

Republic of the Philippines  
 Province of Davao Oriental  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
 SP Complex, Government Center, Dahican  
**CITY OF MATI**



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 124<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF DAVAO ORIENTAL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024, AT THE CITY OF MATI, THIS PROVINCE.

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Nelson R. Dayanghirang, Jr. Vice Governor – Presiding Officer

**Regular Members:**

**District I**

Hon. Anna Cheryl N. Castro  
 Hon. Marietta D. Palmera  
 Hon. Andy A. Monday  
 Hon. Michelle M. Centeno

**District II**

Hon. Shella Marie S. Go  
 Hon. Harold A. Montes  
 Hon. Rotchie M. Ravelo

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Hon. Joselito B. Villademoso	President, Philippine Councilors League (PCL) - Davao Oriental Chapter
Hon. Jossone Michael G. Dayanghirang	President, Liga Ng Mga Barangay (LNB) Davao Oriental Chapter
Hon. Eleuterio C. Manaytay	Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR)
Hon. Shanine C. Lintogonan	Sangguniang Kabataan Provincial Federation President (SKPPF)

**ABSENT:**

Hon. Art Benjie C. Bulaong	SP Member, District I
Hon. Daud V. Linsag	SP Member, District II – Sick Leave
Hon. Stephen Paul L. Uy	SP Member, District II – OIC – Governor

**PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 17-44-11-2024**

Author : Hon. Andy A. Monday  
 Sponsor : Hon. Andy A. Monday

**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING “PEER SUPPORT GROUPS” AS AN EARLY INTERVENTION FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION OF THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, ESPECIALLY AMONG KEY AFFECTED POPULATION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) accords every local government unit power and authority to promote general welfare within its territorial jurisdiction, including the promotion of health and safety of its constituents;

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**WHEREAS**, the global burden of mental health conditions have been increasing over the years, with the World Health Organization noting the rise in suicide mortality rate to 5.4 deaths per 100,000 populations in the Philippines in 2017;

**WHEREAS**, the Mental Health Act of 2018 (Republic Act No. 11036) utilizes a rights-based approach to the provision of mental health services, mandating for basic mental health services in community settings that encompass wellness promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;

**WHEREAS**, the Universal Health Care Act of 2018 (Republic Act No. 11223) embodies the principle of an integrated and comprehensive approach to ensure that all Filipinos are health literate, provided with healthy living conditions, and protected from hazards and risks that could affect their health, whereby directing local government units to issue and implement effective health promotion policies and programs that promote health literacy and healthy lifestyle among their constituents, prioritizing programs that address key risk factors to prevent and control disease as well as to advance population health and individual wellbeing, inclusive of interventions addressing mental health problems;

**WHEREAS**, the DOH Health Promotion strategy is anchored on the socio-ecological model of health, taking into account social and community networks, living and working conditions, and other societal, cultural, economic, political, and environmental conditions are social determinants that affect individual and community health, emphasizing that individual lifestyle and constitutional factors are not the only factors affecting health;

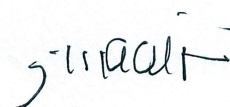
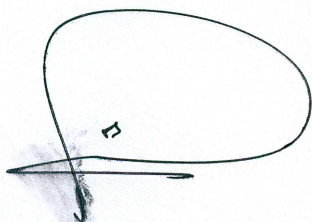
**WHEREAS**, the life course approach takes into account how chronological age, relationships, common life transitions, and social change shape people's lives from birth to death and that the promotion of well-being taken early at each stage can improve the overall quality of life;

**WHEREAS**, the institutionalization of peer support systems shall undeniably strengthen psychosocial and mental well-being among adolescents as it is an effective holistic strategy to build resilience and facilitate post-traumatic growth among this group;

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Davao Oriental cognizant of the role of peer support groups in strengthening psychosocial and mental wellbeing among the youth, shall recognize the rights of peer support groups to organize themselves, to have access to mechanisms and resources in support of efforts to improve their service for the communities and shall provide access to opportunities for their professional development;

**WHEREAS**, in the implementation of the peer support program the principle of voluntarism shall be consistently promoted and observed by all parties concerned while recognizing the need for developing and institutionalizing a support system for peer facilitators;

**WHEREAS**, this ordinance shall provide guidance and measures in professionalizing peer facilitators to enable them to effectively participate in peer support programs and development of the Province of Davao Oriental.





