

SB 803 (Beall)

[Peer Support Specialist Certification Program ACT 2020](#)



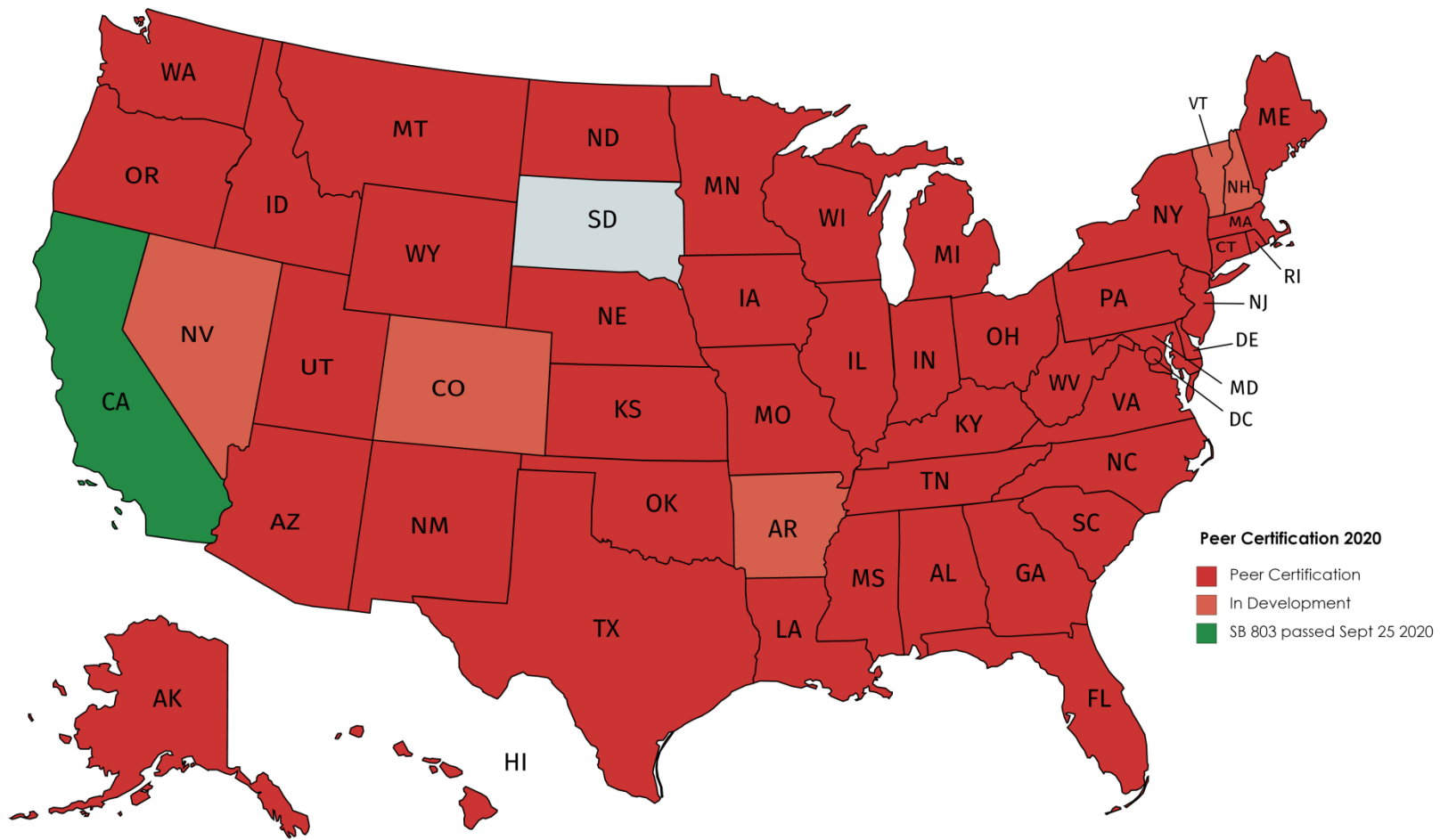
Signed into law September 25, 2020

Co- Sponsors

- California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations ([CAMHPRO](#)) Sally Zinman, Karin Lettau
- County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California ([CBHDA](#))
- County of [Los Angeles](#) Board of Supervisors
- [Steinberg Institute](#) (Maggie Merritt and Darryl Steinberg Founder of Steinberg institute and Sacramento Mayor)

BACKGROUND – Why Now?

