

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

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**November 25, 2024**

**10:00am-12:00pm**

**Members Present via Zoom** (11/17): Tia Hartsock (OWR Director), Cynthia Chappell (Department of Education), Reina Purvis (Statewide Office of Housing and Homelessness), Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana), Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC), Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i), Michael Vincent (DLE Director), Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation), Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD), Darryl Tanaka (DOH), Greg Uwono (Judiciary)

**Members Absent** (6/17): Amy Naylor (DOH/AMHD), Joseph O'Connell (Caregiver with Lived Experience), Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator), Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center), Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project & Lived Experience Homelessness & Substance Use), Cynthia Kaneshiro (Hawai'i Certified Peer Specialist)

**Guests Present** (25) Anisa Wiseman (NAMI Hawai'i), Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies), Kayla Samson (EPIC 'Ohana), Corinna Sosa (EPIC 'Ohana), Bridgette Bennett (Judiciary-Family Court), Leilani Willing (OWR), Nannie Ann Apalla (OWR), Cynthia White (Kids Hurt Too Hawaii), Erica Wilson (EPIC 'Ohana), Erica Yamauchi (OWR), Trever Davis (DOH Maui CCBHC), Amberly Gould (EPIC 'Ohana), Moanike'ala Katherine Tua'au Muna (HCCPR), Ana Kia (OWR), Belinda Danielson (Adult Mental Health division), Laura Miller (HCCPR), Dan Smeby (Key Industries), Moanalia Falealili (EPIC 'Ohana), Cherilyn Shiinoki (Family Hui Hawaii), Asha Autele (EPIC 'Ohana), Heidi Allencastre (Family Hui Hawaii), Michael Peacock (Hawaii Vet 2 Vet), Laurie Tochiki, Vivian, Shana Wailana Kukila

**Support Staff Present** (2): Naomi Leipold (OWR Project Manager), Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS
<p>I. Call to Order; Review and Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; and Welcome and opening remarks</p>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Quorum established with eleven (11) working group members in attendance.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked for any corrections, deletions, and comments to the October 23, 2024, meeting minutes.</p> <p>Welcome and Opening Remarks by Tia Hartsock (Chair).</p>	<p>Tia called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved: Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC)</li> <li>• Second: Darryl Tanaka (DOH)</li> <li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li> <li>• Nay: none</li> <li>• Agenda has been approved</li> </ul> <p>Tia called for a motion to approve October 23, 2024, PSSWG Meeting Minutes and all community meetings with technical corrections listed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD)</li> <li>• Second: Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC)</li> <li>• By verbal roll call: all in favor</li> <li>• Abstained from vote: none</li> <li>• Minutes have been approved</li> </ul>
<p>II. Agenda, Focus, &amp; Goals for today and for the Peer Support Specialists Working Group</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) shared the agenda for this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilina builder</li> <li>• Review the timeline</li> <li>• Learn about peer support in different spaces</li> <li>• Permitted Interactive Groups</li> <li>• Public comment</li> </ul>	

