

Peer Support Specialists Working Group
Office of Wellness and Resilience
Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

September 25, 2024

10:00am-12:00pm

Members Present via Zoom (13/17): Tia Hartsock (OWR Director), Cynthia Chappell (HIDOE-OSSS Project HI AWARE2), Greg Uwono (Member of Hawai'i JUD), Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator), Reina Purvis (SOHHS), Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center), Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation), Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana), Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC), Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i), Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project & Lived Experience Homelessness & Substance Use), Cynthia Kaneshiro (Hawai'i Certified Peer Specialist), Amy Naylor (DOH/AMHD)

Members Absent (4/17): Michael Vincent (DLE Director), Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD), Joseph O'conell (Caregiver with Lived Experience), Unfilled Position (Director of DOH/designee)

Guests Present (10) Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies), Shanelle Lum (Hawai'i Families As Allies), Cynthia White (Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i), Lisa McGarrie (ZERO TO THREE, Safe Babies), Anisa Wiseman (NAMI Hawai'i), Cherilyn Shiinoki (Family Hui Hawai'i), Anastasia Neumann (EPIC Ohana/ UH Law School), Michael Peacock (DOH AMHD & Hawai'i Vet 2 Vet), Bridgette Bennett (JUD), Heidi Allencastre

Support Staff Present (4): Naomi Leipold (OWR Project Manager), Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Facilitator), Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator), Erica Yamauchi (OWR)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS
I. Call to Order; Welcome and opening remarks.	Tia Hartsock (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:04am. Quorum established with thirteen (13) working group members in attendance. Welcome and Opening Remarks by Tia Hartsock (Chair).	

<p>II. Introductions of Working Group Members and Acknowledgement of Team Members and Guests</p>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) highlighted and thanked the working group members and support team for their involvement and participation with the Peer Support Specialists Working Group.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) introduced the facilitators Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez and Kimberly Nabarro who gave a brief summary of their background and experience.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) invited members of the Peer Support Specialist Working Group to share their name, role, and what peer support means to them.</p>	<p>Participants were encouraged to answer prompt in CHAT and to fill out the PSSWG Sign-In Sheet provided by Naomi Leipold (OWR Project Manager).</p>
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<p>III. Agenda, Focus, & Goals for today and for the Peer Support Specialists Working Group</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Facilitator) shared the agenda for this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and goals of the working group • Review sunshine law • Align participants in a safe space through shared agreements and ground rules • Learn from current peer supports • Learn about hopes and dreams of members • Peer support definition <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Facilitator) explained the format of the meetings, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the agenda • Allowing public comment for those that cannot stay for the end of the meeting • Cover agenda items • Public comment 	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) encouraged participants to leave a question in the Google Doc shared in the chat.</p> <p>(Please refer to the last pages of the meeting notes for the Google Doc with public comments and questions).</p>
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<p>IV: Public Comment and Input: for anyone who cannot stay for the agenda item(s) in question</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asked attendees who may not be able to stay for the duration of the meeting, if they would like to comment to please use Zoom to “raise your hand” so a facilitator can invite you to share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions or comments regarding discussion or agenda • Other mana’o related to meeting or agenda 	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) encouraged participants to leave a question in the Google Doc shared in the chat.</p> <p>(Please refer to the last pages of the meeting notes for the Google Doc with public comments and questions).</p>
<p>V. Summary of Act 088, SLH 2024 which established the Peer Support Specialists Working Group</p> <p>Discuss definition of “Peer Support Specialist”</p>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) reviewed Act 088 Hawai’i Session Laws 2024. Tia Hartsock (Chair) explained the selection of Peer Support Working Group members and how the sunshine law will be utilized.</p>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) invited public comment of participants by “raising their hand” via Zoom.</p>

