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Peer Support Services for People with Mental Health Issues and Substance Use Disorder in Medicaid

Welcome and Overview



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- Introduction to Peer Support
- House Bill 1486
- Stakeholder Workgroup
- Medicaid Rule Requirements
- Medicaid Policy Requirements
- Timelines for Rules and Policy
- Public Comment

What is Peer Support?



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“Peer support is the process of giving and receiving encouragement and assistance to achieve long term recovery. Peers offer emotional support, share knowledge, teach skills, provide practical assistance, and connect people with resources, opportunities, communities of support and other people.”

Mead, S. Defining Peer Support (2003). Retrieved
march 12,2012, from
[https://www.mentalhealthpeers.com/pdfs/Defining
PeerSupport.pdf](https://www.mentalhealthpeers.com/pdfs/DefiningPeerSupport.pdf)

House Bill 1486



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Authored by Representative Four Price in the 85th Legislative Session, the bill requires HHSC to:

- Adopt rules related to peer specialists, providing services to persons with a mental health or substance use condition under Medicaid, including peer specialist certification.
- Establish a stakeholder workgroup to provide input on the rules, which meets at least monthly until the rules are adopted.

Peer Support Stakeholder Work Group



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- 22 member workgroup
- Members applied and were appointed by the HHSC Executive Commissioner
- Representatives include:
 - Peer trainers
 - Training organizations
 - Peers and peer recovery coaches
 - Organizations that use peers

HHSC thanks the stakeholder workgroup for their wisdom, passion, and patience in working through many difficult decisions related to the draft rules.

Current Medicaid Peer Services in Texas



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- Delivering peer support services in Medicaid Waivers
 - Home and Community Based Services – Adult Mental Health
 - Youth Empowerment Services
- Providers of Mental Health Rehabilitative Services
 - Medication Training and Support Services
 - Psychosocial Rehabilitative Services
 - Skills Training and Development
 - Day Program for Acute Needs
 - Crisis Intervention

New Medicaid Benefit: “Peer Support”



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- HHSC will create a stand-alone medical policy in conjunction with the Texas Administrative Code rules for peer services, applicable to both mental health and substance use.
- These rules will **not** apply to non-Medicaid peer services nor Medicaid mental health rehabilitation, which is governed by other pre-existing rules.

Peer Support: A *Service* not a *Provider* Type



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- Peers will deliver services in conjunction with a facility, provider group, community center, etc.
 - Services will be billed through that organization
- Peers will not separately enroll in Medicaid as a Medicaid provider, nor will they be separately credentialed by a managed care organization (MCO).
 - MCO credentialing will be for the organization in which the peer is employed.
- Medicaid coverage cannot be provided to individuals who are incarcerated (held involuntarily in a correctional facility.)
 - Jails are not an allowable setting for Medicaid-funded peer services.

Developing a Peer Benefit in Medicaid



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- Legislative approval
- Rules development
- Medical policy and provider handbook development – Texas Medicaid Provider Procedure Manual
- Submission of a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Rate development
- Medicaid managed care contract changes
- **CMS must approve Texas' SPA before services are payable**

Medicaid Client Eligibility



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To be eligible to receive Medicaid peer support services, a person must:

- Be at least 21 years old;
- Be a Medicaid recipient;
- Have a mental health condition or substance use disorder, or both; and
- Have peer specialist services included in the person's person-centered recovery plan.

Available Peer Support Services



- All peer specialist services are recovery-oriented, person-centered, relationship-focused, and trauma-informed.
- Peer specialist services may include:
 - **Recovery and Wellness Support:** Providing information on, support with, and assistance planning for recovery;
 - **Mentoring:** Serving as a role model and providing assistance in finding needed community resources and services; and
 - **Advocacy:** Providing assistance in stressful or urgent situations, and helping to ensure that the person's rights are respected.
- Services may be provided individually or in a group.
- Participation is voluntary.

