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Date: 1/26/2016 9:30:17 AM  
Subject: NASHP News: New brief on peer support for adults with SMI

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## Newsletter

January 26, 2016

### Using Peers to Support Physical and Mental Health Integration for Adults with Serious Mental Illness

Trained peer support specialists are well positioned to bridge the gap between physical and behavioral health services for people with serious mental illness (SMI) as part of whole-person, recovery-oriented system of care. For state policymakers interested in better integrating care for individuals with SMI, our [latest brief](#) provides an overview of the use of peer supports in state mental health systems, and offers exam-ples of the emerging use of these non-clinical staff as part of an integrated care approach. The [brief](#) also includes some key ques-tions for state policymakers to consider as they explore the use of peer services to promote integrated care for Medicaid enrollees with SMI in their state. Read the full [brief](#).

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### Opportunity for Support in Physical and Mental Health Integration

CMS is accepting [Expression of Interest forms](#) from states interested in the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) [Physical and Mental Integration \(PMH\) initiative](#) . The IAP PMH provides targeted program support to states seeking to expand and/or refine existing physical and mental health integration efforts. Interested states should submit their forms by January 29, 2016.

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### Open Position: Project Director/Policy

NASHP seeks a seasoned professional to work directly with the Executive Director to identify and address emerging federal and state health policy issues that have cross-cutting significance to NASHP's policy work and analyze their potential impact on and challenges for states. The position

will assist in project development and management and work closely with NASHP's policy and communication staff to assure NASHP's products are timely and value added to the policy debate.

[More information and to apply.](#)

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## National Academy for State Health Policy

*The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers who are dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health policy issues. For more information visit [www.nashp.org](http://www.nashp.org).*

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