

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PEER SPECIALIST PROGRAM MANAGERS

What are Behavioral Health Peer Specialist Program Managers?

We serve as connectors and advocates for Sacramento County's Peer workforce—building strong partnerships with Peer Specialists and their employers to support the integration of Peer Services across community-based organizations.

Our work centers on:

- **Empowering the Peer Workforce:** Promoting awareness and appreciation of Peer-to-Peer support as a cornerstone of recovery.
- **Providing Training & Guidance:** Offering ongoing support, role clarification, and assistance with the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification process.
- **Fostering Connection:** Creating dedicated spaces for Peers to share experiences, build skills, and strengthen community.
- **Advocating for Recovery Principles:** Ensuring lived experience, client choice, and recovery-oriented language are woven into all levels of behavioral health services.



Together, we elevate the Peer voice and strengthen recovery-focused care throughout Sacramento County.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PEERS



micro.page/Peer



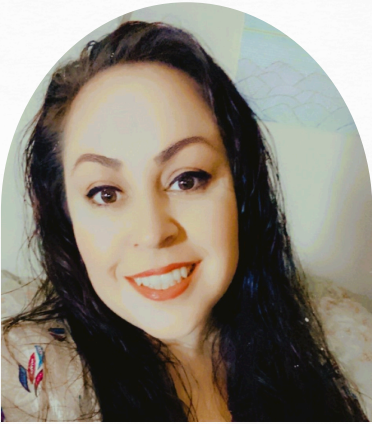
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Behavioral Health Services

MEET OUR TEAM



REXANNE IRIZARRY, CMPSS

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Liaison to Family, Parent, and Caregiver Peer Support Committee

Rexanne Irizarry, CMPSS (she/her), is a Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist (MPSS-QKCNJV) with specialized certification in Peer Services for Justice-involved individuals and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). With over a decade of leadership in direct services and a strong background in case management, she brings together professional expertise and lived experience to drive transformative change that uplifts communities and strengthens systems of care.

Rexanne leads with compassion and an unwavering commitment to equity. Her journey, from navigating crisis care to shaping policy and programs is deeply rooted in her own lived experience as a client, family member, and caregiver.

A proud Sacramento native, Rexanne finds joy in traveling, dancing, attending local events, cherishing time with her family, and showering her grandchildren with love.



EVA DE LA CRUZ, CMPSS

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Liaison to Youth Peer Support Committee

Eva De La Cruz, CMPSS (she/her/ella) is a Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist (MPSS-BHRDCI) with over 20 years of experience in behavioral health. With a strong background in case management and clinical operations, she brings both professional expertise and heartfelt dedication to her work.

Drawing from her own lived experience with anxiety, panic attacks, and supporting loved ones through addiction, she is a passionate advocate for mental health awareness, stigma reduction, and community connection. With certifications in Justice-Involved individuals and Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP), Eva empowers others to build resilience and recovery through self-determined wellness strategies. A proud wife, mother, and Sacramento resident, Eva finds joy in volunteering, gardening, and long walks with her two dogs.



SERENA KUHARSKI, CADC II, CMPSS

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Liaison to Adult Peer Support Committee

Serena Kuharski, CADC II, CMPSS (she/her) is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor and Medi-Cal Certified Peer Specialist with over 20 years of experience in behavioral health and nearly a decade in leadership roles. With lived experience as a client, family member, and caregiver, she brings both professional expertise and deep personal understanding to her work.

Serena is passionate about empowering individuals in recovery through hope, empathy, and compassion. She believes strongly in the essential role peers play in both clinical and community recovery settings.

A dedicated advocate for underserved populations, Serena strives to create meaningful change in her community. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, dancing, spending time with loved ones, and caring for her cat—embracing recovery as a lifelong journey of growth and purpose.