



## Information Notice 20-02

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**Date** 08/26/2020

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**To** Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) staff and Contract Agencies

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**From** Veronica Kelley, DSW, LCSW, Director 

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**Subject** New Classifications Designated as Other Qualified Providers for Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS)

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**Purpose** To provide information regarding new classifications, specifically those designated as Other Qualified Providers, who render specialty mental health services under the San Bernardino County (County) Mental Health Plan (MHP).

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**Background** On August 24, 2017, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) issued the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services (MHSUDS) Information Notice No. 17-040 clarifying that specialty mental health services may be rendered by non-licensed providers. Non-licensed providers may render services to the extent authorized by state law and must also agree to abide by the definitions, rules and requirements for SMHS established by DHCS and MHP. Under this provision, Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists are considered Other Qualified Providers per DHCS standards. DBH determined Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists are eligible to begin rendering SMHS effective December 30, 2019.

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**Qualifications and Requirements** Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists are classified as Other Qualified Providers under the MHP and must meet the following requirements:

- Must be under the direction of a Licensed Professional of the Healing Arts (LPHA);
- Must be at least 18 years of age;
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent degree;
- Experience as indicated in the job specifications, if applicable;

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### Qualifications and Requirements, continued

- Must obtain a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number to render services under the MHP;
- Must complete and submit a Staff Master for approval and obtain a SIMON number, and
- Must only render services outlined in the Eligible Services section of this IN.

**Note:** Other Qualified Providers such as Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists may render services under the direction of a LPHA within their respective scope of practice. LPHA's eligible to direct Other Qualified Providers who render services under the MHP are:

- Physicians;
- Psychologists;
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers;
- Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors;
- Marriage and Family Therapists;
- Registered Nurses;
- Certified Nurse Specialists, and
- Nurse Practitioners.

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### NPI Registration Requirements

Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists rendering services are classified as Unlicensed Behavioral Health Workers per DBH's HIPAA National Provider Identifier (NPI) Policy (COM0938) and are required to obtain an NPI Number. DBH's HIPAA National Provider Identifier (NPI) Procedure (COM0938-1) further requires that Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists select the Individual Health Care Provider Taxonomy code of "Other Service Providers" and specify their classification/specialty as follows:

- Peer and Family Advocates: Peer Specialist – 175T00000X
- Employment Services Specialists: Case Manager/Care Coordinator – 171M00000X

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### Eligible Services

Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists are eligible to provide services to clients, document in DBH medical charts and submit claims for services rendered. Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists are eligible to provide the SMHS outlined in the table below:

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### Eligible Services, continued

Service Type	Billable Procedure Code	Non-billable Procedure Code
Case Management	561	560
Collateral	311	310
Rehab/ADL	551	550

Descriptions of the services listed above are available in the [DBH Scope of Practice and Billing Guide](#).

**Note:** Peer Partners are eligible to provide specific Children's services with additional training.

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### Supervision

Clinical Therapist I's and/or Clinical Therapist II's at each respective DBH clinic/program will assist Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists with delivery of services and chart documentation.

Peer and Family Advocates and Employment Services Specialists assigned to specialty programs where a clinical leader is not present daily shall consult with their immediate supervisor regarding service delivery and chart documentation matters.

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### Reference(s)

- California Department of Health Care Services, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Information Notice No. 17-040
  - California Medicaid State Plan, Section 3, Supplement 3 to Attachment 3.1-A
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### Questions

For questions regarding this Information Notice, please contact DBH Quality Management at 909-386-8227 or at [DBH-QualityManagementDivision@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:DBH-QualityManagementDivision@dbh.sbcounty.gov).

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