<p>VI. Public Comment and Input: Related to Peer Support Specialists Working Group</p>	<p>Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies) – Recommendation – Using an implementation model for peer support and supervision.</p> <p>Cherilyn Shiinoki (Family Hui Hawai'i) shared her experience with peer-to-peer support within her organization and stated that peer support is a continuum, that starts in prevention.</p> <p>Michael Peacock Peacock (DOH AMHD & Hawai'i Vet 2 Vet) stated that he would like a core curriculum, so that training could be shared throughout other organizations.</p>	<p>Please refer to the last pages of the meeting notes for the Google Doc with public comments and questions.</p>
<p>VII. Working Group Goal and Purpose Review of Sunshine Law Intent and rules (Notice, Openness, Comment & Records</p>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) discussed how the Peer Support Specialists Working Group will utilize Primitive Integration Groups (PIGs) or “Piglets”. Community members and task force members will identify which groups they will be chairing and vice-chairing and who in turn, will facilitate and schedule the specific groups.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) shared the goals that will be developed through the PIGs, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to identify practices and adaptive framework • How to look at a trauma-informed model of supervision • How to create and provide and inventory of use • How to develop and sustain a plan for funding sources <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reviewed several sunshine law rules, that included (a) that no personal conversations are allowed; (b) reminded participants that these public meetings are being recorded.</p>	

	<p>Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) asked a question about whether formal members of the Peer Support Specialists Working Group are allowed to talk to one another about what is happening within the group.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) clarified that members of the Peer Support Specialists Working Group are not allowed to discuss possible future decisions or agenda items with one another.</p> <p>Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator) added that Med-QUEST also has meetings that follows sunshine law and that if cross-over can happen to inform a facilitator.</p>	
<p>VIII. Discuss meeting dates and timelines, discuss working group standards of conduct, and discuss goals of working group</p>	<p>Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator) shared future meeting dates for the Peer Support Specialists Working Group. The Working Group will meet every fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:00am-12:00pm., once a month. When the Wednesday falls on a holiday or night before a major holiday, the Working Group will meet on an alternative date.</p> <p>Future Peer Support Specialists Working Group meeting dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 23rd – Wednesday • November 25th – Monday • December 18th – Wednesday • January 22nd – Wednesday • February 26th – Wednesday • March 24th – Monday • April 23rd – Wednesday • May 28th, Wednesday • June 25th, Wednesday 	

Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator) shared (a) that on May 28, 2025, the meeting will likely take place in person; (b) that the status report of findings and recommendations needs to be submitted 20 days before the 2025 legislative session begins; (c) the working group will cease to exist by June 30th, 2025.

Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator) invited participants to ask any questions on meeting dates or timelines by putting them into the Google Doc in the chat.

Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Facilitator) clarified that the status report of findings and recommendations is to inform the legislature on where the Peer Support Specialists Working Group is at, regarding the meetings completed and future meetings scheduled.

Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator) shared the Ground Rules for the meetings that will create a safe space for sharing and listening regarding creative tensions.

Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator) shared a starter list about the shared agreements that will encourage an environment that allows members to complete this form of work.

Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator) and Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Facilitator) asked the group members if anyone had anything to share or add regarding safe spaces and confidentiality.

Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) emphasized her appreciation of the shared agreement of "step up, step back", which self-regulates and creates the space for others to speak.

	<p>Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC) added that respecting each other's perspectives and seeking to build, not tear is important to maintain a healthy foundation that is rooted in trust.</p> <p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) encouraged group members to learn from each other and to develop a framework that could be used as a model for future Working Groups.</p>	
IX. BREAK	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminds working group members about quorum and Sunshine Law.</p> <p>Returned from break at 11:15 am.</p>	
X. Discuss hopes and dreams of Working Group members	<p>Kimberly Nabarro (Facilitator) asks the Working Group members what their hopes and dreams are regarding the Peer Support Specialist Working Group.</p> <p>Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) said that her hope is that our state departments not only hire peers themselves, but put contractual obligations for peers within all of their contracts and that stigma could be reduced regarding peers.</p> <p>Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC) shared her dream of expanding the availability of peer support positions across various sectors.</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Facilitator) encouraged participants to add their hopes and dreams to the shared Google Doc.</p>

Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i) reinforced how important job availability is, with decent pay and good working conditions that have flexibility that accommodate people's situations.

Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation) shared her dream of having a peer-led organization and employer training that teaches them the valuable working with peers is.

Greg Uwono (Member of Hawai'i JUD) shared his hope about finding out more about different agencies and resources where this can be applied.

Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator) shared her hope that there would be a civil service classification of peer supports or people with lived experience.

Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana) said that her dream is about building awareness about the stigma present within our own communities and building the potential that the state has to grow.

Tia Hartsock (Chair) shared that her dream was being able to have the conversation that is currently having.

Cynthia Kaneshiro (Hawai'i Certified Peer Specialist) shared her dream of working full-time as a peer at a livable wage; and creating a perspective shift that removes shame and blame away and moves it into a space where understanding and compassion can get in.

Reina Purvis (SOHHS) shared their dream that this forum will lift up the marginalized voices within our LGBTQ communities.

Amy Naylor (DOH/AMHD) shared her hope that as a representative from DOH, Adult Mental Health Division, that they will be getting feedback, especially their Consumer Affairs Department.

Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project) that individuals with lived experience can be seen as equivalent to that of having a college education.

<p>XI. Presentation about Peer Support Specialists working in different places in Hawai'i</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asked the Working Group members with lived experience to add anything else to the discussion from their lens.</p> <p>Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC) shared her experience with homelessness, the prison system, and how working with the women that are incarcerated showed her how peer support can be effective in these areas.</p> <p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) shared her desire to uplift the peer support in the space of the Child Welfare Sector.</p> <p>Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana) emphasized the importance of meeting clients where they are at and that assisting them with their goals.</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) encouraged Working Group members to add any other comments about achieving the goals of the group into the shared Google Doc.</p> <p>Please refer to the last pages of the meeting notes for the Google Doc with public comments and questions.</p>
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<p>XII. Public Comment</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) opens the meeting for public comment.</p> <p>Michael Peacock mentions that the court system does have specialty courts the emphasizes terminology that allows a peer specialist to be a mentor or a coach.</p>	
<p>XIII. Closing and Adjournment</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminds the Working Group members that the next meeting is on October 23rd, on Wednesday at 10:00am-12:00pm.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) shares the points of discussion for the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape of existing peer support specialists programs in the state • Core values of peer support specialists • Nominations for vice chair <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) wraps up the meeting by asking several Working Group members to share three words that they feel after the meeting.</p> <p>Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation) shares her three words, which are hopeful, pilina and dreams.</p> <p>Reina Purvis (SOHHS) shared their three words which are optimistic, humbled, and living wages.</p> <p>Amy Naylor (DOH/AMHD) said her three words are excitement, opportunity, and learning.</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) clarifies that any topics or questions that were added to the Google Doc will be reviewed and added to the future agenda.</p> <p>Please refer to the last pages of the meeting notes for the Google Doc with public comments and questions.</p>

	Tia Hartsock (Chair) adjourned the meeting at 11:57 am.	
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**Please use this doc instead of the Zoom chat. You will also have an opportunity to speak as a community member during the Public Comment sections of the agenda.
Mahalo for your patience!**

**Please also sign in at this link on the Google sign-in sheet here
and share what “peer support” means to you:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fSQUBrWkoLXC0S8Q-eidbrcZCA9sprxnNIFSIEBj47c/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

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Veterans are not represented in this bill and how do you plan to address this?

In other parts of the nation peers can supervise peers and still bill for the service, will we present this to our state for our peer workforce?

Medicaid billing has 3 work categories where HCPS can serve and bill for that service, will this be the starting point or included in the conversation?

My hope is that we will be able to agree on a core curriculum that will be used statewide as a starting point which supports my dream of a statewide community peer workforce in multiple touchpoints (i.e. Libraries, ER's, schools, Faith-Based Locations, etc.,)

I am Cynthia White, co-founder of and training director at Kids Hurt Too Hawaii (KHTH). I am a former foster, have done peer group work for 40 years, taught it for 30 years, and have done peer groups in Hawaii for children, teens, and adults for 24 years. I worked 16 years as Director of the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition that was closely aligned with DHS, CWS, and ILP. I train peer group facilitators. I am writing a training manual for KHTH and will begin training trainers. I have high training standards and supervision of peer group facilitators. The focus at KHTH is families impacted by grief and trauma. Grief and trauma are included in training along with facilitating specific age groups. Our work is focused on peer groups. And we love collaborating with other organizations. That is through our mentoring activities. It's amazing that there are so many others doing peer support. I'm excited to learn more about other

programs. My hope and dream is to focus on peer groups because if we focus on 1:1, there won't be enough facilitators. Plus, people in need tend to feel safer in groups with others from and/or in similar situations.

