

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

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**January 22, 2025**

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

**Members Present via Zoom** (11/17): Tia Hartsock (OWR Director), Cynthia Chappell (Department of Education), Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i), Darryl Tanaka (DOH), Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project & Lived Experience Homelessness & Substance Use), Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies), Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center), Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator), Kimmy Takata (Vice Chair), Greg Uwono (Judiciary), Reina Purvis (Statewide Office of Housing and Homelessness)

**Members Absent** (6/17): Cynthia Kaneshiro (Hawai'i Certified Peer Specialist), Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD), Samantha U'u (EPIC 'Ohana), Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation), Michael Vincent (DLE Director), DOH Designee

**Guests Present** (5) Tim Hansen (NAMI Hawai'i), Bridgette Bennett (Judiciary/Family Court), Angelina Bezhenar (OWR), Erica Yamauchi (OWR), Moanike'ala Katherine Tua'au Muna (Hawai'i Coalition for Child Protective Reform)

**Support Staff Present** (3): Naomi Leipold (OWR Project Manager), Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator), Kim Nabarro (Co-Facilitator)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendations/ Actions/ Conclusions
I. Call to Order; Review and Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; and Welcome and opening remarks	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Quorum established with eleven (11) working group members in attendance.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked for any corrections, deletions, and comments to the December 18, 2024, meeting minutes.</p> <p>Welcome and Opening Remarks by Tia Hartsock (Chair).</p>	<p>Tia called for a motion to approve December 18, 2024, PSSWG Meeting Minutes and all community meetings with technical corrections listed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved: Heather Lusk</li> <li>• Second: Lindsay Pacheco</li> <li>• Approved: by verbal statement of “aye”</li> <li>• Nay: none</li> <li>• Agenda has been approved</li> </ul>
II. Agenda, Focus, & Goals for today and for the Peer Support Specialists Working Group	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) shared the agenda for this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) will report out</li> <li>• Dissolve each PIG</li> <li>• Peer support specialist definition review</li> <li>• Public comment</li> </ul>	
III. Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) report out	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) summarized the data found on the Peer Support Specialist Inventory List.</p> <p><b>Adult Peer Support Inventory PIG</b></p> <p>Kimmy Takata (Pu‘a Foundation/PPC) shared that the group has met twice already and had good representation from Big Island, Maui, and Oahu. During those meetings, lived experience, justice, child welfare, mental health, and clubhouses were involved. Programs were discovered with peer support, including their funding sources and whether there is a time limit to how long they can offer peer support. Several programs include Aloha Care, NAMI Hawai‘i, Recovery Hawai‘i, and IHS.</p>	<p>The Inventory List can be viewed through the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Hp6HKn5_0e3i6q7Ujq4XV6S0-GBAXIL7G8UZAyvCi8w/edit?gid=0#gid=0">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Hp6HKn5_0e3i6q7Ujq4XV6S0-GBAXIL7G8UZAyvCi8w/edit?gid=0#gid=0</a></p>

	<p>Kim Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) uplifted the type of lived experience that the programs supported. Types of lived experience included reentry into the community, long-term recovery, experience with houselessness, and experience with mental health issues.</p> <p><b>Family Peer Support Inventory PIG:</b> Tia Hartsock (Chair) highlighted the programs that represented peer support, which included EPIC ‘Ohana, NAMI Hawai‘i, CFS, Pu‘a Foundation, Spill the Tea, Family Hui Hawai‘i, Police Departments, Kids Hurt Too, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, and Hawai‘i Autism Foundation. Funding for the programs came from various sources such as philanthropy, DOH, County, grants, contracts, and more.</p> <p><b>Youth Peer Support Inventory PIG:</b> Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) discussed the statewide efforts that are happening in places such as DOH, Kids Hurt Too, and DOE. The Youth PIG knows that mentorships, peers, and peer specialists are separate and need to be clearly categorized.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) answered questions and reminded Working Group Members about Sunshine Law.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) dissolves the Adult Peer Support Inventory PIG, Family Peer Support Inventory PIG, and Youth Peer Support Inventory PIG.</p>	
IV. Public Comment and Input: for anyone	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	No comments.