**WHEREFORE**, on motion of SP Member Andy A. Monday, duly and jointly seconded by SP Members Anna Cheryl N. Castro, Shella Marie S. Go, Harold A. Montes, Marietta D. Palmera, and Michelle M. Centeno, it was

Be it ordained by the 17<sup>TH</sup> Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Davao Oriental in session duly assembled, that:

## CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 1. Title.** This Ordinance shall be known as “**The Peer Support Groups of the Province of Davao Oriental.**”

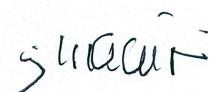
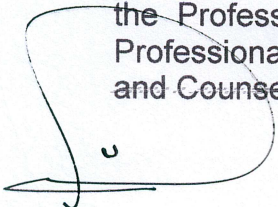
**Section 2. Declaration of Principles and Policies.** — It is the policy of the Province of Davao Oriental to uphold the right of the people to mental health and encourage mental health consciousness among the youth. Towards this end, the Province of Davao Oriental shall provide a supportive and conducive environment for key affected populations to promote socialization, reduce feelings of isolation and alienation that can be associated with mental health conditions as an intervention in its integrated and comprehensive approach of developing the Province of Davao Oriental Mental Health Care Delivery System.

**Section 3. General Objectives.** This Ordinance seeks to:


- a. Increase capacity of local Sangguniang Kabataan officials to implement interventions to address mental health concerns among peers at the community level
- b. Establish peer support groups managed by a trained peer facilitator from the community as an early intervention for mental health promotion among the youth.
- c. Foster positive youth development in the community by strengthening skills of the youth in providing basic psychosocial support to their peers
- d. Increase youth and youth organizations' participation in mental health advocacy

**Section 4. Definition of Terms.** — As used in this Ordinance, the terms below shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section. Any words or terms not defined shall be given their plain and customary meanings, unless the context requires otherwise, and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the purpose and spirit of this Ordinance.

- a. Close supervision - supervision with a sufficiently close proximity between the supervisor (the designated Guidance Counselor, or any member of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee) and the supervisee (Peer Facilitator) that the former may attend in person at the request of either party.
- b. Closed Support Group - refers to a more formal and purposive support group structure wherein only people accepted into the group may attend meetings.
- c. Confidentiality - refers to ensuring that all relevant information related to persons with psychiatric, neurologic, and psychological health needs is kept safe from access or used by, or disclosure to, persons or entities who are not authorized to access, use, or possess such information.
- d. Guidance Counselor - a natural person who has been registered and issued a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid Professional Identification Card by the Professional Regulatory Board of Guidance and Counseling and the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) in accordance with the Guidance and Counseling Act of 2004.

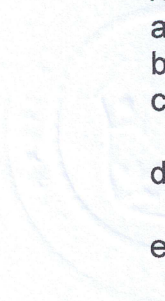




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- e. Member - refers to a member of the youth in the community who is also a member of a support group moderated by a qualified and accredited peer facilitator in the locality.
  - f. Mental health - refers to a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.
  - g. Open Support Group - refers to a more informal support group structure wherein members can join and participate in any of the sessions based on their preference. Members may also bring in other interested individuals or leave the peer support group on their accord with the knowledge of the peer facilitator.
  - h. Peer Facilitator - refers to trained individuals equipped with facilitation skills providing voluntary service as moderators of support group sessions among peers.
  - i. Peer support group - refers to an organized group of individuals that brings together peers so they may explore solutions to shared challenges and feel supported by others with similar experiences. They may be considered as alternatives or complementary to traditional mental health services, and allow members to benefit from social support and networks in community in order.
  - j. Voluntary service - refers to activities rendered by peer facilitators on his/her own free will, responsive to the needs of the community, and for which he/she has no certificate of appointment and is not given any remuneration or salary.
  - k. Well-being - refers to a positive outcome that is meaningful for people and for many sectors of society. It integrates mental health (mind) and physical health (body) resulting in more holistic approaches to disease prevention and health promotion.
  - l. Youth - refers to persons aged 15-30 as defined in RA 8044 or the Youth in Nation-Building Act.
  - m. Youth students - refers to persons aged 15-30 that are still studying in academic institutions.
  - n. Youth professionals - refers to persons aged 15-30 that are employed.

