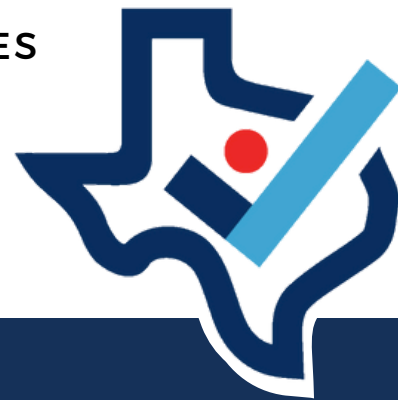


House Bill (HB) 1941

Rep. Liz Campos



Peer Support Services for Individuals with IDD

HB 1941 would allow peer support services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to be billable under Medicaid. It would require HHSC to adopt training and certification requirements for IDD peer support specialists, as well as rules defining the scope of services they may provide. A stakeholder workgroup would be appointed to provide input on the rules, and would be abolished once the rules are adopted. The bill's provisions would not apply to peer support services provided to residents of state-supported living centers.



Peer supports are services where individuals are provided knowledge, experience, or emotional, social, and practical help by people with similar backgrounds. In 2017, HB 1486 created a new Medicaid peer services benefit. HB 1486 included training and certification guidelines for substance use and mental health peer workers.



TCDD has funded a variety of grants to build peer support networks for Texans with IDD. The projects demonstrated the success of IDD peer support services. These services helped develop person-directed plans that address relationships, healthcare needs, and employment.



In 2023, similar legislation was supported by The Arc of Texas, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Disability Rights Texas, NAMI Texas, National Association of Social Workers Texas, Texas Council of Community Centers, United Ways of Texas, and others.

“Increasing access to this service will provide individuals with IDD more resources to develop social skills while learning how to advocate for their own needs.”

Public testimony to the House Human Services Committee on a bill identical to HB 1941, April 2023