<p>who cannot stay for the agenda item(s) in question</p>	<p>Zoom to “raise your hand” so a facilitator can invite them to share.</p>	
<p>V. BREAK</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminds working group members about quorum and Sunshine Law.</p> <p>Returned from break at 10:43 a.m.</p>	
<p>VI. Peer support specialist definition discussion</p>	<p>Kim Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) began the discussion by reviewing the draft definition created in the December Padlet contribution. The best definition of a Peer Support Specialist that was created by the Working Group was:</p> <p>“Someone who uses their lived experiences with state systems (as a youth, adult, or caregiver) to support and guide others facing similar challenges. Trained and certified through a formal process, they offer empathy, coping strategies, and help navigate systems. They build trust, foster hope, and encourage individuals to take on an active role in their recovery or personal growth.”</p> <p>Kim Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) invited Group Members to share their thoughts regarding the definition.</p> <p>Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health &amp; Harm Reduction Center) shared her concerns regarding the narrowness of “state systems”, due to their potential limitations in representing those who’s experiences are broader.</p> <p>Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies) agreed with Heather about how using state systems could be narrow and that incorporating a broader definition could prevent that.</p>	<p>The Padlet document can be viewed through the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://padlet.com/govpeers/peer-support-specialist-definition-2n53yfu136itjze7">https://padlet.com/govpeers/peer-support-specialist-definition-2n53yfu136itjze7</a></p>

	<p>Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i) stated that lived experience means so many different things and that there could possibly be three separate definitions for youth, adult, and caregiver peer support specialists.</p> <p>Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project) also agreed with the idea to change the terminology of "state systems" with a more inclusive replacement.</p>	
VII. Public Comment	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) opens the meeting for public comment.</p> <p>Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator) asked for clarification surrounding Sunshine Law and Permitted Interaction Groups.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) debriefed the group about rules and restrictions within Sunshine Law.</p> <p>Moani Muna spoke on the first principle of trauma-informed care, which is safety, and addressing the safety of those in need.</p>	
VIII. Closing and Adjournment	<p>Kim Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) summarized the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation and involvement in the meeting.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminded the PSSWG that the next meeting will take place on February 26, 2025, where a conversation regarding the next set of PIGs will take place. Other agenda items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify best practices</li> <li>• Create, develop, and adopt the statewide framework for peer support specialists</li> </ul>	<p>Kim Nabarro (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>

- Identify a trauma-informed model of supervision, of peer support specialists, to support competent and ethical delivery of services
- Develop a sustainability plan that includes the identification of Federal and State funding streams to establish peer support as a Medicaid billable service

Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asked five Working Group Members what one hope is that they are taking with them after today's meeting, the hope they want to share with others.

Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies) shares her hope for moving forward and that everyone here is doing good work to help others help themselves.

Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator) talked about her attendance of a peacemakers' acknowledgement event where she heard a profound statement that pulled her from a feeling of isolation to a feeling of interconnectedness.

Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project) hopes to see peer support specialists to truly be recognized for what they are, which includes their heart, compassion, levels of care and empathy.

Greg Uwono (Judiciary) said that his hope is to learn more about peer support in order to be better equipped to educate others and share the knowledge of what it is.

Kimmy Takata (Vice Chair) shares her hope of seeing peer support within the prison systems.