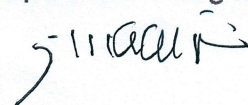
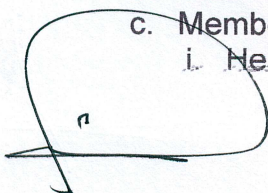
## CHAPTER II. THE PEER SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE

**Section 5. Function of the Committee.** — A Committee shall be created by the Provincial Health Board to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the peer support group program in strengthening psychosocial and mental well-being of the Province of Davao Oriental, with the following specific duties and responsibilities, but not limited to:

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- a. Aiding in the implementation, enforcement, and monitoring of this Ordinance
  - b. Facilitating registration and accreditation of peer facilitators
  - c. Ensuring access to capacity building programs in training qualified and accredited peer facilitators
  - d. Conducting educational awareness campaigns and information dissemination programs that will inform the constituents
  - e. Coordinating with all concerned government agencies and private sector for the implementation of the program

**Section 6. Composition of the Committee.** The Committee shall be created and composed of the following members:

- a. Chairperson: Health Officer
- b. Vice-Chairperson: SK Chairperson
- c. Members:
  - i. Health Education and Promotion Officer/or equivalent designate





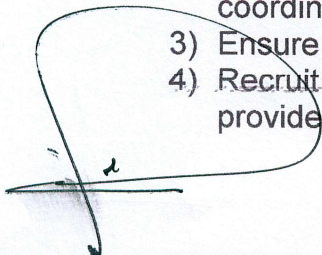
- ii. Social Welfare and Development Officer
- iii. Representative/s from Department of Education (DepED), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and/or academic institution
- iv. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee Chairperson on Health
- v. President of the Liga ng mga Barangay ng Pilipinas
- vi. Representative/s from licensed and accredited guidance counselor Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) / People's Organizations (POs)
- vii. Representative/s from local youth NGOs / POs implementing community-based health or health-related programs in the municipality/city
- viii. Representative from local community-based parent NGOs / POs
- ix. Representative from peer support group facilitators
- x. Representative from local Persons with Disability office / NGOs / POs

**Section 7. Quorum of the Committee.** A quorum of the Committee shall be composed of a simple majority of all voting members. The Chairperson shall vote only in case of a tie.

**Section 8. Meetings of the Committee.** The Committee shall agree to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss matters with regards to the implementation, enforcement, and monitoring of this Ordinance, on a per needed basis as called by the Chairperson, and on a written request of simple majority among the committee members.

**Section 9. Duties and Responsibilities of the Members of the Committee.** — Other than enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance, the Committee, headed by the Provincial Health Officer, shall have the following respective duties and responsibilities:

- a. The Health Officer shall:
  - 1) Establish baseline annual data on the burden of mental health conditions among the youth and other related studies, and recommend further action on the findings of such data
  - 2) Monitor and evaluate health outcomes in relation to the institutionalization of support groups
  - 3) Monitor capacity development program of SK and accredited peer facilitators
  - 4) Provide health clearance certification, including mental health assessment, for peer facilitator applicants and accredited peer facilitators
  - 5) Develop, promote, and implement essential health services inclusive of basic community mental health services
  - 6) Include the data as provided under Section 17 of RA No. 11036 which may be gathered through the program herein in its quarterly report to the Philippine Council for Mental Health through DOH
- b. The SK Chairman shall:
  - 1) Monitor, together with the Committee members, the compliance of this Ordinance and quality and functionality of peer support groups in the province;
  - 2) Facilitate the formation of a community-based organization of peer support facilitators who shall elect among themselves a point person who will coordinate with concerned offices
  - 3) Ensure continuous capacity development of accredited peer facilitators;
  - 4) Recruit youth constituents to become members of the support group and provide linkages to an accredited peer facilitator



