authorized under the Mental Health Services Act. These funds  
18 shall be available for purposes of claiming federal financial  
19 participation under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act  
20 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396), contingent upon federal approval.

21 14045.24. Medi-Cal reimbursement for peer support specialist  
22 services shall be implemented only if, and to the extent that, federal  
23 financial participation under Title XIX of the federal Social  
24 Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396 et seq.) is available and all  
25 necessary federal approvals have been obtained.

26 14045.25. The department may establish a certification fee  
27 schedule and may require remittance as contained in the  
28 certification fee schedule for the purpose of supporting the  
29 activities associated with the ongoing administration of the peer,  
30 parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification  
31 program. Certification fees charged by the department shall  
32 reasonably reflect the expenditures directly applicable to the  
33 ongoing administration of the peer, parent, transition-age, and  
34 family support specialist certification program.

35 14045.26. For the purpose of implementing this article, the  
36 department may enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts on  
37 a bid or negotiated basis, including contracts for the purpose of  
38 obtaining subject matter expertise or other technical assistance.

39 14045.27. Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with  
40 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government

1 Code, the department may implement, interpret, or make specific  
2 this article by means of informal notices, plan letters, plan or  
3 provider bulletins, or similar instructions, without taking regulatory  
4 action, until the time regulations are adopted. The department shall  
5 adopt regulations by July 1, 2022, in accordance with the  
6 requirements of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of  
7 Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.  
8 Commencing July 1, 2020, the department shall provide semiannual  
9 status reports to the Legislature, in compliance with Section 9795  
10 of the Government Code, until regulations have been adopted.

11 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that this act clarifies  
12 procedures and terms of the Mental Health Services Act within  
13 the meaning of Section 18 of the Mental Health Services Act.