

Good Morning Chair Denis and Esteemed members of the committee. My name is Char Frost and I am the Statewide Family Network Director for Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents. As you may know, I entered my career over a decade ago as Family Peer Support Provider motivated by my lived experience with my own sons.

Nevada PEP was organized over 27 years ago and is designated by SAMHSA as Nevada's Family Network for families whose children have behavioral health disabilities; and by the US Department of Education as the Parent Training and Information Center for our state.

It is nationally recognized that Family to Family Peer Support is a critical service in the system of care, and in Nevada the service has been valued for over 25 years by the State through our longstanding partnership with DCFS.

Currently, our Family Peer Support Providers complete a 2-year national training and certification process. There is a critical need to develop a time efficient training and certification program unique to Nevada that will increase the certified family peer support provider and supervisor workforce.

We are excited to work with our national and state partners, and the DHHS's divisions to develop a sustainable training, credentialing and technical assistance program that meets nationally recognized core competencies and skill sets for Family to Family Peer Support Providers.

The work that we do in supporting families is extremely rewarding and it matters. Research has shown that families who receive support from other family members with lived experience are more likely to engage in and complete services as well as achieve better outcomes for their youth and the family.