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- 5) Supervise members' access to services not provided by the support group, in coordination with the accredited peer facilitators
- 6) Establish a hotline or other mechanism through which youth seeking psychosocial support may reach out, and designate a person-in-charge to operate the line, record requests and provide linkage to a functional peer support group
- 7) Facilitate regular planning, feedback and monitoring sessions with accredited peer facilitators on functionality of support group
- 8) Provide support for advocacies and raised concerns among peer support groups through ensuring the implementation of policies, programs and projects addressing such
- 9) Review peer support group feedback and oversee necessary adjustments and improvement to the local peer support group program, with approval from the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee
- 10) Consolidate and report on the progress of the peer facilitators to the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee.

c. The Health Education and Promotion Officer shall:

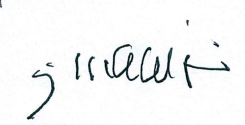
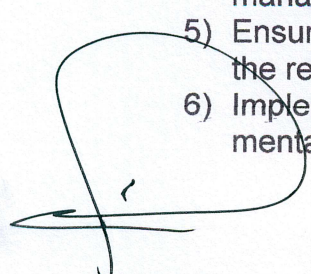
- 1) Develop and produce information, education, and communication materials and conduct activities on Mental Health, such as ways to promote mental health and wellbeing, when to seek professional mental health advice, and where to access professional mental health services, as well as on the provisions of this Ordinance
- 2) Implement education and promotion activities in various settings and sub-sectors in the community especially parents and teachers among others
- 3) Assist the Health Officer in developing, promoting, and implementing essential health services inclusive of basic community mental health services
- 4) Recruit members of the youth to become members of the support group and provide linkages to accredited peer facilitators

d. The Social Welfare and Development Officer shall:

- 1) Assist identified youth on financial/social/legal support identified or referred through peer support programs
- 2) Provide the necessary interventions for the youth referred from community peer support programs
- 3) Assist in the recruitment of the youth to become members of the support group and provide linkages to accredited peer facilitators

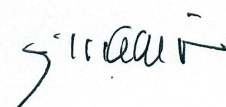
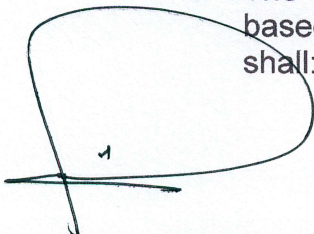
e. The Representative/s from DepED, CHED and/or academic institution:

- 1) Facilitate pooling and initial screening of qualified students from high schools and universities who will be trained to become Peer Facilitators
- 2) Facilitate the formation of school peer support groups and its linkage to community peer support groups
- 3) Ensure seamless complementation of school and community-based supports and services
- 4) Develop a school-based mental health program and policy with specific provisions regarding interventions to address the whole spectrum of mental health, rights of students with mental health concerns, and managing suicide/self-harm
- 5) Ensure adequate staffing for guidance and counseling services following the recommended registered guidance counselor to student ratio
- 6) Implement the Department/Commission Orders on the integration of mental health education into the school curricula






