



Workgroup: Medicaid & Workforce Workgroup

Topic: Growing the mental health workforce by expanding understanding of peer specialists and peer support services to encourage sustainable investment.

Description of Problem: As noted in MHAP's issue paper on [Certified Peer Specialist Services](#) "Peer support is an emerging field with significant workforce capacity development needs... Many behavioral health providers, organizations and consumers of services themselves may not be aware of its existence, fully understand the benefits of peer support services, or be aware of how to get a person directly connected to a peer supporter."

As peer practice continues to emerge and formalize within the continuum of MHSA supports, efforts to engage and educate the public and policymakers have revealed gaps in understanding of the array of peer supports and peer workforce roles/certifications.

The roll out of DHS 72 for peer recovery support services presents an opportunity and a challenge with regard to education on peer services and development of the peer workforce.

Strategies/Resources to Advise Future Direction:

- Through subgroup work and learning sessions explore emerging information including:
 - [National Conference of State Legislatures Brief on Peer Specialists](#) (May 2025)
 - [Recovery Community Needs Assessment Report](#) (January 2025) Peer Recovery Center of Excellence.
 - [Report on Medicaid Reimbursement for Peer Support Services](#) (May 2024) Peer Recovery Center of Excellence.
- Continue to reference/expand MHAP Issue Briefs on [Certified Peer Specialist Services](#) and [Psychosocial Clubhouse Programs](#).
- Use the [informational tool](#) on adult peer recovery programs to advance current MHAP peer workforce agenda items along with informing the network and policymakers about next step strategies.

Further Research Needed/Next Steps:

- The MHAP workgroup will need to explore and understand the intended impact of the implementation of peer support services reimbursement and the peer recovery services outlined in the new DHS 72 administrative rule.
- A future MHAP learning session on peer specialists, peer recovery and the peer service array will help form a baseline collective understanding of the issues and opportunities arising in peer services and peer workforce advancement.