<p>III. Pilina builder opening</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asked the question: “Who do you tend to go to when things get muddy, hard, or when you need someone to bounce something off? What do they bring to the table to keep you going back for their support?” as the pilina builder.</p> <p>Four Working Group members were invited to share their statement:</p> <p>Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation) said that even though her Tutu is no longer with us physically, she is her go-to. Spiritually, she has been there for her since she was little and has taught her a lot about empathy.</p> <p>Michael Vincent (DLE Director) shared how he uses prayer throughout his day to help know how to deal with a situation.</p> <p>Reina Purvis (SOHHS) shared the importance and beauty of chosen family, especially coming from an LGBTQ community.</p> <p>Darryl Tanaka (DOH) said that his go-to person was Amy Naylor, but his current go-to person is now his boss Chanel Daluddung. He said that there is trust in the relationship and that he is thankful for the connection.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminded the Working Group about the shared agreement of being spicy and brief, taking leadership, and being present. She also reiterated that confidentiality needs to be honored and that all meetings are recorded.</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) encouraged participants to answer the question(s) in the chat.</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 them to share.</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
<p>V. Review timeline</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) shared the PSSWG timeline which highlighted the four different tasks that the Working Group is set to produce by June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of peer support specialists that will lead to the creation of Permitted Interaction Groups</li> <li>• Trauma-informed approach for supervision</li> <li>• Framework and best practices</li> <li>• Certification for Medicaid billable</li> </ul> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) invited community members to participate in the PIGs and have their voices heard. She also stated that Working Group members are highly encouraged to participate. There needs to be at least two Working Group members per PIG, with no more than eight members because it cannot be greater than quorum. Regarding community members, there can be as many individuals involved as the Chair of the PIG allows.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked if anyone had any questions or comments.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) reminded Working Group and community members of the Sunshine Law requirements surrounding PIGs and reviewed the ACT 88 Statute.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) shared the idea of having 3 PIGs focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Individual Adults</li> </ul>	<p>Timeline can be found at the end of this document</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked community members to email the Chair of the PIG they want to participate in, once the groups are established.</p> <p>Naomi Leipold (OWR) invited community members who could not stay for the entire meeting, but would like to be involved in PIGs, to email: <a href="mailto:gov.peers@hawaii.gov">gov.peers@hawaii.gov</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families</li> </ul>	
VI. Discussion on different types of peer support specialists	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asked three Working Group members to share what types of peer support are needed for families in their experience and work.</p> <p>Greg Uwono (Judiciary) shared how he mainly dealt with adults during his career as a probation officer, many of whom were involved in the mental health system and substance abuse programs. Peer specialists help by connecting a lot with the people and the families, they bring everyone together. They would also assist clients who were suffering from mental illnesses.</p> <p>Darryl Tanaka (DOH) stated that peer support specialists can be viewed as miracles to a lot of people that have lost hope.</p> <p>Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD) shared the development of creating a curriculum for youth peers that would meet Medicaid specs, as well as giving proper training to peers. He highlighted the feedback that young people experienced a disconnect when going through the system, however, youth peers were able to make that connection.</p>	<p>Darryl Tanaka (DOH) shared the opportunity for Working Group and community members to complete a peer specialist course via Zoom by applying through the website:</p> <p><a href="https://health.hawaii.gov/amhd/consumer/hcps/">https://health.hawaii.gov/amhd/consumer/hcps/</a></p>
VII. BREAK	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminds working group members about quorum and Sunshine Law.</p> <p>Returned from break at 11:08 am.</p>	

<p>VIII. Discussion and motion to establish Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs)</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminds Working Group members about the Sunshine Law surrounding PIGs.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) added that the purpose is to establish the Working Group to identify the best practices, create, develop and adopt this framework. The framework should include roles, definitions, etc.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) led the conversation on creating three PIGs.</p> <p>Michael Vincent (DLE Director) reminded the Working Group members of a public comment made by Michael Peacock (Hawaii Vet 2 Vet) about veterans in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) responded that in each PIG, veterans will be spoken about in relation to families, individual adults, and youth peer supports. This is a type of subpopulation that will be identified as part of the inventory.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) stated that the appointed Chairs of each PIG will receive support from the administrative facilitators: Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator), Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator), as well as from Naomi Leipold (OWR Project Manager). They will assist by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capturing the emails of Working Group and community members</li> <li>• Sending out and creating Zoom links</li> <li>• Identifying meeting times and taking notes during them</li> </ul>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called for a motion to create and open a Youth Peer Support Permitted Interaction Group focusing on youth, answering specific questions and deliverables around the inventory for what is out there currently in Hawaii for youth peer support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved: Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD)</li> <li>• Second: Cynthia Chappell (Department of Education)</li> <li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li> <li>• Nay: none</li> <li>• PIG has been created.</li> </ul> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called for a motion to create and open a Permitted Interaction Group on Families with the topic of identifying inventory for what peer support programs are available currently for families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved: Greg Uwono (Judiciary)</li> <li>• Second: Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana)</li> <li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li> <li>• Nay: none</li> <li>• PIG has been created.</li> </ul> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called for a motion to create a Permitted Interaction Group on Individual Adults, focused on building an inventory for peer supports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved: Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation)</li> <li>• Second: Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana)</li> <li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li> <li>• Nay: none</li> <li>• PIG has been created.</li> </ul>

