

ESP Wellness Commission

Meeting Summary - December 16, 2025

Virtual Teams

Attendees:

Mark McDonough

Emily Wilson

Ollie Neith

Loretta Stalnaker

Trevor Whipple

Ashley Happy

Michael Skaza

Stephanie Busch

Absent:

Karim

Clarke

Fox

Bill

Kristen

Knowles

Nathan

Jamie

Alex

Skip

Lori

Seth

Vicki

Meeting started: 11:04

Agenda

Updates since we last met

Member transitions

Review and discuss an updated draft of proposed bill relating to confidentiality for peer support counseling among emergency service providers

Discuss the legislative report

2026 Commission Leadership Voting

Discuss January Meeting agenda

Welcome and Agenda Overview:

Stephanie opened the meeting, acknowledging the time since the last meeting and outlining the agenda.

Peer Support Confidentiality Proposal:

Discussed the draft proposal aimed at protecting peer support confidentiality and limiting liability for peer supporters. [H-0270](#) was proposed in 2025.

The draft seeks to address concerns about language referring to peer supporters as counselors and aims to ensure confidentiality and liability protection.

Discussion on including additional categories of first responders, such as search and rescue personnel and medical examiners, in the proposal.

Follow up:

Mark to reach out to Drew Clymer and Mike Cannon regarding the recognition of search and rescue personnel.

Stephanie to send drafted language out to Commission members for review and feedback.

Group to review at 1/7 meeting

Member Transitions and Commission Participation:

An updated Member list of current members was shared and discussed. Several positions on the Commission are vacant or will be soon due to retirements and resignations.

Discussion on the need for active participation and potential changes to Commission membership to ensure quorum and effective operation.

Follow up:

Member list to be shared with Members, with follow-up on vacant positions.

Trevor to contact law enforcement representatives to ensure participation.

Loretta to provide examples of bylaws from other groups to address member accountability.

Legislative Report:

The Commission is required to submit an annual legislative report. Discussion on using last year's as a framework for the report and gathering input for recommendations.

2025-2026 Initiatives:

Discussion on defining qualifications for clinicians working with first responders (cultural competency)

Creating a generic curriculum for first responder mental wellness and resiliency education with 'key themes' that educators can take an adapt to their organizations/ responders needs.

Other Updates:

SECURE In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, the SECURE program recruited and trained 13 new members for a total of 84 peer mentors that are now part of the program. In FFY 2025, the SECURE Peer Program also had documented 116 direct peer-to-peer communications, referrals to 32 first responders, who attended counseling sessions with an EAP counselor. Peer mentors delivered 15 CISDs, reaching approximately 131 first responders who were in attendance during those events. 116 direct peer-to-peer communications and 34 follow-up discussions in FFY 2025.

Annual Meeting Planning:

Plan for the annual meeting on January 7th, 2026, to include legislative report working meeting & approval, goal setting, and leadership elections.

Meeting ended 12:03

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for January 7th, 2026, with a focus on the annual meeting agenda items.

Documents shared:

DRAFT