

# Family and Peer Mentoring Supports Policy

## Stakeholder Input Summary

Family and Peer Mentoring Supports is one of the DDA-operated Waiver Program support services. This service connects a person and their family members, including siblings, to peer mentors with lived experience. Family and Peer Mentors can explain community services, programs and strategies that connect a person to community resources.

The Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) issued its proposed policy for Family and Peer Mentoring Supports on March 22, 2023, requesting input from participants, families, Coordination of Community Service agencies, community providers, and advocacy organizations. The stakeholder input period ended on April 6, 2023. In total, two (2) unduplicated stakeholders submitted input. Below is a summary of the stakeholder recommendations and the DDA’s responses.

	Comment	DDA Response
1.	Comment: Recommend removing the requirement that the mentor must have a bachelor’s degree if the DDA intends for peers with disabilities to provide mentoring services.	The current requirement to provide this service requires the Peer Mentor to have a bachelor’s degree or <i>demonstrated life experiences and skills to provide this service</i> . A Peer Mentor is not required to have a Bachelor’s degree if life experiences and/or skills are demonstrated.
2.	Comment: Recommend the requirements to be a peer or family mentor do not need to be the same as a direct support professional working with an individual. For example, First Aid CPR should not be training requirements for someone delivering this service.	First Aid and CPR are required to ensure the health and safety of the person while services are provided.

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3.	<p>Comment: The training qualifications are not clear as to whether they are referring to a person becoming a family or peer mentor on their own, or if they are working under the umbrella of a provider agency. Would each peer or family mentor need a Medicaid provider agreement? Or does this only apply to someone working on their own.</p>	<p>The “Requirements to be Paid for Services” Section of this policy outlines the requirements for both a Family and Peer Mentoring Supports Provider and an Individual Family and Peer Mentor.</p> <p>An agency or individual providing this service is required to have a signed Medicaid Provider Agreement.</p> <p>A Family and Peer Mentoring Supports Provider staff or an Individual Family and Peer Mentor cannot mentor their own family members.</p>
4.	<p>Comment: Please clarify if the DDA needs to certify peer and family mentors employed by a provider agency which is approved to deliver this service?</p>	<p>The DDA certifies the Individual Professional and Provider that applies to be a Medicaid Provider under the DDA-operated waivers. The DDA does not certify the providers' employees hired as peers.</p>