

Mental Health Peer Specialist Certification and Grandfathering Questions for new Medicaid Benefit

April 18, 2019

Question	Answer	Who can answer/make change (group/HHSC/cert body/legal)
Who can Supervise Peers? Non Medicaid	Many types of individuals <i>can</i> and do supervise peers in non-Medicaid settings	Depends on organization
Who must supervise Peers under the new Medicaid benefit?	<p>Under the new Medicaid Peer Support benefit a Qualified Peer Supervisor is</p> <p>354.3105:</p> <p>(a) A peer supervisor must:</p> <p>(1) be at least 18 years of age;</p> <p>(2) be a:</p> <p>(A) QCC;</p> <p>(B) LPHA;</p> <p>(C) QMHP_CS, with a QCC or LPHA supervising the QMHP-CS; or</p> <p>(D) QPS, with a QCC or LPHA supervising the QPS.</p> <p>354.3003</p> <p>(17) QPS – Qualified Peer Supervisor. A QPS must;</p> <p>(A) be a certified peer specialist under this subchapter; and</p> <p>(B) have one of the following combinations;</p> <p>(i) A high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and at least 4 years of work experience as a peer specialist, up to two years of which may be substituted by work experience supervising others; or</p>	TAC

	(ii) An associate’s degree or higher from an accredited college or university and at least two years of work as a peer specialist. http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3105	
Who needs the training?	Per TAC, Under the new peer benefit, any person who is directly supervising peers (described above). http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3163	TAC
Who <u>can</u> elect to take the training and certify? Non Medicaid	Anyone who is qualified may take the training. http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3155 http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3157 http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3159	TAC
Will there be two certs for supervision, clinical/peer?	No, there is one supervision training.	TAC
Will the requirements be separated for peer supervisors vs clinical supervisors?	No, there will not.	TAC
Define “Training Entity” – “Instructor”	TAC Rule 354-3151 defines a training entity. http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3151 TAC Rule 354.3153 Defines Instructor requirements http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3153	TAC
Will the instructor cert go away?	There has never been an instructor certification in rule. Instructors are “ <i>approved</i> ” based upon the training entities approval plan. http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3151	TAC
If we certify instructors, where can they train?	Instructors must be <i>approved</i> by the training entity. The requirements for an instructor are http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3153	TAC

Will instructors be required to be a MHPS and have a TOT if they are new to training?	An instructor must be a certified peer specialist in good standing, per the rule cited above. There are no rule requirements for train the trainer.	TAC
Status of TOT going forward?	This is an issue for the field.	Field
Can grandfathering period be extended if changes indicate it would be appropriate?	An extension would be based upon feedback from the field.	Field
What about fidelity?	Fidelity is up to the certifying entities and training entities.	
How many trainers are to be trained?	This is up to market forces in the field.	
Can certifying entities have a stakeholder advisory board?	It is up to the certifying entities.	Certifying Entity
What is the rate methodology (email sent to Medicaid, response not received in time for this communication, but will be sent as soon as received)	Sent with initial communication	Medicaid

What if my certification expires in the next six months?	Peers whose certifications expires within the next six months may grandfather and re-certify simultaneously using one background check. Fingerprint background check must be dated within 30 days of application for grandfathering and/or re-certification.	Certifying Entity
What if I recertify early?	If a Peer re-certifies early, they will retain their re-certifying date.	Certifying Entity
What if I choose to re-certify later?	If a Peer does not re-certify early, they will likely need to obtain another fingerprint background check within 30 days of the separate application.	Certifying Entity
	Grandfathering and re-certification applications require two separate \$60 fees. Each additional grandfathered application is \$20.	Certifying Entity
Continuing Education Questions	20 CEUs, including 3 hours of ethics, are required to re-certify. Via Hope will make an online ethics training available soon. Texas Council has requested an extension for earning ethics CEUs, pending approval. The Texas Council Peer and Family Partner Post-Conference will offer 4 hours of ethics CEUs.	
	TCB will accept any CEUs approved by Via Hope prior to January 1, 2019. After January 1, 2019 CEUs must be obtained from TCB-approved entities or CE presentations for Mental Health and/or Substance Use Professionals relevant to Peer work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists of approved entities available on TCB Website. 	
	If a CE certificate does not have a title or is for a non-Peer profession, a photocopy of the printed program description	

	must be submitted. While not currently required, it may be helpful to include how the program pertained to Peer work.	
LPHA requirement for transcripts	This has been revised. A copy of the professional license and diploma with suffice instead of transcripts.	Certifying Entity
Ethics, what if my 3 hours aren't met by the time I submit my application?	You will be issued an initial certification for 6 months.	Certifying Entity
Criminal background check	Please click on this link for the Texas Administrative Code guidelines: http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/title1_chapter354_sec.354.3201	TAC
If I have been working primarily in mental health rehabilitation, do my hours count towards the supervised work component?	Yes, they do. According to the Texas Administrative Code and a State Medicaid Plan Amendment, mental health rehabilitation allows peers to deliver this service.	TAC, State Plan Amendment
Do I have to be certified as a supervisor under this new provision to supervise peers at a peer run organization.	Unless the peer run organization contracts with an LMHA to provide the new benefit, you do not need to be certified as a supervisor.	TAC