

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

Virtual meeting via Zoom  
June 25, 2025  
9:00am-12:00pm

**Members Present (13/17):** Tia Hartsock (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD), Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies), James Koshiba (Designee for Lindsay Pacheco, Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project & Lived Experience Homelessness & Substance Use), Heather Lusk (Hawaii Health Harm and Reduction Center), Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator), Kayla Samson (EPIC 'Ohana), Samantha U'u (EPIC 'Ohana), Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i), Chanel Daluddung (DOH), Christine Montague-Hicks (Department of Education), Mike Lambert (Department of Law Enforcement), Cynthia Kaneshiro (Peer Support Specialist)

**Members Absent (4/17):** Bridgette Bennett (Judiciary), DOH Designee, Non-profit designee, Reina Purvis (Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness)

**Guests Present (23):**, Anisa Wiseman (NAMI Hawai'i), Dominic (Oahu Lived Experience Council), Kimberly Jackson (Peer Trainer/PSS), Mike Peacock (Hawaii Vet 2 Vet Inc.), Deanna (EPIC 'Ohana), Jake (AMHD), Patricia (EPIC 'Ohana), Fourth Floor Conference Room, Laurie Tochiki (Pilina Pathways)

**Support Staff Present:** Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator), Kim Nabarro (Co-Facilitator), Naomi Leipold (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Ana Kia (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Leilani Willing (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Erica Yamauchi (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Nannie Apalla (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Telesia Pasese (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Tikki Bisbee (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Trina Orimoto (Office of Wellness and Resilience), Jodie Burgess (Office of Wellness and Resilience)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendations/Actions/Conclusions
I. Call to Order; and Welcome and Opening Remarks	<p>Tia Hartsock (chair) called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Quorum established with eleven (11) working group members in attendance.</p> <p>Tia asked for any corrections, deletions, and comments to the May 28, 2025, meeting minutes. Edits included: changes to the date in the 1st agenda item, and adding last names to participant comments on pages 7 and 8.</p> <p>Welcome and Opening Remarks by Tia Hartsock.</p>	<p>Tia called for a motion to approve May 28, 2025, PSSWG Meeting Minutes with edits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved: Scott Shimabukuro</li> <li>• Second: Malia Daraban</li> <li>• Approved: by verbal statement of aye</li> <li>• Nay: none</li> <li>• Minutes have been approved</li> </ul>
II. Agenda, Focus, & Goals for today and for the Peer Support Specialists Working Group	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) welcomed everyone to the last Peer Support Specialist working group meeting and thanked all members for their participation over these months.</p> <p>Kailene shared the agenda for this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of implementation moving forward</li> <li>• Review and final suggestions/recommendations for the framework</li> <li>• Approve framework as corrected and amended</li> </ul>	
III. Hopes, Dreams, and Commitments from May Meeting	<p>Kailene reviewed the hopes, dreams, and commitments captured at the May 28th in-person meeting. Key themes included:</p> <p>Hopes and Dreams (1 year and 5 years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community of practice/cohort of peers moving in one direction</li> <li>• Hub for curriculum available to everyone</li> <li>• Standardized curriculum training</li> <li>• Meaningful funding for peer specialist work</li> <li>• Core curriculum developed and implemented statewide</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative certification process</li> <li>• Extensive pool of certified peer specialists embedded in workforce</li> <li>• Office to coordinate peer specialist programs</li> </ul> <p>Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals: Commit time and experience, meet periodically, advocate, collaborate, and educate communities</li> <li>• Organizations/Agencies: Create culture of peer support, co-design with peers, pursue grants, act as thought partners</li> <li>• Communities: Recognize peer support as profession, raise awareness, recruit mentors, educate about trauma-informed care</li> </ul>	
IV. Discussion on Implementation	<p>Kailene presented three key areas for implementation: (1) Facilitator to lead implementation and host conversations, (2) Hub to provide technical assistance and support, maintain inventory list, and provide resources, (3) Certifier as central certification agency.</p> <p>Key discussion points from members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple members emphasized need for sustainability through legislation rather than individual leadership</li> <li>• Strong support for maintaining cross-sector, statewide approach rather than returning to siloed systems</li> <li>• Recognition that different types of peer support may need different approaches</li> <li>• MedQuest partnership is essential if peer support will be billable service</li> <li>• Consideration of advisory group or hui structure with OWR as steering committee and group discussed whether this should be legislatively mandated to ensure sustainability. Group agreed that this commission should consist of majority of community (non-government) members to reduce political influence and increase community voice.</li> </ul>	<p>Group agreed to recommend OWR will continue as facilitator and hub for next steps while discussions continue on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory group composition</li> <li>• Statewide, system-wide approach</li> <li>• Community-centered structure</li> <li>• Potential legislation for 2026 session</li> </ul>

V. Public Comment	Mike Peacock (Vet2Vet): Emphasized importance of not over-analyzing shared experience - sometimes help is needed regardless of exact matching. Suggested core curriculum (40 hours) that all departments use with specialty add-ons (e.g., 10-hour forensic specialty) for different settings.	
VI. Review and Approval of Framework	<p>Group collectively reviewed framework and discussed amendments and changes that they recommend before approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose statement: Make more active and outcome-focused</li> <li>• Recovery-oriented language: Group agreed recovery is ongoing journey and term should remain with understanding that it is strength-based and individually defined</li> <li>• Trauma-informed principles: Framework operates under trauma-informed principles, encompassing equity, voice, choice, and empowerment</li> <li>• Terminology consistency: Change general language to peer support and add definition to delineate between peer support mentors, specialists, and supervisors</li> <li>• Department listings: Update Department of Public Safety to Department of Corrections</li> <li>• Add comment about integrating wellness and self-care into peer work</li> <li>• Change parent partner to caregiver where appropriate</li> </ul>	
VII. Final Motion and Approval	<p>Kim Nabarro presented comprehensive motion to approve framework with all discussed changes.</p> <p>Framework approved with following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working group recommends legislation establish advisory group</li> <li>• Advisory group will be statewide, system-wide, cross-discipline, and community-centered</li> <li>• OWR continue as facilitator</li> </ul>	<p>Motion made by Judy Mohr Peterson Second by Kayla Samson</p> <p>Approved: by verbal statement of aye from members Nay: none Motion passed</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer support should have direct experience in population they serve</li> <li>• Integrate wellness and self-care into peer work</li> <li>• Reword outcomes and introduction to be more active</li> <li>• Trauma-informed principles are integral to framework</li> <li>• Change language to peer support with definition to delineate roles</li> <li>• Change parent partner to caregiver where appropriate</li> </ul>	
VIII. Closing and Adjournment	<p>Tia Hartsock thanked everyone for their participation and celebrated the incredible work accomplished by the working group.</p> <p>Meeting was officially closed at 11:59am</p>	