

ACBH DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION NOTICE:

DATE: August 11, 2021

TO: All ACBH Staff and Partners

FROM: Khatera Aslami Tamplen, Manager of Peer Support Services
Karyn L. Tribble, PsyD, LCSW, ACBH Director

SUBJECT: NEWLY NAMED – “OFFICE OF PEER SUPPORT SERVICES”

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services is pleased to share with you that the name of the Office of Consumer Empowerment has been formally changed to the ***Office of Peer Support Services***.

As you may know, *Peers Organizing Community Change (POCC)*, formerly known as the Pool of Consumer Champions, recently announced last month a new name after a long and robust process of community feedback. Alongside this process, the Office of Consumer Empowerment received feedback about the use of the term “consumer” and engaged key stakeholders within the county and community on its new name, *Office of Peer Support Services*.

We thank all who have been involved in this process, especially the staff of the *Office of Peer Support Services* and the POCC Steering Committee members. Many have shared through this process that “consumer” is an antiquated term. For that reason and as we took a closer look at our language from a perspective of diversity, equity and inclusion, we have decided to sunset the term “consumer.”

The new name, *Office of Peer Support Services*, uplifts the Office’s commitment and mission to transforming the behavioral health system by engaging, supporting and empowering peers receiving services, Peer Support Specialists, and peer-run organizations and programs. Furthermore, the new name solidifies the Office’s role in supporting the implementation and continuous oversight of ***California Senate Bill (SB) 803 (Beall) Peer Support Specialist Certification Program Act of 2020***, which was signed into statute in September 2020.

The team at the *Office of Peer Support Services* is excited to collaborate with you and our community to support Alameda County in becoming a leader in certifying Peer Support Specialists and ensuring that peer support services and trainings are available and accessible to everyone with mental health and co-occurring needs on their wellness and recovery journey. We are further committed to the ongoing work across our community that will help guide system-wide change for the better.

Please join us in recognizing this important transition. For additional questions regarding this name change or to learn more about SB 803, please feel free to contact Khatera Aslami Tamplen, Manager of Peer Support Services, at Khatera.Aslami@acgov.org.

Thank you