Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification - Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process

1. **What if I do not have copies of my transcripts or diploma, or the school I attended is no longer open, what is accepted as a substitute for those items?**

   The California Mental Health Services Authority has identified the following available resources:

   To obtain a transcript from a California public school, you will need to contact the school directly. If the school is closed, we suggest contacting the local school district or the County Office of Education for assistance.

   To obtain a transcript from a California private school, contact the school or one of its staff directly. Contact information for private schools may be obtained from the California School Directory, or from the Private School Directory data files, which are posted on the CDE Private School web page.

   If the school is closed, you may contact Parchment, which is a private company that offers transcript recovery services. Please note that there is no guarantee that these contacts will have your records.

   If you are unable to obtain your high school records and you’ve tried the recommendations mentioned above, you may want to consider taking a high school equivalency test (HSET). More information about HSETs are available on the CDE High School Equivalency Tests (HSET) web page.

2. **What is the cost of the application for certification?**

   This information is under development. The California Mental Health Services Authority is working directly with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to identify the fee.
Training and Courses:

3. **For the “continued education hours” requirement under the grandparenting process, how was the 2-year requirement determined?**

   This requirement was determined following the community input sessions held by the California Mental Health Services Authority in October 2021. Additionally, the 2-year requirement is in alignment with the recertification process.

4. **For the 20 continued education hours requirement under the grandparenting process, must the 20 continued education (CE) hour be completed prior to submitting the application for certification?**

   The 20 Continuing Education (CE) hours must be completed prior to submitting the application. **Proof of course completion must be submitted** with application.

5. **What educational elements shall a training course cover to qualify to meet the 6-hour law and ethics course under the continued education requirement?**

   Below are examples of law and ethics course elements that would apply toward meeting this requirement:
   
   - Legal and ethical issues when working with children
   - Legal and ethical issues when working with disabled adults and older adults
   - Legal responsibilities for mandate reporting
   - Information on advanced mental healthcare directives
   - Professional conduct and boundaries
   - Ethics and counseling in addiction and recovery
   - Legal and ethical responsibilities covering confidentiality
6. For the “peer training” requirement under the grandparenting process, what training types are considered to meet this requirement?

Peer training under this requirement consists of trainings that addresses any of the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Core Competencies and trainings that focus on peer recovery and resiliency. Following are some example areas of focus:

- Mental health advanced care planning
- Advanced peer support specialist practices
- All DHCS approved training focusing on recovery and resiliency.
- All county sponsored training focusing on recovery and resiliency.
- Evidence-Based Training (i.e., Mental Health First Aid, Motivational interviewing, Suicide awareness, harm reduction models of care)

**Exam:**

7. How do I request testing accommodations for my exam? And will the exam be available in multiple languages?

Applicants seeking certification may request testing accommodations on the CalMHSA Certification website. Accommodations requests will be part of the exam registration process.

8. Will there be an exam study guide for persons interested in seeking certification?

This is under development.

9. What is the “pilot administration” of the exam and how can applicants interested in seeking certification participate in the pilot administration of the exam?

The pilot administration of the exam is open to individuals who meet requirements for certification and are interested in participating in the pilot administration of the exam. The pilot administration of the exam will occur during a specified timeframe by the exam developer. Persons seeking certification during that timeframe may self-elect to participate in the pilot administration of the exam at the time of registration. The exam and score are valid. Participants will receive the results of their exam approximately 30-days after completing the exam.
Certificant Registry

10. What is the Certificant Registry and who will have access to the information from the Certificant Registry?

The Certificant Registry is a searchable database, open to the public, with the full legal name of all Certificants and the status of their certification. Additional elements include - the certification number, date Certificant was issued, certificate renewal date, actions taken by certifying entity.

Employment

11. Will I be guaranteed employment once I am a Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist?

The California Mental Health Services Authority does not guarantee employment.