

RESOLUTION NO.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR PEER WORK IN THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

WHEREAS, peer work has produced positive outcomes since before the founding of modern psychiatry and is now a recognized evidence-based practice; and

WHEREAS, Peer Support Specialists' work is recognized by, and a billable service to, Medi-Cal and other health insurance providers; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is now the 49th state to offer certification to Peer Support Specialists; and

WHEREAS, peer work is an essential component of the Recovery Model of behavioral health treatment and multidisciplinary treatment teams; and

WHEREAS, the unique expertise from the personal lived experience of Peer Support Specialists/Workers cannot be replicated by any other means and enables them to effectively understand and connect with individuals undergoing behavioral health challenges, as well as their supporters; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs at San Mateo County Health, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) has gainfully employed people with lived experience since 2004: these individuals and family members who have experienced trauma, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders utilize their expertise to make system wide improvements which create an environment where individuals' power, skills and creativity are valued; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs at BHRS, the employees of which are all peer workers, will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Office provides an array of administrative, planning, and professional support, including support of Peer and Family Specialists, contractual management of consumer-based organizations, and management of grievances for BHRS, demonstrating the value that persons living with behavioral health challenges and their families bring to clients of BHRS.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County recognizes and supports the employment of Peer Support Workers as well as any efforts to explore expansion of peer services, integration of peers into Behavioral Health Services and access to certification and training programs for peer workers in the County of San Mateo.

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