



MA Peer Recovery Services: program improvement

Kristy Graume | Legislative Director, Behavioral Health, Housing, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Disability Services

What are peer services? Why are they important?

- Peers are an emerging profession, growing and evolving.
- Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) are also relatively new.
- RCOs, in addition to treatment programs, Tribes, and counties employ, train, and supervise peers.
- Peer support services and RCOs fill gaps in and around treatment in a non-clinical setting.
- Peer services are an important element of the substance use disorder (SUD) continuum of services.



DHS policy work to improve peer services

- The Legislature required DHS to consult with community partners to recommend whether entities seeking eligibility for MA peer recovery services should be subject to additional provider enrollment and oversight requirements.
- Through that process DHS has been working on policy improvement ideas.

Framework for improvement

Program and
documentation
requirements

Billing
clarifications

Clinical Necessity
(utilization
management)

Technical and
conforming
corrections

Improvement Ideas: Program and documentation requirements

- Requirement of an individual recovery plan
- Requirement to keep adequate client files
- Strengthening standards to be an RCO MA vendor of peer recovery services
- All RCOs must meet standards by 1/1/2025

- Peer recovery services should be provided according to the individual recovery plan
- Interactions need to include discussion on specific goals identified on the individual recovery plan
- No billing for group activities, transportation, individuals that live with the client

Improvement Ideas: Clinical Necessity (utilization management)

- A review of up to 15% of all medical assistance claims to determine medical necessity of peer recovery support services.
- Clients limited to four hours a week of peer recovery support services.
 - Additional units of service up to a maximum of 14 hours a week with authorization.
- Peer recovery services not provided in accordance with the requirements are subject to monetary recovery if improperly paid.

Technical and conforming corrections

- Organization names changes
- Clarifying appeals process
- Cross-references
- Statutory reorganization

Community Input

- Community input is an important part of DHS's work on program improvement
 - Monthly RCO meetings
 - Thursday SUD connection meetings
 - Ongoing dialogue with external vendor & national experts to solve for emerging issues
 - Governor's Advisory Council on opioids, substance use, and addiction
 - Opiate Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)



Thank You!