- 7) Ensure strict compliance of schools in enforcing 100% bully-free campuses and school facilities including the schools' vehicles
  - 8) Provide continuous supervision and support for school peer support organizations
  - 9) Integrate age-appropriate content pertaining to mental health into curriculum at all educational levels both in public and private institutions
  - 10) Develop guidelines and standards on age-appropriate and evidence-based mental health programs both in public and private institutions
  - 11) Pursue strategies that promote the realization of mental health and well-being in educational institutions
  - 12) Ensure that mental health promotions in public and private educational institutions shall be adequately complemented with qualified mental health professionals.
- f. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee Chairperson on Health shall:
- 1) Enact legislation in support of psychosocial and mental well-being advocacies and activities of peer support groups
  - 2) Oversee appropriation of benefits and remuneration for accredited peer facilitators.
- g. The President of the Liga ng mga Barangay:
- 1) Assist in promoting awareness of this Ordinance in encouraging public support and participation among the youth in its implementation and enforcement within the barangay
  - 2) Assist in the facilitation of and referrals to essential health services and basic community mental health services at the Barangay Level, if applicable
  - 3) Disseminate and inform all barangay officials of qualified and accredited peer facilitators in their respective barangays
- h. The representative from licensed and accredited guidance counselor NGOs/POs shall:
- 1) Assist in promoting awareness of this Ordinance and in encouraging public support and participation among the youth for its implementation and enforcement
  - 2) Assist in developing and conducting orientation, training seminars, and continuing development sessions for peer facilitators
  - 3) Assist in evaluating the performance of the Oversight Committee, the peer facilitators, and the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance
  - 4) Coordinate with the Provincial Health Office regarding identified members of peer support groups who meet the criteria for referral to health care services
  - 5) Function as a consultant for peer facilitators in all peer group activities, peer facilitator training development programs, module approvals, and all other activities not otherwise specified
  - 6) Assist in monitoring capacity development program of SK and accredited peer facilitators
- i. The representative from local youth NGOs/POs implementing community-based health or health-related programs in the Province of Davao Oriental shall:





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- 1) Assist in promoting awareness of this Ordinance and in encouraging public support and participation among the youth for its implementation and enforcement
  - 2) Assist in developing and conducting orientation and training seminars for Peer Facilitators
  - 3) Assist in evaluating the performance of the Oversight Committee and the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance
  - 4) Recruit members of the youth to become members of the support group and provide linkages to accredited Peer Facilitators
- j. The representative from local community-based parent NGOs / POs shall:
- 1) Assist in promoting awareness of this Ordinance and in encouraging public support and participation among the youth for its implementation and enforcement
  - 2) Assist in evaluating the performance of the Oversight Committee and the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance
  - 3) Recruit members of the youth to become members of the support group and provide linkages to accredited peer facilitators
- k. The representative from peer support group facilitators shall:
- 1) Assist in promoting awareness of this Ordinance and in encouraging public support and participation among the youth for its implementation and enforcement
  - 2) Assist in evaluating the performance of the Oversight Committee and the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance
  - 3) Recruit members of the youth to become members of the support group and provide linkages to accredited peer facilitators
- l. The representative from the Persons with Disability office / NGOs / POs shall:
- 1) Assist in promoting awareness of this Ordinance to youth with disabilities and in encouraging public support and participation among the youth for its implementation and enforcement
  - 2) Assist in evaluating the performance of the Oversight Committee and the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance
  - 3) Represent PWDs in meetings of Local Development Council and other special bodies

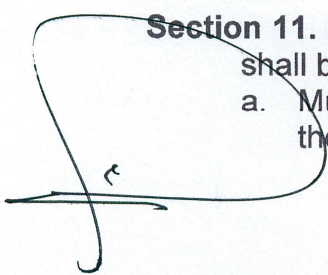
### CHAPTER III. PEER SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATORS

**Section 10. Number of Peer Facilitators.** The Peer Support Group Oversight Committee shall determine the ideal number of peer facilitators, provided that the number does not exceed the ideal ratio of 1 accredited peer facilitator for every 5 members in a support group.

In the transitory period where the number of accredited peer facilitators does not meet the demand of the number of members in peer support groups, qualified volunteer peer facilitators shall be guided by the designated Guidance Counselor, any member of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee, or by accredited peer facilitators.

**Section 11. Qualifications of a Peer Facilitator.** The following minimum qualifications shall be observed in the selection of peer facilitators:

- a. Must be of legal age, at least eighteen (18) years of age, and a member of the youth (up to 30 years of age) as of the date of filing the application;



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- b. Able to read and write
- c. Must be willing to voluntarily facilitate peer support group sessions in the community
- d. Must be willing to voluntarily perform other related functions as may be mandated by higher authorities
- e. Be physically and mentally fit as certified by a licensed physician
- f. Must not have been convicted with any case involving moral turpitude

In no instance shall any physical disability, mental health condition, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), economic status, race, color, language, religion or nationality, ethnic or social origin be made a qualification for accreditation of peer facilitators.

