

November 5, 2024

The Honorable Katie Hobbs  
Governor of Arizona  
1700 W Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Warren Petersen, President  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 W Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Ben Toma, Speaker  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 W Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs, President Petersen, and Speaker Toma:

Pursuant to A.R.S. 36-2903.15(C), AHCCCS is required to submit an annual report on Peer Support Services:

*“C. On or before November 1, 2024 and each November 1 thereafter, the administration shall provide an annual report to the Governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives on the development, implementation and monitoring processes required by this section.”*

AHCCCS continues to conduct oversight and monitoring of Peer Support specialists, monitoring contractors oversight and ensuring that peer specialists meet qualifications and receive supervision and training pursuant to A.R.S. 36-2903.15(A). Operational review Standard DS16 ensures:

*The Contractor has an oversight process to ensure providers who employ Peer and Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) have policies and procedures in place demonstrating PRSS meet qualification requirements, receive clinical and administrative supervision, and have continuing education and learning requirements available.*

Contractors are required to provide any documentation demonstrating compliance with each item in the scoring detail. The scoring details for DS16 are as follows:

- *Providers have policies and procedures demonstrating Peer and Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) employed by the provider qualify as Behavioral Health Technicians (BHT), Behavioral Health Professionals (BHP), Behavioral Health Paraprofessionals (BHPP) and meet all other credentialing requirements.*
- *Providers have policies and procedures documenting both clinical and administrative supervision of PRSS in accordance with supervision requirements of the provider's Provider type.*

- *Providers ensure all employed PRSS obtain a minimum of four hours of continuing education and ongoing learning relevant to peer support, with at least one hour covering ethics and boundaries related to the practice of peer support.*
- *The Contractor has a process in place to conduct oversight of providers who employ PRSS as outlined in this standard.*

Furthermore, AHCCCS has taken steps to implement the training requirements in 36-2903.15(B), which states that, “[b]eginning October 1, 2025, in addition to any other qualifications, peer specialists shall complete training that is developed by the administration and that includes psychosis-specific content, including anosognosia.” Steps towards fulfilling this requirement include:

- August, 2024: Drafted language for the 2025 update of AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) 963, delineating required core elements for curricula provided by Peer Support Employment Training Programs (PSETPs), to include the following language:
  - *All PSETPs shall incorporate into their curriculum AHCCCS-provided training materials specific to psychosis, including anosognosia ( ARS 36-2903.15).*
- September, 2024: AHCCCS’ Office of Individual and Family Affairs (OIFA) implemented a workgroup to create new statewide training material to train on psychosis-specific content including anosognosia. The workgroup has taken the following steps:
  - Researching existing training materia, and
  - Identifying content appropriate for the Peer and Recovery Support Specialists workforce.

The workgroup is currently developing the training materials specific to psychosis, including anosognosia. Once developed, the finalized content will be shared with Peer Support Employment Training Programs for utilization on training new PRSS starting 10/1/2025. The training content will then be uploaded into the Relias Learning Management System to train PRSS currently providing peer support services. All employed PRSS will be trained on the additional content by 10/1/2026.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me at (602) 417-4711.

Sincerely,



Carmen Heredia  
Director

Cc: Zaida Dedolph Piecoro, Health Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor