

Deputy Director of Peer Support Services

Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health.

Shannon came to RUHS-Behavioral Health in 2008. Her teams train and supports roughly 400 behavioral health providers, specifically Medi-Cal Certified Peer Support Specialists in Riverside County. As Peer Support Programs increase across California, her team in Riverside County is the largest and most robust peer-to-peer program in the state, employing people with lived experience as mental health consumers, family members and parents of minor children who have engaged in services to address childhood emotional disturbance. She has presented at conferences internationally, including the CALMHSA Inaugural Peer Support Workforce Conference in Sacramento, the Cultural Competency Symposium in Riverside, CASRA (California Association of Rehabilitation Agencies), “Pathways to Client-Centered Care” at the University of Southern California, Behavioral Health Symposium at Redlands University, NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), National Association of Peer Support Specialists Conference and at the Orygen Youth Mental Health Symposium in Melbourne Australia. She has provided recovery model training to Marriage & Family Therapy students at Loma Linda University, Cal Baptist University and University of California, Riverside. She and the RUHS-BH Tech Innovations Collaborative Team were recipients the 2022 Challenge Award from the California State Associations of Counties (CSAC) for the behavioral health technological innovation of the TakemyHand Live Peer Chat web-based peer support interface, which inspired CalHope services to implement the statewide emotional support website and chat service.

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