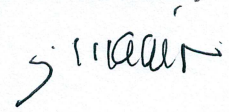
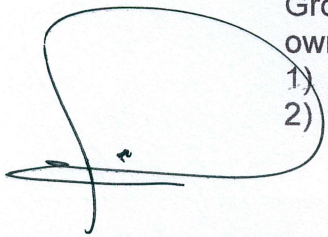
**Section 12. Accreditation of Peer Facilitators** - In order for a Peer Facilitator to be entitled to benefits and incentives, he/she shall register with the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee which shall furnish a copy of such registry to the Local Youth Development Council and Provincial Health Board. Only accredited peer facilitators by the LYDC and PHB as recommended by the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee shall be recognized by the Provincial Government.

Accreditation of peer facilitators shall be granted if the following minimum requirements are met:

- a) Has met all qualifications for selection as a peer facilitator
- b) Has passed the minimum training requirement as established by the PHB
- c) Has provided voluntary service in their community for a minimum of one (1) year certified by any member of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee or by a duly authorized representative of an NGO operating in the city/municipality who has personal knowledge about the peer facilitator's performance
- d) Has been given satisfactory performance rating in the year preceding application for accreditation
- e) Be physically and mentally fit as certified by the Health Officer.

**Section 13. Procedure for Accreditation.**

- a. Filing of Application. The peer facilitator applicant shall submit to the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee the following documents:
  - 1) A duly accomplished application form
  - 2) Birth certificate or any official document in support of declared age
  - 3) A certificate of completion of the basic training for peer facilitators conducted by accredited government agency or NGO
  - 4) A certificate from the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee or from a duly authorized representative of an NGO about the applicant's voluntary service record stating that he/she has personal knowledge about the applicant having rendered voluntary services in his/her barangay for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the filing of the application for accreditation
  - 5) Barangay clearance
  - 6) A medical certificate duly signed by the Health Officer
- b. Evaluation of Application. Upon submission of application to the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee of all required documents, the Committee on its own shall:
  - 1) Evaluate the application and its supporting documents
  - 2) Interview the applicant peer facilitator when deemed necessary





- c. **Committee Decision on the Application for Accreditation:** The Peer Support Group Oversight Committee shall deliberate and decide on the application and its supporting documents within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt thereof. However, the application shall be deemed approved, should the Board fail to act within the said period.
- d. **Posting of Committee Decision.** The Committee's action on the application for accreditation shall be posted and submitted to the local officials, within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the decision, in a conspicuous place at the Province of Davao Oriental and Municipal Hall.
- e. **Issuance of Certificate of Accreditation.** Within ten (10) calendar days after the approval of the application, the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee shall issue to the peer facilitator the corresponding certificate of accreditation and identification card, signed by the Chair of his/her designated representative.
- f. **Notice of Disapproval.** A notice of disapproval stating the reasons for the decision shall be issued by the Committee to the peer facilitator concerned.

**Section 14. Annual Registration.** - The peer facilitator must register annually with the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee. Accreditation for the first year of implementation shall immediately start after the effectivity thereof. For the renewal of accreditation, the following documents must be submitted.

- a. A duly accomplished form for renewal of accreditation
- b. A certificate of service record for the year prior to the renewal of accreditation as certified by any member of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee or NGO Representative
- c. A proof of satisfactory performance rating in the year preceding renewal of Accreditation
- d. A medical certificate duly signed by the Health Officer

**Section 15. Roles and Responsibilities of Peer Facilitators** - The peer facilitator is expected to take on the following tasks:

