

Certified Health Practitioners

Certified by PA Not Certified by PA	Community Health Worker (CHW)	Peer Specialist (CPS)	Youth Peer Support (Y-CPS)	Family Peer Support (FPS)
Steps to certify and expand workforce to meet children’s mental health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Create and recognize mental health endorsements for: maternal health, infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH), and youth mental health literacy</li><li>State Plan Amendment for statewide access to the full scope of CHW mental health services with endorsement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Create and recognize mental health endorsements for: maternal health and infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remove lower age limit for youth peer support and create endorsement for youth under age 18</li><li>Expand services based on EPSDT to be pre-diagnosis and include social skills building, mentoring, and respite</li><li>DHS guidance on Y-CPS in schools</li><li>Expand BH MCO youth peer service programs to schools</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recognize National Family Peer Support Certification until adoption of PA Family Peer Support Certification for BHMCO consistency</li><li>Create and recognize mental health endorsements for infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH)</li></ul>
Practice Framework	Public Health focused, addressing systemic and social health factors. Also known as outreach worker, patient navigator, promotores de salud	Recovery oriented, emphasizing lived experience, mutuality, and empowerment	Recovery oriented, emphasizing lived experience, mutuality, and empowerment	Family driven care, emphasizing self-advocacy, navigating systems, and resources
Lived Experience	Trusted member of the community by ethnicity, language, and/or culture	Living well with or in recovery from a mental health condition	Living well with or in recovery from a mental health condition	Parent, family member, or caregiver of a child experiencing mental health challenges
Core Services	Health Education, care navigation, disease prevention, community assessments	Emotional support, wellness planning, self-determination support, crisis support	Emotional support, wellness planning, self-determination support, crisis support	Bring voice to service delivery, planning, and evaluation process
People Served	Serve underserved populations facing barriers to healthcare access and social services	Support individuals with mental health challenges in their recovery journey	Support youth age 14-17 with mental health challenges in their recovery journey	Support parents and caregivers of individuals with mental health challenges across the lifespan
Training	75 hours	75 hours	75 hours	5 days for national training by the <a href="#">Youth and Family Training Institute</a> )
Experience	2000 hours with 60 hours of supervision	Statement of lived experience	CPS plus 18 hours Youth and Young Adult Peer Support Training	For national certification, 1000 hours experience and Family Story
Exam	No	Yes	Yes	No
PA Certified	Yes	Yes	Yes, as a CPS with youth and young adult training	No, National Certification available. <a href="#">n/a</a>
PA Medicaid reimbursement	Physical Health MCO flexibility	<a href="#">Yes</a>	Yes, over age 14	Behavioral Health MCO flexibility
OMHSAS Citation	n/a	<a href="#">OMHSAS-24-05</a>	<a href="#">OMHSAS-16-12</a> , <a href="#">OMHSAS-19-05</a>	n/a
Additional PA Material	<a href="#">pacertboard.org/cchw</a>	<a href="#">pacertboard.org/cps</a>	<a href="#">Youth and Young Adult Peer Support Training</a>	<a href="#">YFTI Practice Model</a>