

CAMHPRO Public Policy  
Committee  
September 9, 2015



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Karin Lettau, MS; [klettau7@gmail.com](mailto:klettau7@gmail.com)  
Sally Zinman, Executive Director, CAMHPRO;  
[sallyzinman@gmail.com](mailto:sallyzinman@gmail.com) [www.camhpro.org](http://www.camhpro.org)

**State Peer/Family Specialist Certification  
SB 614 (Leno-D) in the California Legislature**

# Overview & Misperceptions

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- 34 US states have formal “state peer support specialist certification”
- A “state peer/family certification” process **does NOT exist in CA yet**
- CA agencies/colleges offer “certificates” for trainings/courses that are not recognized
- CA Consumer, Family Members, Parents/Caregivers and other stakeholders have given extensive input and feedback to form recommendations to the state over the past 4 years
- A bill proposing a state law for Peer/Family Certification is **being considered** in the CA legislature now—SB-614 (Leno-D)

# Peer 'Certificate' vs. State Certification

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- Formal State Program that typically designates the State Department of Mental Health or another agency to establish certification components including:
  - Lived experience required; work experience
  - Responsibilities and practice guidelines
  - Curriculum and core competencies
  - Training and continuing education requirements
  - Code of ethics
  - Certification revocation process
  - Billing status
  - Supervision



# CMS Guidelines to States Allowing Peer Specialist Billing

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- In 2007, the Centers for Medi-Care and Medi-Caid Services (CMS) disseminated a set of guidelines for states to establish Peer Providers and Peer Services as a unique Medi-CAL billable services.
  
- Guidelines minimally require a State Plan to:
  - 1. Train and Certify** Peer Providers
  - 2. Address the supervision** of Peer Providers
  - 3. Ensure care coordination** in the context of a comprehensive and individualized plan of care with goals.

# California Medi-Caid (MEDI-CAL) Billing Practices

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- ❑ Current State Plan allows billing for rehabilitation, targeted case management and collaterals provided by “Other Qualified Providers”, which includes Peer Specialists.
- ❑ Each County Mental Health Director has discretion to use more strict guidelines than required by the State Plan.
- ❑ **Only a few counties currently allow peer specialists to bill under existing codes**

# SB-614--WHERE ARE WE NOW?

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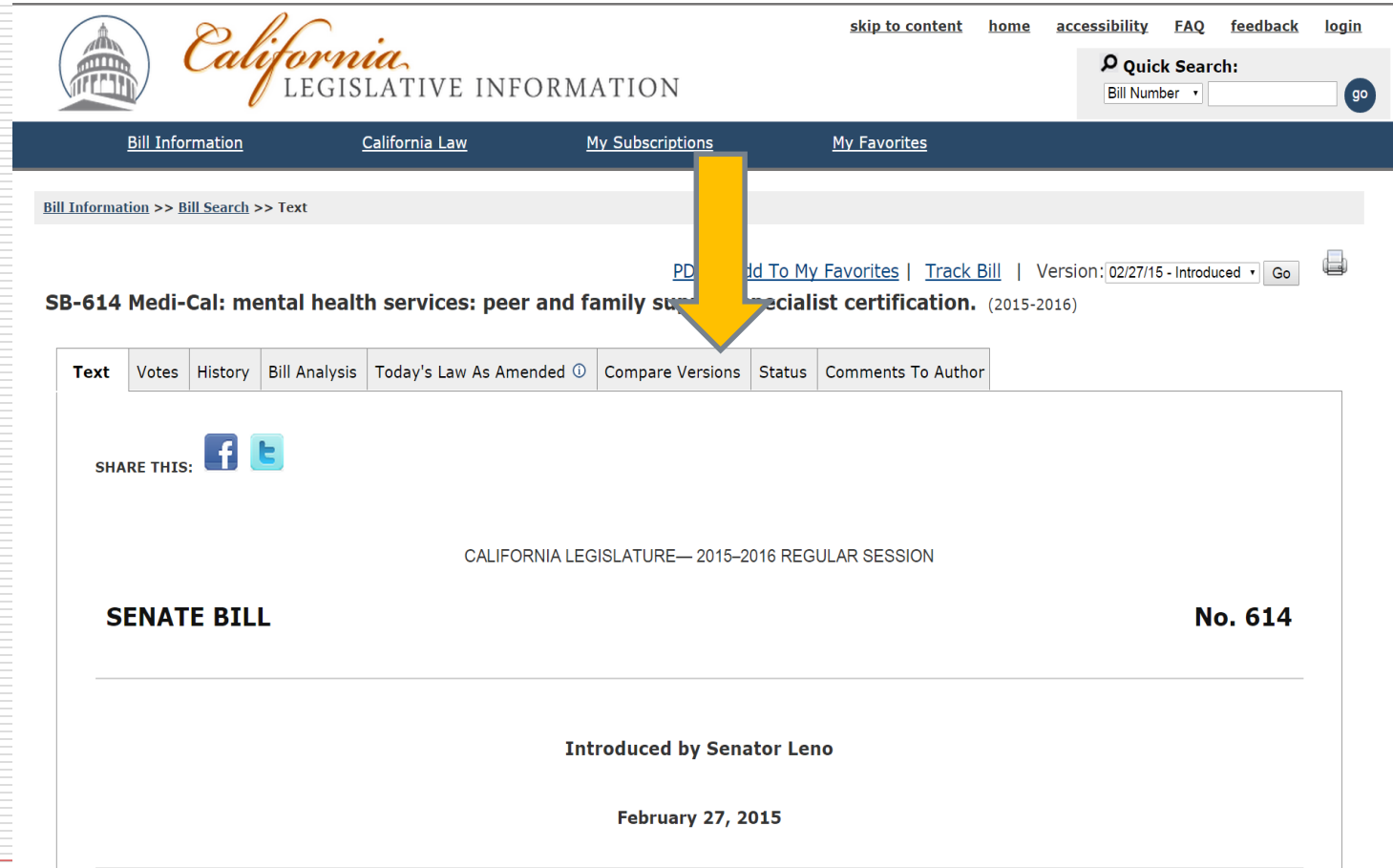