- States are increasingly interested in covering peer support providers as a distinct provider type for the delivery of counseling and other support services to Medicaid eligible adults with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders.
- Peer support services are an evidence-based mental health model of care which consists of a qualified peer support provider who assists individuals with their recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders.



California

- Currently California has no uniform education and training standard for behavioral health peer support services and no peer services-specific Medi-Cal billing codes.
- SB803 makes CA the 49th state to move forward with peer certification
- There is a plethora of best practices that we can draw from

CMS

- In 2007, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid issued guidance for the reimbursement of peer services.
- Under the guidance, peer services are eligible for federal reimbursement upon the adoption of statewide training and certification standards.

DHCS

The California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC)

Recommendations (2015)

- Legislature continue and solidify its mission to create a seamless, comprehensive, continuum of mental health services and care by:
- Develop clarifying legislative language that MHSA and/or other funding may be used to establish an implementation and oversight body for statewide Peer Specialist Certification; and/or
- Make Peer Certification a priority of the 2015-16 Legislative Session as a stand-alone issue ; and/or
- Require the Certification of Peer Specialists in legislation pertaining to workforce expansion or expanded services for vulnerable populations: and/or
- Identifying and including funding for the establishment of a Peer Specialist certifying and oversight body through the annual Budget Act.

Years of work in preparation for this legislation

- [2011 SAMHSA](#)
- [2013 National Practice Guidelines for Peer Support Specialists](#)
- 2014 California Institute for Mental Health [Working Well Together Report](#)
- 2015 The California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) [Recommendations](#)
- 2016 SB 614 Withdrawn
- 2017 Sacramento Summit Building Consensus
- 2018 SB 906 Vetoed
- 2019 SB 10 (Beall) Vetoed
- 2020 SB 803 (Beall) Passed

SB 803 Peer Support Specialist Certification Program ACT 2020

- SB 803 establishes a **statewide certification** program for peer support specialists and provides the structure needed to maximize the **federal match** for peer services under **Medi-Cal**.
- California **counties can elect to opt-in** to the program to provide certified peer support specialist services in their county.

Requires the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

- To define the range of responsibilities and practice guidelines for peer support specialists,
- specifies required training and continuing education requirements,
- determines clinical supervision requirements
- establishes a code of ethics and processes for revocation of certification.

Waivers

- DHCS to seek any federal waivers it deems necessary to establish a Medi-Cal demonstration or pilot project for the provision of peer support services
- in counties that agree to participate (Opt in)and provide the **nonfederal share of funding** for a demonstration or pilot that include a certified peer support specialist as a Medi-Cal provider type.

CPT Billing Codes

- DHCS to create unique Peer Support Specialist CPT billing codes under federal waiver for demonstration project
- (CPT[®] coding system: is a uniform process for reporting medical services used for billing purposes)

Cross County Reciprocity in CA

- The bill would allow peers to practice in any county in the state, whereas currently peers may only practice in the county where they have been trained
- (NOTE: Certificate of completion of a particular PSS training is not the same as Certification)

Counties that Opt In

- The bill authorizes, subject to DHCS approval, a county or an agency representing the county, to develop a peer support specialist certification program in accordance with this bill.
- DHCS to oversee all county certification programs & fees, qualifications, curriculum & core competencies, practice guidelines & supervision
- **Counties must provide the nonfederal share of funding**

Major Provision 1 (Waivers)

Requires DHCS to seek any federal waivers it deems necessary to establish a demonstration or pilot project for the provision of peer support services **in counties that agree to participate and provide the necessary nonfederal share of funding**

Major Provision 2 (CMS)

Requires the demonstration or pilot project to:

- a) Include a peer support specialist certified pursuant to this bill as a **Medi-Cal provider type** for purposes of the demonstration or pilot project;
- b) Include peer support specialist services as a **distinct service type** in counties that opt in to the demonstration or pilot project; and,
- c) Develop and implement one or more **billing codes**, reimbursement rates, and claiming requirement for peer support specialist services.

