



**California Health and Human Services Agency
Behavioral Health Task Force
July 23, 2024 Lunch and Learn:
Peers in the Crisis Care Continuum**

Informational Resources

1. From John Travers:

- **Building Hope: A Journey Through Crisis Residential Services** – A webinar by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing with a specific focus on Peer Respite.
 - [Recording](#) (hosted on Dropbox)
 - [Slides](#) (PDF)
- [Advisory for Peer Support Services in Crisis Care](#) (PDF) – This June 2022 advisory from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) discusses the role of peer support workers and models of peer support services that are available to assist individuals who are experiencing a crisis. Peer support services are a vital component of crisis care.
- [Defining “Peer Support”: Implications for Policy, Practice, and Research](#) (PDF) – This 2018 scholarly article by Darby Penny, MLS, Advocates for Human Potential, Inc., addresses the substantial issues involved in defining peer support, offers a brief consideration of the history of two types of peer support, examines recent review articles on peer support in mental health, and discusses policy and practice implications.

2. From Keris Myrick:

- [National Conference of State Legislatures \(NCSL\) Brief on Peer Support Specialists](#) – this brief, updated in June 2024, discusses certification, training and continuing education; financing and Medicaid reimbursement; includes maps of US states where aspects of peer support are/are not provided; and concludes with links to additional resources.
- Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) table on [Medicaid Behavioral Health Services: Peer Support Services](#) lists services covered, whether copayments are required, and service limits in each state.

- [National Academy for State Health Policy \(NASHP\) August 30, 2022 blog post and chart: States' Use of Peers in the Mental Health Crisis Continuum](#) highlights the policy components of four states' approaches to including peers in providing services across the crisis continuum (New Mexico, Minnesota, Michigan, and Virginia).
- [Unapologetically Black Unicorns Feb 21, 2023 podcast: "Crisis Through a Lens of Grief" with Nze Okoronta](#). On this Apple podcast Episode 91, Nze shares their mental health journey and how they are working with the same Warmline they called while in crisis. They talk about their experiences with peer respites, not using anything carceral in the program and dealing with crisis through a lens of grief.
- [Peer Respite: Action + Evaluation webpage](#) with definition, results from national Peer Respite Essential Features (PREF) surveys, video on Peer Respite: Research and Practice, and research repository, by Live & Learn, Inc., a San Luis Obispo social enterprise.
- [Peer Respite as an Alternative to Hospitalization](#) (PDF) – February 2021 brief discusses peer respites and their outcomes. It was produced by the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) and includes discussion of three examples around the US, including one from California of Second Story in Santa Cruz County.
- ["CT bill creates mental health peer-run respite centers,"](#) an April 2024 Public News Service article on a Connecticut bill to establish 8 peer-run respite centers.
- [Oregon House Bill 2980 on peer respite services](#) – bill text.
- [When There's a Crisis, Call a Peer – How People with Lived Experience Make Mental Health Crisis Services More Effective](#) (PDF) – a 90-page 2024 issue brief by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law that discusses the role of crisis services, the effectiveness of peer-provided crisis services, models for such services, and other community-based peer-provided mental health services.
- [National Empowerment Center Directory of Peer Respite](#)