Medicaid Provider Eligibility



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A peer specialist provider must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have lived experience with a mental health condition, substance use disorder, or both;
- Have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED);
- Appropriately share his/her own recovery story;
- Demonstrate current self-directed recovery; and
- Pass criminal history and registry checks.

Training Entities



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- Each person or organization that would like to provide training for peers specialist or their supervisors under these new Medicaid rules must:
 - Use HHSC-approved curricula
 - Be certified by a certification entity to provide the training
 - Ensure instructors meet all requirements in the rules
- A certification entity may not also be a training entity.

Certification Entities

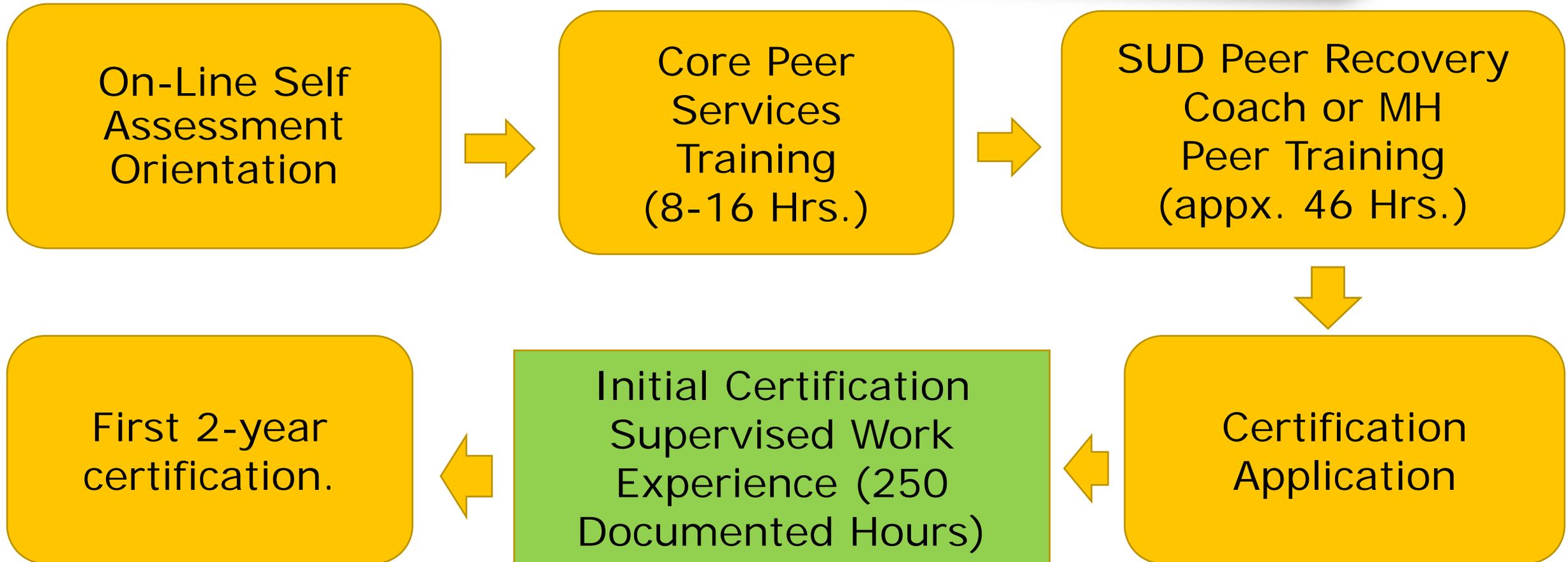


- One or more certification entities will be approved by HHSC to certify:
 - Peer specialists;
 - Peer specialist supervisors; and
 - Peer specialist training entities.
- The certification entity(ies) will be responsible for all aspects of certification, including:
 - Background checks
 - Certification and renewals
 - Complaints and any resulting action on a certification
 - Appeals and grievances

Peer Certification Process Under New Benefit



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Qualifications for Peer Supervisors



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The rules include the following supervisor option in order to ensure peer specialists are able to provide supervision:

- A Qualified Peer Supervisor must:
 - Be a certified peer specialist; and
 - Have one of the following combinations:
 - High school diploma or GED and at least:
 - Four years of work experience as a peer specialist or peer recovery coach; or
 - Two years of work experience as a peer specialist or peer recovery coach, and at least two years of work experience supervising others; or
 - Associate's degree from an accredited college or university and at least two years of work experience as a peer specialist or peer recovery coach.