Major Provision 3 (PSS)

Defines, a "peer support specialist" to mean:

- an individual who is 18 years of age or older
- who has self-identified as having lived experience with the process of recovery from mental illness, substance use disorder (SUD), or both,
- either as a consumer of these services
- or as the parent
- or family member of the consumer,
- and who has been granted certification under a county peer support specialist certification program.

Major Provision 4 (Fed App)

Implements the peer support demonstration or pilot project only to the extent that :

- DHCS obtains any **necessary federal approvals** and federal financial participation is available and is not otherwise jeopardized.
- Requires a **county that opts to participate** in a demonstration or pilot project to fund the **nonfederal share** of any applicable expenditures through certified public expenditures or intergovernmental transfers to qualify for federal financial participation under Medicaid.

Major Provision 5 (STD)

Requires [DHCS](#), by **July 1, 2022**, to do all of the following:

- a) **Establish statewide requirements** for counties, or an agency representing counties, to use in developing certification programs for the certification of peer support specialists; SB 803
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- b) Define the range of **responsibilities, practice guidelines, and supervision standards** for peer support specialists.
- c) Determine **curriculum and core competencies** required for certification of an individual as a peer support specialist, including curriculum that may be offered in areas of specialization, including, but not limited to,
 - transition-age youth,
 - veterans,
 - gender identity,
 - sexual orientation,
 - and any other areas of specialization identified by the DHCS.

Requires core-competencies-based curriculum to include, at **a minimum, training** related to specified elements; (Core Competencies and skills – c/f IPS, SAMSA, CAMHPRO)

Major Provision 5 (STD...)

- d) Specify peer support specialist employment training requirements, including core competencies-based training and specialized training necessary to become certified under this bill, and require training to include people with lived experience as consumers and family members;
- e) Establish a code of ethics;
- f) Determine continuing education (CEU) requirements for biennial certification renewal, and determine the process for biennial certification renewal;
- g) Determine a process for investigation of complaints and corrective action, including suspension and revocation of certification;

Major Provision 5 (STD....)

- h) Determine a process for an individual employed as a peer support specialist on **January 1, 2022**, to obtain certification under this bill;
- i) Determine requirements for peer support specialist certification **reciprocity** between counties, and for peer support specialists from out of state; and,
- j) Seek any **federal approvals** related to the statewide certification standards that it deems necessary to implement this bill.

Major Provision 6 (COUNTY)

Authorizes, **subject to DHCS approval,**

- a county or an agency representing the county,
- to **develop a peer support specialist certification program** in accordance with this bill and any standards established by DHCS,
- requires a county to **oversee and enforce the certification requirements,**
- requires a county to **take specified steps to request DHCS approval,**
- and requires, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, **the state to fund the startup costs to implement these requirements.**

Major Provision 7 (PSS)

Requires, to receive certification under this bill, an applicant to meet all of the following requirements:

- a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- b) Possess a high school diploma or equivalent degree;
- c) Be self-identified as having experience with the process of recovery from mental illness or SUD treatment either as a consumer of these services or as the parent or family member of the consumer;
- d) Be willing to share their experience;
- e) Have a strong dedication to recovery;
- f) Agree, in writing, to adhere to a code of ethics;
- g) Successfully complete the curriculum and training requirements for a peer support specialist; and,
- h) Pass a certification examination approved by DHCS for a peer support specialist.

Major Provision 8 (Maintain/CEU)

Requires a peer support specialist, to maintain certification under this bill, to meet both of the following requirements:

- a) Adhere to the **code of ethics** and **biennially sign an affirmation**; and,
- b) Complete any required **continuing education**, training, and recertification requirements.

Major Provision 9 (Fee)

Permits a participating county or an agency representing a participating county,

- to establish a **certification fee schedule** for the purpose of supporting the activities associated with the ongoing administration of the peer support specialist certification program.
- Requires **DHCS to review** and either approve or disapprove the fee schedule before it may be implemented.