Aloha my name is Shanelle with Hawaii Families As Allies. I am the mother of a now adult son on the spectrum, and I've used my lived experience in helping families for more than 20 years. I am privileged to represent HFAA, who is a fully, family-run organization comprised only of peers with lived experience who use their personal journeys to connect and help families for the past 36 years. HFAA was the original peer parent support partners who worked with CAMHD for more than 17 years alongside their FGCs and informed their workgroups and we also started the peer parent support component in the child welfare space as the original peer parent partners for EPIC Ohana's CWS contract. Peer support to me is a pathway to provide hope and help to others who are going thru similar challenges and when done responsibly, can have immeasurable impact. Hopes and dreams are aligned with others, where peers would be qualified, well trained/supported and able to earn a livable wage. Also hope that we would recognize peer supervision across the board. Regarding curriculum: As mentioned previously, there are lots of great curriculum already out there in peer spaces. We shouldn't re-create the wheel, since much of the curriculum is evidenced based/trauma informed and peer led. For peer parent support providers, there are national certification pathways already in place (since 2015) and what's great is that this has evolved as needs have changed over time. My 3 words are: Inspired, Encouraged & Ecstatic!

Aloha Mai Kakou, my name is Heidi Allencastre. I am a Parent and woman with Lived experience going through the CWS system with my 'Ohana. I have learned to lean into my lived experience in many different ways to support families and my community. I also work with Family Hui Hawaii working as a parent peer with other parents just supporting them through the regular struggles of being a parent.

Peer support means connecting with another individual who has similar life experiences as you have experienced so that you can help them navigate what they are experiencing letting them know and see that there is hope. I think that peer support can work on many different levels as intervention, and prevention to help, support and malama parents and our families!

Anisa Wiseman, Deputy Director, NAMI Hawaii. Growing up with a mother diagnosed with bipolar disorder, with psychosis, leads to many other things (domestic violence, homelessness, police interaction, courts, etc.) and you fall through the holes of the system over and over again. I am diagnosed with PTSD, anxiety, & depression and I am also in recovery from my codependency with my brother's substance use. I think about all the experiences in my life and how much magic a peer specialist could have made, if they had only been there, for myself and people I love too. I hope we can create a system where peers can bring magic to the most awful events of other people's lives. My hopes and dreams are that peer specialists are utilized in all areas across our systems and in all

forms. They need a track from the program/training into jobs. We need to pay them more and they need placement and continuing education. Peers should be supervised by peers and self care integrated into their work. They need flexibility, some can only work limited hours due to keeping their mental health-healthy, on disability, etc. We also need many different kinds of peer specialists, family peer specialists, and youth peer specialists. Youth peer specialists should be under 18! 18-year-olds don't understand the life of a 14 or 16-year-old. I dream of someone calling up their insurance company (or maybe it is 988?), requesting a list of peer support specialists, and being able to just call them up and utilize them (for prevention and maintenance) (to go to a Dr's appointment, a difficult errand, whatever they need for their mental health as a whole person). The foundation of recovery is connection and peer recovery IS and STARTS with connection.

Cherilyn Shiinoki, Executive Director of Family Hui Hawaii (FHH), an organization that is built on the foundation of the power of peer-to-peer support, particularly in the parenting journey. When we can build a system of peer-to-peer support within the community, support is more likely to be sustained organically so that limited funds can be strategically utilized to begin and foster those connections that can last a lifetime. No one understands experiences/challenges/trauma like a peer. Within this ideal, my hopes and dreams include a state supported system to include peer specialists for broad based prevention as well as tertiary intervention. Trauma begins prenatally and it is strategically important to invest in prevention in a system that addresses wellness and resilience with limited \$\$\$. Let's train families to support each other at all levels of need.