	Kimmy Takata (Vice Chair) adjourns the meeting at 11:24 a.m.	
Public Comments made during the duration of the meeting:	<p><b>Facilitators asked participants to leave comments regarding the Inventory List in the chat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moani Muna: Do we have listed the persons that contributed the information for this list? I'm asking to see if it included mostly those with lived expertise and what they found to be measurably helpful with regards to peer support.</li> <li>• Moani Muna: We cannot rely on agencies that are openly harming and covering up sexual and physical abuse of our foster youth to provide the same youth peer support.</li> <li>• Tia LR Hartsock: @Moani - there is a list of community members who participated in these permitted interaction groups. We didn't ask for any 'ratings' on these programs - just wanted to get an idea of any and all programs that are doing this type of service for now.</li> <li>• Moani Muna: Children's Law Project of Hawai'i's Valerie Grab is covering up rampant sexual abuses against youth</li> <li>• Moani Muna: The conversation is different when you listen to those with lived expertise.</li> <li>• Kailene Nihipali Sanchez: Mahalo Moani, lived expertise voice is so important.</li> <li>• Moani Muna: CWS hires sexual assault forensic examiners to do off-the-record sexual assault forensic exams on children. This means there are NO detectives providing oversight or accountability. There is no way to track these horrors that our children are facing. I know this FIRST HAND as a SAFE nurse who Carleen Greenlee hired to do an off-the-record sexual assault forensic exam. What in the unethical horror our foster youth are facing?! CWS is retaliating against abuse-whistleblowers. ...and they're listed as peer supports here.</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators asked participants to leave comments regarding the Peer Support Specialist Definition in the chat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Hansen: Moani, please report your concerns to the appropriate authorities who can address these very serious and disturbing concerns. I don't believe this is the venue. Mahalo!</li> <li>• Moani Muna: I have reported to every single appropriate agency. This is the exact venue that naturally comes after all forms of redress have afforded no accountability. Addressing the source of harm and creating safety means naming the source of harm. They are not "peers" if they are harming our keiki and families. They are the source of ma'i.</li> <li>• Moani Muna: I have been involved in multiple state systems. I received 504 services after breaking my neck at 16 years old. I have children who were saved by CAMHD supports. I have oodles of lived expertise. There are many of us that do, but we're often missing from the conversation.</li> <li>• Tim Hansen: I would suggest removing the words "with state systems"</li> <li>• Moani Muna: Would it be appropriate to name "state-funded system"?</li> <li>• Judy Mohr Peterson, Hawai'i, Med-QUEST, DHS: I also agree with Tim.</li> </ul>	

- Kimmy Takata: Systems of care.
- Naomi Leipold | Office of Wellness and Resilience: SB3094  
[https://data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/bills/SB3094 .htm](https://data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/bills/SB3094.htm) -This is the bill that mandates the specifics of what the framework needs to include. Or please email [gov.peers@hawaii.gov](mailto:gov.peers@hawaii.gov) with any ideas you may have about next steps moving forward.
- Heather Lusk (she/hers): Can we please add legislative bills related to peers at Feb meeting?
- Erica Yamauchi (she/her) | Gov Office of Wellness & Resilience: Act 88  
[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/bills/GM1189 .PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/bills/GM1189.PDF)
- Moani Muna: “Trauma-informed care is built on six principles that foster this shift: (1) safety, (2) trust and transparency, (3) empowerment, known as “voice and choice,” (4) collaboration, (5) peer support, and (6) honoring cultural, gender and historical issues.” <https://governor.hawaii.gov/main/owrs-mission-to-make-hawaii-a-trauma-informed-state/>
- Moani Muna: Safety. The 1st principle means stopping the abuses. Legit peer support systems can handle the truth of what we’re facing. Peers’ lived expertise often gives them the capacity to witness others in their reality. A validating environment is healing for trauma survivors.
- Reina Purvis, (she/they) SOHHS: Have to leave a bit earlier than I thought. Have a lovely day everyone.
- Moani Muna: We can walk the walk, friends. We have all that we need to guide us toward trauma-informed principle #1: safety.

**Facilitators posed the question: What is one hope you are taking with you after today’s meeting, the hope you want to share with others?**

- CJ Chappell DOE: Hope for Safety and support for all, CJ
- Moani Muna: I appreciate the conversation. Truly I do. I’m sorry if I hurt anyone’s feelings while speaking here. It was not my intention. I’m trying to behave in a way that is worthy of Ariel and Geanna.