

MEDICAID POLICY INFORMATION SHEET

Policy Analyst: Taylor Peele

Phone Number:

Initial

Public Comment

Final

Brief description of policy:

The purpose of this policy is to modify the peer support specialist Medicaid provider description to clarify and define the requirements for receiving treatment for lived experience with mental health conditions.

Reason for policy (problem being addressed):

To provide guidance to Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) and interested stakeholders on peer support specialist certification requirements.

Budget implication:

budget neutral

will cost MDHHS \$, and (select one) budgeted in current appropriation

will save MDHHS \$

Is this policy change mandated per federal requirements?

No

Does policy have operational implications on other parts of MDHHS?

No

Does policy have operational implications on other departments?

No

Summary of input:

controversial (Explain)

acceptable to most/all groups

limited public interest/comment

Supporting Documentation:

State Plan Amendment Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public Notice Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please provide status:	If yes,
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	Submission Date:
Date: Approval Date:	

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT Michigan Department of Health and Human Services		
	Project Number: 2103-BHDDA	Date: June 2, 2021

Comments Due: July 7, 2021
Proposed Effective Date: September 1, 2021
Direct Comments To: Taylor Peele
Address:
E-Mail Address: peelet@michigan.gov
Phone:

Fax:

<p>Policy Subject: Peer Support Specialist Certification</p> <p>Affected Programs: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan</p> <p>Distribution: Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP)</p> <p>Summary: The purpose of this policy is to modify the peer support specialist Medicaid provider description to clarify and define the requirements for receiving treatment for lived experience with mental health conditions.</p> <p>Purpose: To provide guidance to Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) and interested stakeholders on peer support specialist certification requirements.</p> <p>Cost Implications: Budget neutral.</p> <p>Potential Hearings & Appeal Issues: None</p>
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State Plan Amendment Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, date submitted:	Public Notice Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted date:
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Tribal Notification: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Date:
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THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY RECEIVER

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> No Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	<input type="checkbox"/> See Comments Below
	<input type="checkbox"/> See Comments in Text

Signature:	Phone Number
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Signature Printed:

Bureau/Administration <i>(please print)</i>	Date
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Proposed Policy Draft

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Services Administration

Distribution: Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs)

Issued: August 1, 2021 (Proposed)

Subject: Peer Support Specialist Certification

Effective: September 1, 2021 (Proposed)

Programs Affected: Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to modify the peer support specialist Medicaid provider description to clarify and define the requirements for receiving treatment for lived experience with mental health conditions.

Peer Support Specialist Services

Peer support specialists are individuals who have a serious and persistent mental illness and have been a recipient of mental health treatment with a significant life disruption from their mental health condition. They have a unique background and skill level from their experience in utilizing complex services and supports to achieve their personal goals of community membership, independence and productivity. Peer support specialists provide direct support to persons receiving public mental health services modeling recovery.

Depending on their position description, services that peer support specialists can provide include:

- Sharing their story through their lived experience of moving from hopelessness to hope;
- Co-facilitation with the beneficiary in development and implementation of recovery goals in the individual plan of service completed through a person-centered planning process;
- Integration of physical and mental health care, including the development of health and wellness plans;
- Developing, implementing and providing health and wellness classes to address preventable risk factors for chronic conditions;
- Developing, implementing and providing ongoing guidance through support groups;
- Providing supportive services during crises;
- Developing psychiatric advance directives;
- Accessing benefits and utilizing assistance;
- Linking the beneficiary to community resources;

- Vocational assistance;
- Housing assistance; and
- Support for individuals who are involved in justice settings.

Peer support is valuable not only for the person receiving services, but also for behavioral health professionals and the systems in which they work. Peer support specialists educate their colleagues and advance the field by sharing their perspectives and experience in order to increase understanding of how practices and policies may be improved to promote health and wellness. Research and experience have demonstrated that peer support improves quality of life, engagement, satisfaction with services and supports, improves whole health and self-management of chronic conditions, decrease hospitalizations and inpatient days and reduces the overall cost of services.

Requirements

Individuals who are working as peer support specialists serving beneficiaries with mental illness must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Diploma (GED);
- Have a serious mental illness (SMI), which is defined by the National Institute for Mental Health as: a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities;
- Have been a recipient of mental health treatment for at least two years, with a significant life disruption from their mental health condition;
- Have proven personal experience in navigating complex mental health treatment services;
- Self-identify as having an SMI and share their recovery story as a tool in helping others;
- Be employed at least 10 hours per week for a PIHP/CMHSP or contract provider;
- Meet the MDHHS application approval process for specialized training and certification;
- Be supervised by a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP), or meet specific provider qualifications if providing covered services without supervision;
- Be able to demonstrate their experience in relationship to the types of guidance, support and mentoring activities provided;
- Be recognized and accepted by their peers;
- Be freely chosen by beneficiaries utilizing peer support services; and
- Adhere to the MDHHS Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics.