

A Brief Look at the Peer Movement

Advocating for Change

Mistreatment of persons with mental illness led to advocacy for persons with mental illness to be treated with dignity and respect. Advocacy for a seat at the table for human rights about for persons with mental illness.

1960's

Start to see centralized networks for advocacy. Monies from mental health programs used for the development of consumer run drop-in centers & consumer groups; Changes in how one identifies begins to change. "Consumer" & "Client" language was adopted.

1980's

Peers, Peer Supporters, Stakeholders, and Advocacy Organizations in California advocate for the successful pass of Senate Bill 803.

Advocacy

Passing of Senate Bill 803 authored by Beall was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 25, 2022; California joins 48 states to add Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists as a new distinct Medicaid provider type.

2020

1970's

Advocacy for social change resulting in new laws limiting involuntary commitment, psychiatric hospital closures, and the start of "Nothing About Us, Without Us" movement.

1990's

The use of rehabilitative language and ideologies are adopted; recognition of recovery and wellness in mental illness; There is growth in consumer run & peer support programs with monies from mental health systems. The National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery and the International Association of Peer Supports were established

2007

Peer support is recognized as an evidence-based model of care in mental health treatment by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare. Offers interested states an opportunity to cover peer support providers as a distinct Medicaid provider type eligible for reimbursement. Each state developing its model of care.