# How to Track a Legislative Bill

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

## CA Legislative Info. website

- Go to Bill Information, enter bill number or key word
- Click on bill #
- View Tabs
- Click on Track Bill
- Register for email notice of changes to bill
  - Email address only required
  - Create password to log in



The screenshot displays the California Legislative Information website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "skip to content", "home", "accessibility", "FAQ", "feedback", and "login". A search box labeled "Quick Search:" is present, with a "Bill Number" dropdown and a "go" button. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for "Bill Information", "California Law", "My Subscriptions", and "My Favorites". The main content area shows the bill title "SB-614 Medi-Cal: mental health services: peer and family support specialist certification. (2015-2016)". A yellow arrow points to the "Track Bill" link in the navigation bar. Below the bill title, there are tabs for "Text", "Votes", "History", "Bill Analysis", "Today's Law As Amended", "Compare Versions", "Status", and "Comments To Author". The page also includes social media sharing options for Facebook and Twitter, and the text "CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2015-2016 REGULAR SESSION". The bill is identified as "SENATE BILL No. 614" and was "Introduced by Senator Leno" on "February 27, 2015".

# Senate Bill 614—Mark Leno (D)

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- ❑ Called peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification program
- ❑ DHCS create Certification by July, 2017
- ❑ Sponsored by CBHDA
- ❑ Statewide certification for:
  - Adult peer specialists, 18 years of age or older
  - Parent peer support specialists
  - Transition-age Youth Peer Support Specialists
  - Family Peer support specialists
- ❑ Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) administers



# Supporters (who submitted letters)

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- ❑ County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (sponsor)
- ❑ Association of California Health Care Districts
- ❑ California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations
- ❑ California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
- ❑ California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies
- ❑ California State Association of Counties
- ❑ Disability Rights California
- ❑ National Alliance on Mental Illness California
- ❑ Pacific Clinics
- ❑ Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services (PEERS)
- ❑ Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
- ❑ SEIU California
- ❑ Steinberg Institute
- ❑ Western Center on Law and Poverty
- ❑ United Advocates for Children & Families

# SB 614 (Leno-D) Continued

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- ❑ Amends Medicaid state plan to include peer and family support specialist as Provider TYPE *and as Provider Service*
- ❑ May utilize Mental Health Services Act funds, and WET resources to develop and administer Program
- ❑ May enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts on a bid or negotiated basis, including contracts for the purpose of obtaining subject matter expertise or other technical assistance. Contracts may be statewide or on a more limited geographic basis.

# Life Cycle SB 614 (Leno-D)

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- 6/1 Passed Senate unanimously, ordered to Assembly
- 7/14 Passed Assembly Health Committee, re-referred to Assembly Appropriations
- 8/27 Passed Assembly Appropriations Committee with amendments
- 9/1/15 Second reading on Assembly Floor, ordered to 3rd Reading
- **9/3 Ordered to Assembly 'inactive file'**
  - ? Stays in Assembly for next year's legislative cycle?

