

Peer Support Specialist Update – NAMI California (added to CABHWI site June 2022)

[SB 803 signed in September 2020](#)

It allows counties to opt in to provide peer support services as a Medi-Cal provider type (in order to draw down federal Medicaid dollars), and develop a peer support certification program as long as counties cover the non-federal share.

Expansion of definition: Last month, the feds [approved the state's request](#) to broaden the definition of a peer support specialist as a:

- Parent
- Caregiver
- Family member

Previously, PSS was limited to people in recovery, which excluded parents, caregivers and family members.

July 1 Effective Date: Last month (May 20) was the deadline for counties to opt in to offer peer support services, which would begin implementation by July 1.

- So far, 51 counties have opted in.
- The remaining counties will still have ability to opt in every 6 months.

[Peer Support Specialists – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[DHCS Peer Support Specialist Main Page](#)