		<p>Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation) volunteered to be the Chair for the Individual Adults PIG and Tia Hartsock (Chair) called for a motion to approve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moved: Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana)</li><li>• Second: Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC)</li><li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li><li>• Nay: none</li><li>• Chair has been approved</li></ul> <p>Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD) volunteered to be the Chair of the Youth Peer Support PIG and Tia Hartsock (Chair) called for a motion to approve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moved: Reina Purvis (Statewide Office of Housing and Homelessness)</li><li>• Second: Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC)</li><li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li><li>• Nay: none</li><li>• Chair has been approved</li></ul> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) volunteered to be the Chair of the Family PIG and called for a motion to approve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moved: Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC)</li><li>• Second: Darryl Tanaka (DOH)</li><li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li><li>• Nay: none</li><li>• Chair has been approved</li></ul> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) recommended that Working Group and community members email the Chairs of each PIG that they would like to be part of.</p> <p>Debbie's email: <a href="mailto:debbie.victor@puafoundation.net">debbie.victor@puafoundation.net</a></p> <p>Scott's email:</p>
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IX. Public Comment	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) opens the meeting for public comment.</p> <p>Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies) suggested that the Family PIG is renamed in order to remove any confusion that may be associated with the group. She offered calling the group: parents and caregivers.</p> <p>Michael Peacock (Hawaii Vet 2 Vet) is concerned that there may be overlap with the Medicaid billing. He suggested integrating the training into the recovery plan, so that wages could be provided for the peers that are doing the work, as well as the training and education for the peer that is learning.</p>	
X. Closing and Adjournment	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) summarized the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation and involvement in the meeting.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminded participants that the next PSSWG meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 am.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) adjourned the meeting at 11:58 am.</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) invites participants to email the Peer Support Specialists Working Group email about any topics that they would like to be included in the agenda.</p> <p>PSSWG email: <a href="mailto:gov.peers@hawaii.gov">gov.peers@hawaii.gov</a></p>



Public Comments made during the duration of the meeting:

**Facilitators posed the question: Who do you tend to go to when things get muddy, hard, or when you need someone to bounce something off? What do they bring to the table to keep you going back for their support?**

- Cheryl Shiinoki: My closest friends; a listening ear, no judgment or advice unless I ask for it.
- Moani Muna: Na akua ho'ola is who I turn to when things are horrifically challenging. Akua is greater than the corruption I've encountered in CWS and occupying-government institutions.
- Laurie Tochiki: It depends on what the muddy problem is. For family it's my sister. When it's business things I appreciate the support of other leaders like Scott and Debbie.
- Cynthia Chappell: Feeling valued and supported.
- Kimmy Takata: Many people to turn to for support, but when things become particularly challenging: finding solace and going to the beach, talking to God, journaling my thoughts and feelings.
- Amberly Gould: JESUS Is who I turn to. but here physically would be my bestie.
- Vivian: I pray, then I call whoever, depending on the situation. But I do bounce things off of my sponsor. I go to meetings and mediate and move forward to address the situation.
- Bridgette Bennett: It really depends on the situation. However, my first response is to pray to God. If I need human comfort, then I go to my husband and my mother.
- Moanalia Falealili: Yes, depending on what the problem is I love having genuine conversations with my older siblings (were all very humorous) & laughter sometimes is all I needed!
- Dan Smeby: I turn to my grandmother, she was with me in spirit, and I like to find her when I'm near or in the water.
- Heidi Allencastre: Perspective, especially if you need to hear something different than what you can see for yourself. Support and just being heard and having your feelings acknowledged.
- Samantha U'u: It would depend on the situation. If it's for knowledge or experience in my field of work, it would be my co-workers. If it's for the relationship, I will communicate with a partner. All other stuff would be my father. It is for anyone who is willing to listen to me and for me to learn and grow from.
- Asha Autele: Yes, I turn to prayer, and also people who I can trust their counsel.

**Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked: Does anyone have any thoughts on what kind of Permitted Interaction Groups they would like to see established?**

- Michael Peacock (Hawaii Vet 2 Vet): Veterans and the criminal justice system would be a good Permitted Interaction Group to create.
- Malia Daraban: Definition of what peer support is.
- Moani Muna Aloha, my PIG suggestion is for survivors of state-sanctioned violence. Peer supports seen through a trauma-informed lens of decolonizing.

**Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked: Is there a conversation with the Working Group that wants to talk about the titles of these names (each PIG)? The population limit? How are we defining youth versus families? Or how are we finding youth versus individual adults?**

- Anisa Wiseman: I hear us talking about PIGS and who the peer specialists should support but should we have a PIG that is looking out for the peer specialists and what kind of accommodations should be made, etc.? Or is that not something we will do here? I guess I am worried about how we will support them to do this work.
- Shana Wailana Kukila: Suggestion: Alu Like can help guide the conversation and provide this kind of service to youth as well, as they are already set up for this kind of task. Creating career paths with supports is their specialty.

**Permitted Interaction Group sign up (via zoom chat):**

***Youth***

- Cynthia White, Kids Hurt Too Hawaii
- Sam Uu
- Maoni Muna
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***Adult***

- Tim Hansen, NAMI
- Moani Muna
- Sam Uu
- Kathleen Mirriam, AMHD

***Families***

- Cherylin Shiinoki
- Sam Uu
- Moani Muna

**Other public comments or questions:**

- Moani Muna: Aloha, my name is Moanike'ala Katherine Tua'au Muna. I am a member of the Hawaii Coalition for Child Protective Reform. Peer support means to me: "speaking all the way up for the most vulnerable members of our society, those most needing trauma-informed and healing-informed care and supports. E hiki mai o Lono"
- Moani Muna: This is the first year I am celebrating Lonoikamakahiki. I got to watch Makali'i rise and see ho'ailona reveal what this year has in store for us. I see Akua Lono in all spaces now, kinolau of Lono are present everywhere I look. We are in the season of healing, the season of Lono.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Shana Wailana Kukila: Aloha. When will there be these trainings and opportunities for those of us with “lived experience?” Mahalo.</li><li>● Kathleen Merriam.AMHD: Paid internships are very important, such great experience in the field, plus payment for important work</li><li>● Shana Wailana Kukila: It may be time to start compensating those in the community who have been giving of their time for years for no compensation. Mahalo.</li><li>● Shana Wailana Kukila: Teens in foster care need income, too. Please consider paying them as a real career path.</li><li>● Moani Muna: I have lived experience in all 3 areas: as a youth, as a family member, and as an individual adult. Peer supports are CAMHD free DBT training skills for families. Protective Factor Framework trainings through Heidi Allencastre of Ho’oikaika Partnership. NAMI support groups</li><li>● Moani Muna: I appreciate this conversation and look forward to doing all I can to create the trauma-informed state that Governor Josh Green MD. has signed into existence. Thank you.</li><li>● Cynthia White, Kids Hurt Too Hawaii/she/her: Thank you all for your hard work on this. I look forward to participating. Have a safe and happy holiday.</li><li>● Moani Muna: We are the change we want to see in the world. My favorite prayer is: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.</li></ul>

# PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST WORKING GROUP TIMELINE