# SB 614 (Leno-D) & Amendments

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- Determine the range of responsibilities, practice guidelines, and curriculum and core competencies for each category of peer support specialist,
  - including curriculum that may be offered in areas of specialization, such as older adults, veterans, family support, forensics, whole health, juvenile justice, youth in foster care, sexual orientation, gender identity, and any other areas of specialization identified by DHCS
  - by utilizing best practice materials published by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, and related notable experts in the field as a basis for development.
- Specify required training and continuing education requirements
- Determine a code of ethics and process for revocation of certification

# Amendments—Core Competencies Defined

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- Core competencies-based curriculum shall include, at a minimum, all of the following elements:
  - (1) The concepts of hope and recovery .
  - (2) The role of advocacy.
  - (3) The role of consumers and family members.
  - (4) Psychiatric rehabilitation skills and service delivery, including defined practices.
  - (5) Cultural competence training.
  - (6) Trauma-informed care.
  - (7) Group facilitation skills.
  - (8) Self-awareness and self-care.
  - (9) Co-occurring disorders.
  - (10) Conflict resolution.
  - (11) Professional boundaries and ethics.
  - (12) Safety and crisis planning.
  - (13) Navigation of, and referral to, other services.
  - (14) Documentation skills and standards.
  - (15) Study and test-taking skills.

## SB 614 (Leno-D) Continued & Amendments

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- Determine Clinical supervision requirements at a minimum, personnel certified pursuant to this article to work under the direction of a mental health rehabilitation *specialist, as defined in Section 782.35 of Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations, or substance use disorder professional. A licensed mental health professional, as defined in Section 782.26 of Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations, may also provide supervision.*

# SB 614 (Leno-D)

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- ❑ DHCS closely collaborate with OSHPD
- ❑ DHCS regularly consult with stakeholders , including peer support and family organizations, CBHDA, the California Planning Council, and others
- ❑ DHCS may contract to obtain technical assistance for development of Program

# SB 614 (Leno-D) & Amendments

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- MH or SUD or both
- Included for Drug Medi-CAL
- “Cultural competence” to properly reflect those served
- To begin July 2017
- Youth Peer Specialists added
- To develop, implement & administer the program:
  - Require Bi-monthly stakeholder meetings, with technical workgroup meetings



# Amendments

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- To facilitate early intervention for mental health services, community health workers may partner with peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialists for engagement, outreach, and education.”

# SB 614 (Leno-D) & Amendments

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- 14045.25. The department may utilize MHSA and any designated WET Program resources, including funding, as administered by OSHPD to develop and administer the peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification program.
- Further, these Mental Health Service Act funds may then serve as the state's share of funding to develop and administer the peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification program and shall be available for purposes of claiming federal financial participation under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396 et seq.) once all necessary federal approvals have been obtained.

# SB 614 (Leno-D) & Amendments

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**14045.251.** *The department may establish a certification fee schedule and may require remittance as contained in the certification fee schedule for the purpose of supporting the department's activities associated with the ongoing state administration of the peer, parent, transition-age, and family support specialist certification program. The department shall utilize all funding resources as made available in Section 14045.25 first, prior to determining the need for the certification fee schedule and requiring the remittance of fees. It is the intent of the Legislature that any certification fees charged by the department be reasonable and reflect the expenditures directly applicable to the ongoing state administration of the peer, parent, transition-age and family support specialist certification program.*

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# SB 614 (Leno-D) & Amendments

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- ❑ Requires DHCS to adopt regulations by July 1, 2019. Requires, if regulations have not been adopted, beginning six months after the effective date of this article, DHCS must provide semiannual status reports to the Legislature until regulations have been adopted.
- ❑ 8) Permits DHCS to establish a certification fee schedule and require remittance of fees for the purpose of supporting DHCS activities associated with the ongoing state administration of the peer support specialist's certification program.