- a. Ensure overall quality and functionality of peer support group sessions, specifically but not limited to:
  - i. Establish overall peer support group session composition and structure (whether the peer group is an open, closed, or alternatively, initially open then becomes closed, etc.)
  - ii. Co-develop a list of house rules with the members of the support groups for all to adhere to
  - iii. Set the frequency of sessions (e.g., weekly, monthly) and the time (morning or afternoon) according to the agreement of the group members and ensuring regularity of meetings
  - iv. Ensure privacy and confidentiality of all information discussed and notes taken in support group sessions
  - v. Establish communication channel for all members
  - vi. *[If support group sessions shall be conducted in-person]* Prepare the logistics for the session such as the venue, refreshments, etc.
  - vii. *[If support group sessions shall be conducted remotely]* Ensure that the remote group sessions shall abide by the following standards as specified in Section 22
- b. Recruit members for the peer support groups

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- c. Develop mechanisms to ensure continuous participation of members in support group sessions
- d. Provide feedback on common topics and issues discussed and coordinate with SK Chairman for necessary action points and community interventions following confidentiality and ethical standards detailed in Section 24
- e. Refer and monitor identified members needing other services not provided by the peer support Group.

**Section 16. Benefits and Incentives for Accredited Peer Facilitators.** Subject to the provision of this Ordinance, accredited peer facilitators who are actively and regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following benefits and incentives:

- a. Subsistence allowance - All accredited peer facilitators shall be entitled to a quarterly subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals they take in the performance of the duties and responsibilities in the amount of Php500.00. The amount of allowance may be increased every three years, subject to the recommendation of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee and approval by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.
- b. Education and Training - the Provincial Health Officer, in coordination with the Department of Health and other agencies and institutions, shall provide continuing education for the peer facilitators, at least on an annual basis, to ensure that they remain current in their knowledge of providing psychosocial support. The Provincial Health Officer may also initiate special trainings will enhance the overall performance of peer facilitators.
- c. Scholarship benefits - All accredited peer facilitators shall be entitled to receive continuing education, study and exposure tours, grants, and scholarship benefits in the form of tuition fees to state colleges or universities within the province.

**Section 17. Reportorial Requirement.** After each session, the peer facilitator is expected to accomplish the standard report form detailing the activities, significant discussions, and other notable events that took place following confidentiality and ethical standards detailed in Section 24. These reports will then be summarized into the monthly report form and submitted monthly to the SK Chairman.

#### CHAPTER IV. PEER SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS

**Section 18. Mechanics of Peer Support Group Sessions.**

Peer support group sessions, with close supervision of the designated Guidance Counselor or any member of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee, shall be overseen and moderated by qualified and accredited Peer Facilitators who shall clearly distinguish themselves from members by wearing badges/identification cards in face to face programs, and icons/colors/names in online spaces, and shall abide by the standards and principles of peer facilitation as prescribed in any DOH or NGO-accredited capacity development course for peer facilitators.

Peer facilitators who have not met the minimum requirements of accreditation may facilitate support group sessions upon approval by the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee.

**Section 19. Composition of Peer Support Groups.** — To promote positive group dynamics and facilitate ease in sharing of common experiences among members



and peer facilitators, each Peer Support Group may be uniformly composed of members and a peer facilitator within the following demographic:

- a. Youth students
- b. Youth professionals
- c. Out-of-school youth

Peer facilitators may create special support groups composed of diverse youth ages to cater to specific homogeneous demographic groups, upon approval of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee.

### **Section 20. Activities of Peer Support Group Sessions.**

Peer support groups managed by a trained and qualified peer facilitator may engage in the following group activities, but shall not be limited to:

- a. Planned group sessions or structured series of sessions over a predetermined period of time
- b. Drop-in centers for youth not needing continuous peer support but desiring to talk with a peer once in a while
- c. Online support session
- d. Opportunistic interactions, such as conversations with friends or acquaintances, avenues of peer exchange and can be relatively informal or more formal forms of outreach
- e. Team building sessions / camps to implement several activities within a condensed period of time
- f. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities among the youth during local health emergencies and disasters
- g. Information, education, and advocacy activities in the community promoting psychosocial and mental wellbeing among the youth
- h. One-to-one sessions which shall not serve as counseling sessions, however an opportunity to access emotional and practical support and be referred to other support services within the community and externally

### **Section 21. Environmental Specifications for Peer Support Group Sessions**

In order to facilitate a conducive and supportive physical environment for peer support groups, a DAVORKADA Center may be designated within the Province of Davao Oriental, wherein the following standards shall be maintained by the peer facilitator and approved by the Peer Support Oversight Committee, or with every change in venue.

