



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** CSC 18-0022, **Version:** 1

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Request to establish the Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist classification specification

### **HUMAN RESOURCES' RECOMMENDATION**

The Department of Human Resources recommends the Civil Service Commission to establish the classification specifications of Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist.

### **SUMMARY**

The Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist will be unique to the Health and Social Services Department. This classification specification was created act as a peer mentor to Behavioral Health clients and their families. A peer workforce is a critical element for a recovery-oriented system; this is the intended outcome of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), where the goals were to transform the existing mental health system into one that is less medical in nature and more recovery and wellness focused.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist (BHPSS) classification was created in response to the Board of Supervisors addition of the "Peer Mentor- to be determined (TBD)" position as part of the adopted budget.

The BHPSS will, under general supervision, provide information, support, assistance and advocacy for recipients, and/or caregivers/family members of behavioral health services within established procedures and guidelines. Incumbents in this classification will have successfully completed a minimum of two years of recovery from mental health or substance abuse challenges, and will possess work or volunteer experience in the advocacy, leadership, or engagement in peer recovery activities. The BHPSS will work as a part of team of mental health providers, and will serve as an example of what successful recovery looks like to mental health consumers, those recovering from substance abuse challenges, and their families. Additionally, the BHPSS will provide advocacy to mental health consumers and their families as the consumer navigates the recovery process. Supervision for this position will be provided by a Mental Health Clinical Supervisor or other appropriate supervisory or management level classification in Behavioral Health.

Attached is a copy of the proposed new class specification.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Civil Service Commission could elect not to approve the proposed class specification; however, this is not recommended as the Health and Social Services Department has requested this class and the Board of Supervisors approved adding three positions.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

Human Resources worked with staff from the Health and Social Services Department in creating the class specification. On September 27, 2018, the County met with SEIU to meet and confer over the Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist classification specification and the County agreed to incorporate the suggested SEIU changes.