# Other issues affecting Peer Employment

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- ❑ WET Budget Reassessment process for last 2 years (2016/17 & 2017/18)
- ❑ Stakeholder Input Forum Webcall September 29, 1-4pm. For Agenda see <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/2015/WET/WET-Budget-ReAssessment-Stakeholder-Forum-20150923.pdf>

# WET FIVE-YEAR PLAN BUDGET (2014-2019)

<b>Mental Health Workforce Education and Training (WET) Five-Year Plan Budget</b>						
WET Funding Allocated for State Administered Programs in 2008		\$234,500,000				
WET Funding Spent via State Administered Programs in 2008-2013 WET Five-Year Plan		\$119,755,910				
WET Funding Remaining for State Administered Programs for 2014-2019 WET Five-Year Plan		\$114,744,090				
Item Number	State Administered WET Program	State WET Funding for 4 Year Budget	Fiscal Year 14/15	Fiscal Year 15/16	Fiscal Year 16/17	Fiscal Year 17/18
<b>Total</b>		\$114,744,090	\$31,936,023	\$31,936,023	\$26,936,023	\$23,936,023
1	Stipends	\$35,000,000	\$8,750,000	\$8,750,000	\$8,750,000	\$8,750,000
	Psych Nurse Practitioner	\$7,200,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000
	Clinical Psychologist	\$1,800,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000
	Marriage and Family Therapist	\$12,400,000	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000
	Social Worker	\$13,600,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000
2	Loan Assumption	\$40,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
3	Education Capacity	\$15,000,000	\$3,750,000	\$3,750,000	\$3,750,000	\$3,750,000
	Psychiatrist	\$9,000,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000
	Psych Nurse Practitioner	\$6,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
4	Consumer and Family Member	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0
5	Regional Partnership	\$9,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0
6	Recruitment (Career Awareness) and Retention	\$3,000,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
	Mini-Grants	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
	CalSEARCH	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
	Retention	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
7	Evaluation	\$2,744,090	\$686,023	\$686,023	\$686,023	\$686,023



# WET FIVE-YEAR PLAN BUDGET (2014-2019) IMPLEMENTATION

OSHPD has been engaging in the implementation of statewide WET programs consistent with WET Five-Year Plan funding allocated for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16.

- Of the \$63,872,046 allocated for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16, OSHPD expects a total of approximately \$61,377,391 to be expended and/or encumbered leaving an estimated unexpended balance of \$2,494,655 for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16.
- This leaves an approximate remaining balance of \$53,366,701 available for re-adjustment for FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18.

To ensure FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 budget allocations are guided by priority needs, OSHPD is taking part in a stakeholder engagement and research/assessment process from June 2015 - December 2015.

# WET BUDGET RE-ASSESSMENT PROCESS TIMELINE

As OSHPD engages in efforts to re-assess the WET budget for the last two fiscal years of the WET Five-Year Plan, the following is a projected timeline of activities:

Month	Activity
July – August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify major changes in county hard-to-fill and/or hard-to-retain positions</li> <li>Identify major legislative and policy changes that may alter the need or demand for certain types of mental health professions or services</li> <li>Assess current WET program budget expenditures</li> <li>WET Advisory Committee meeting on process and receive initial feedback on need for WET budget changes</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder meeting #1 (call/webinar) on process and receive initial feedback on need for WET budget changes</li> <li>California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) sub-group meeting #1</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government partners meeting #1</li> <li>CMHPC presentation on process and receive initial feedback on need for WET budget changes</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMHPC sub-group meeting #2</li> <li>Stakeholder meeting #2 (call/webinar) receive feedback on draft WET budget changes</li> <li>WET Advisory Committee #2 to receive feedback on draft WET budget changes</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government partner's meeting #2</li> <li>CMHPC sub-group meeting #3</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMHPC presentation on final WET budget change recommendations for approval</li> </ul>

If any changes to the WET Five-Year Plan budget are proposed, OSHPD will seek approval from CMHPC and the California State Legislature through the legislative budget change process.

# Our Issue, Our Voice in Action

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- Monthly Update towards a State Peer/Family Certification Webinar—2nd Thursday Noon on September 10, 2015 12:00 PM
  - Please register at:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6529515036756175362>
  
- After registering, each month you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

# Legislative Contacts

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Bill Author Senator Mark Leno

[sd11.senate.ca.gov](http://sd11.senate.ca.gov)

[www.senate.Ca.Gov/Leno](http://www.senate.Ca.Gov/Leno)

☐ 916-651-4011; Fax 916-651-4911

☐ Send Support Letters to:

■ Email Leno's Aide on SB 614: Sunday Balalis:

[Sunday.balalis@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Sunday.balalis@sen.ca.gov) &

# Questions/Contributions

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# Thank you for your commitment!

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- ❑ Next CAMHPRO Public Policy Committee meeting on Peer Certification is October 13, 2015 at 4pm
- ❑ Next Peer Certification Update Webinar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, tomorrow at noon