Major Provision 10 (RFP)

Permits DHCS, for the purpose of implementing this bill,

- to enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts on a bid or negotiated basis, including contracts,
- and exempts these contracts from specified state requirements.

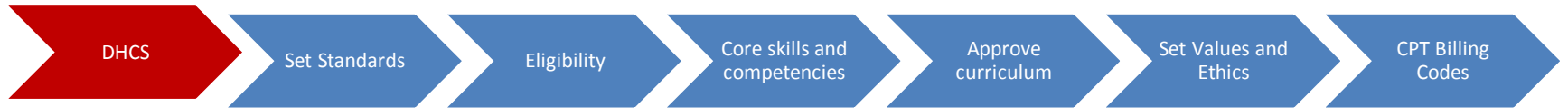
Major Provision 11 (DHCS-County)

Permits DHS to implement, interpret, or make specific the requirements of this bill by means of

- informal notices, plan letters, plan or provider bulletins, or similar instructions,
- without taking regulatory action, until the time regulations are adopted.

Time line → June 2022

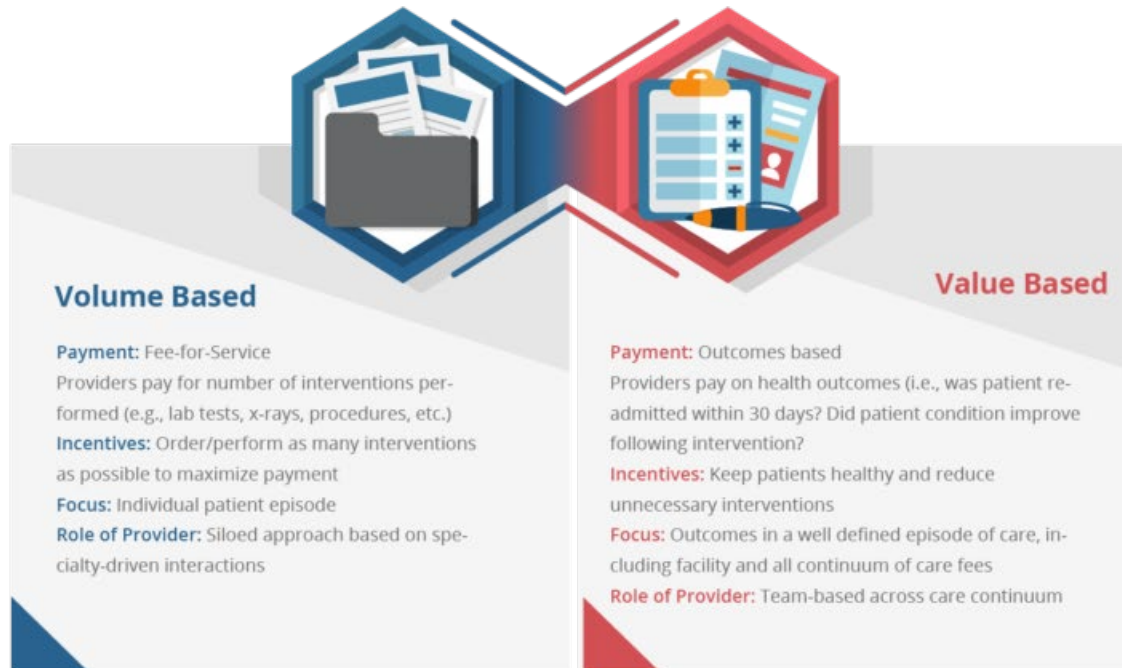
Tasks of DHCS and County



CalAIM has three primary goals:

1. Identify and manage member risk and need through whole person care approaches and addressing social determinants of health;
2. Move Medi-Cal to a more consistent and seamless system by reducing complexity and increasing flexibility; and
3. Improve quality outcomes, reduce health disparities, and drive delivery system transformation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems, and payment reform.

Fee for Service → Value Based Care



The Journey Begins

