

2SSB 5555 - S AMD 89

By Senator Holy

NOT ADOPTED 03/01/2023

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The Washington state peer support advisory committee is
6 established.

7 (2)(a) The advisory committee shall consist of 11 members. Nine
8 members must be peer counselors. Those nine members shall be
9 inclusive of diverse populations and include mental health peers,
10 substance use disorder peers, community-based peers, peers who work
11 in clinical settings, youth peers, adult peers, and peer supervisors.
12 The advisory committee shall be reflective of the community who
13 receives peer services, including people who are Black, indigenous,
14 people of color, and individuals who identify as LGBTQ. All members
15 of the advisory committee must be residents of Washington state.
16 Members may not hold an office in a professional association for peer
17 specialists or be employed by the state. A majority of the members
18 currently serving shall constitute a quorum.

19 (b) The members shall be appointed by the director of the
20 authority to serve three-year terms which may be renewed. Initial
21 members shall be appointed to staggered terms which may be less than
22 three years. The advisory committee shall select a chair and vice
23 chair.

24 (3) The authority is encouraged to adopt recommendations as
25 submitted by the advisory committee on topics related to the
26 administration of this chapter and provide their rationale for any
27 formal recommendations of the advisory committee that the authority
28 does not adopt. The advisory committee shall develop a multiyear
29 strategic plan for peer support trainings and workforce development
30 that includes:

31 (a) Recommendations on developing education and training pathways
32 in support of the peer counselor certification program;

1 (b) Recommendations on developing multiple pathways to peer
2 support careers that includes planning for a formal certification
3 pathway;

4 (c) Assistance and recommendations regarding development of
5 continuing education and continuing competency programs including
6 minimum requirements to maintain certification;

7 (d) Assistance and recommendations in development of a
8 supervisory track for peer counselors including additional training
9 and service hour requirements;

10 (e) Assistance and recommendations to enhance patient and client
11 education;

12 (f) A review of existing authority policies and procedures
13 related to peer counselors;

14 (g) Advice on approving additional education and training
15 entities, other than the authority, to conduct the course of
16 instruction under this chapter to expand availability of the course;

17 (h) Recommendations on recruitment and retention in the peer
18 profession, including among black, indigenous, people of color, and
19 individuals who identify as LGBTQ; and

20 (i) Recommendations on strategies to eliminate financial barriers
21 to licensing as peer counselors.

22 (4) Advisory committee members are immune from suit in an action,
23 civil or criminal, based on the department's disciplinary proceedings
24 or other official acts performed in good faith.

25 (5) Advisory committee members shall be compensated in accordance
26 with RCW 43.03.240, including travel expenses in carrying out his or
27 her authorized duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 The authority shall develop and maintain a registry of certified
31 peer counselors who have successfully completed the peer counselor
32 certification program under RCW 70.385.020.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 In consultation with the advisory committee, the authority shall
36 approve a program of continuing education for certified peer
37 counselors. After initial certification as a peer counselor,
38 certified peer counselors shall be required to complete the minimum

1 number of hours of continuing education in a single three-year
2 recertification period as required by the authority to maintain
3 certification."

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4 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "specialists;" strike the
5 remainder of the title and insert "and adding new sections to chapter
6 71.24 RCW."

EFFECT: Eliminates the establishment of the certified peer specialist and certified peer specialist training professions and all subsequent requirements related to the establishment of those professions.

Establishes the Peer Support Advisory Committee to provide recommendations to the Health Care Authority regarding the peer counselor profession.

Directs the advisory committee to create a multiyear strategic plan with recommendations on education and training for peer counselors.

Requires HCA to develop a program of continuing education for certified peer counselors.

Requires certified peer counselors to complete minimum continuing education requirements as established by HCA at least once every 3 years to maintain certification.

Establishes a registry of all certified peer counselors.

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