

Public Hearing on NEW RULES for Peer Recovery Mentors  
 DIVISION 180 Non-Traditional Health Workers 410-180-0300

**July 22, 2013 10:00 am**

800 NE Oregon St., Room 1-E, Portland, OR 97232

**Speak up before it's too late!**

Yes  No  Have you ever been **denied** employment in the alcohol and drug, mental health, or social service field because of your history and the State's so-called "weigh-test"?

Yes  No  Are you concerned you **might be denied** employment because of others you have known who have lost jobs due to their history?

Yes  No  Do you think it's fair for the State and the Office of Equity and Inclusion to use **"arrests" against people**, where the person was **never actually convicted** of a crime?

Yes  No  Did you know the original draft of their bill uses "criminal background checks" to rule some people out, then they changed it to just plain old "background check," which includes **things other than criminal history**?

Yes  No  Do you think people should be allowed to be addiction recovery mentors when they **aren't actually in recovery from addiction**?

Yes  No  Do you think it's fair that a person has to write out their criminal history and if they **forget something** or they're **judged** as not sorry enough, they can be denied certification from the state?

**What their NEW proposed law actually says!**

(13) NTHWs are subject to a background check in accordance with OAR 943-007-0010 through 0501 specifically incorporating and limited to OAR 407-007-0200 to 407-007-0250, and 407-007-0280 to 407-007-0325... **A new or renewal applicant may be denied certification based on a fitness determination applying a weighing test for potentially disqualifying convictions or conditions**, or if otherwise excluded from participation in the medical assistance program.

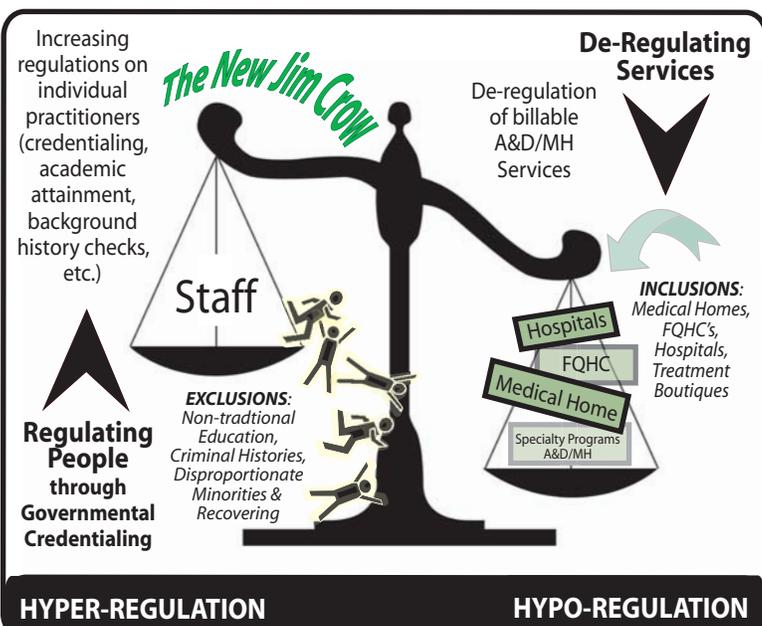
(112) All new and renewal applicants are subject to a criminal background checks and screening pursuant to in accordance with OAR chapter 943, division 7, and for review to determine if they have a history of criminal or abusive behavior such that they should not be allowed to participate whether the applicant is excluded from participation in the medical assistance program. Applicants, and must submit the Authority the required forms to the Authority for this purpose. Applicants A new or renewal applicant may be denied certification

(14) "Peer" means any individual who has **similar life experience, either** as a current or former recipient of addictions or mental health services, **OR as a family member of an individual who is a current or former recipient of addictions or mental health services.**

(i) Indication of the SI's cooperation, **honesty, or the making of a false statement** during the criminal records check process, including acknowledgment and acceptance of responsibility of criminal activity and potentially disqualifying conditions.

**Tell'em Str8UP!**

1. The "weigh test" is subjective and unfair, as evidenced by the fact that sometimes people pass and then later fail.
2. The best peer mentors for those who have been incarcerated, are those who are actually in recovery (for real) and have previously been incarcerated themselves.
3. Peers should be certified by their peers, not governmental agents. States that have enacted government credentialing of peers have excessive crazy exclusions, like Minnesota requiring SS#s to see if you owe outstanding taxes, or Maine requiring your criminal history and driving history. Most states with government run peer credentialing report that if you leave out anything when writing up your criminal history you can and or will be denied certification.
4. Georgia, the first state to have peer services, has peer-run credentialing vs. government run credentialing. And it works and it doesn't cost the taxpayers a cent! **PEERS SHOULD CERTIFY PEERS**



HYPER-REGULATION

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