Who Can Supervise Peers?



The supervisor of a certified peers specialist may be a:

- Qualified Credentialed Counselor (QCC)
- Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA)
- Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP), with a QCC or LPHA supervising the QMHP
- Qualified Peer Supervisor (QPS), with a QCC or LPHA supervising the QPS

Preserving the Current Workforce



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- A “grandfather clause” allows a person already performing a certain duty to continue performing that duty under new rules without having to meet all of the rule requirements.
- Grandfather clauses are included for the following:
 - Currently certified peer specialists
 - Peer specialists supervisors
 - Trainers and instructors

Preserving the Current Workforce: Peers



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Current certified peer specialists grandfather clause:

- **Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals:** Recovery Coaches Certified by TCBAP will be Grandfathered as a Recovery Support Peer Specialist with application and background check
- **Via Hope:** Certified Peer Specialists certified by Via Hope will be grandfathered as a Mental Health Peer Specialist with application, background check, and documentation of 250 hours of supervised work experience
 - May be grandfathered with initial certification without 250 hours of documented supervised work experience

Preserving the Current Workforce: Peer Supervisors



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Current peer specialist supervisors grandfather clause requirements:

- At least two years of experience supervising peer specialists within the last five years
- Successful completion of the required supervisor training knowledge assessment required by these rules.
 - If a person is unable to successfully complete the knowledge assessment, the certification entity may:
 - Deny the grandfather request; or
 - Accept the grandfather request for an initial one-year period during which time the person must successfully complete specific training and pass the knowledge assessment

Preserving the Current Workforce: Trainers



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Trainer grandfather clause requirements:

- Consistently providing peer specialist training in the last two years
- Restricted to providing only supplemental training in the area of specialty for which they have historically provided training
- Existing trainers will not be required to be a certified peer specialist as new trainers will be required under these rules



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Who Can Bill for Peer Support?

Facilities or provider types that are already delivering Medicaid mental health or substance use disorder treatment, such as:

- Chemical Dependency Treatment Facilities
- Local Mental Health Authorities
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Physician groups
- Clinic/group practices

NOTE: Peer services will not be separately reimbursed to providers who are currently paid an encounter rate or bundled rate.

How to Bill for Peer Support



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- Peer support will be payable through the currently established procedure code H0038 (a 15 minute timed code).
- Peer support may be delivered one-on-one or in group settings.
- Fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid: Members will be eligible for up to 104 units in a rolling 6 month period without prior authorization.
- Medicaid Managed Care: Health plans will authorize the benefit, but must still follow the same amount, duration, and scope as FFS.

Reimbursement rates



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- \$7.58 per 15 minutes for individual
- \$1.09 per 15 minutes for group

The Rate Analysis Department will revisit these rates 6 months after implementation.

Implementation



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- HHSC will provide a sustained technical assistance effort to facilitate provider readiness to fully integrate peer support into their service arrays.
- HHSC staff will be visiting many areas of the state in the upcoming months to generate interest and provide a forum for organizations to explore the benefits and challenges of implementing peer support.

Resources



- **Texas HHS Peer Recovery Webpage:**
<https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/behavioral-health-services-providers/peer-support-services>
- **Texas Register (proposed rules will be published here)**
<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>
- **Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual**
<http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/default.aspx>

Timeline



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- **Medicaid Webinar on Peer Support:** November 26, 2018
- **Benefit Start Date:** Estimated January 1, 2019



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Thank You!