- a. Physical and logistical accessibility of the venue
- b. Appropriate size of the location to the number of members attending
- c. Comfortable and enough private space that maintains confidentiality but also facilitates engaging conversations among members
- d. Available and properly sanitized washrooms or toilets
- e. Minimal to no cost for venue use and reservation

Possible locations may be at DAVORKADA Center. Minimum public health standards must also be considered when selecting a physical venue to hold peer group sessions.

### **Section 22. Specifications for Conducting Remote Peer Support Group Sessions.**

In the event that peer support group facilitators opt to facilitate remote peer support group sessions, the following standards shall be maintained in order to facilitate a conducive and safe environment for peer support groups and facilitators:

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- a. Separate designated devices and accounts for peer support group sessions to maintain work-home boundaries
- b. Availability of camera, microphone and speaker
- c. Utilization of headphones during group sessions to maintain confidentiality;
- d. Preparation of back-up technology option in case device fails
- e. Adequate amount of credit, minutes and data to be able to complete the remote session
- f. Utilization of secure online conferencing software
- g. Configuring settings of video sessions so that participants have to request for access to join the session
- h. Video conference software and the device running the software are updated, when updates are shown as available

**Section 23. Recruitment of Peer Support Group Members.** — Members must provide informed consent in writing prior to engaging in activities of peer support groups. An informed consent shall respect the following principles:

- a. Voluntarism, indicating that consent is given without threat or coercion, undue influence or manipulation
- b. Competency, indicating that the member can understand information about a decision, understand the benefits, risks, and alternatives of the decision, and communicate the decision
- c. Disclosure, indicating that the peer facilitator has adequately disclosed information on the extent of the support provided by the support group session, the possible benefits and risks of engaging in activities with the peer support group
- d. Understanding, indicating that the member possesses the capacity to understand information relevant to the specific circumstances and appreciate the foreseeable consequences of making (or failing to make) a decision

In the case of minors aged less than 18 years old, parental consent and child assent must be provided guided by the same principles.

**Section 24. Confidentiality and Ethical Standards.** — Confidentiality of all information, communications, and records, in whatever form or medium stored, regarding the member of the support group, any aspect of the member's mental health, or any treatment or care received by the member, which information, communications, and records shall not be disclosed to third parties without the written consent of the service user concerned or the service user's legal representative, except in the following circumstances:

- a. Disclosure is required by law or pursuant to an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction
- b. The member has expressed consent to the disclosure;
- c. A life-threatening emergency exists and such disclosure is necessary to prevent harm or injury to the member or to other persons
- d. The member is a minor and the peer facilitator reasonably believes that the member is a victim of child abuse
- e. Disclosure is required in connection with an administrative, civil, or criminal case against a mental health professional or worker for negligence or a breach of professional ethics, to the extent necessary to completely adjudicate, settle, or resolve any issue or controversy involved therein

**Section 25. Referral of Members.** — Members needing services not provided by the peer support group shall be coordinated by the peer facilitator with the SK



Chairperson for assistance and supervision. Peer facilitators shall continuously monitor the access of the member to the necessary services.

Referrals shall immediately be made and coordinated with the designated Guidance Counselor, SK Chairman, or any member of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee by accomplishing the standard referral form to monitor the status of the referral of the identified member and if their concern has been resolved.

**Section 26. Evaluation of Peer Support Sessions.** — After each session, peer support group members shall evaluate both their peer facilitator and the session proper. This will be accomplished through a standard evaluation form and submitted, compiled and analyzed by the peer facilitator for the continuous development of the peer support group program.

**Section 27. Monitoring of Peer Support Sessions.** — The standard monitoring form shall be utilized by the designated Guidance Counselor and/or any member of the Peer Support Group Oversight Committee, or its designated committee in the yearly assessment of the support program and shall be evaluated based on the program's capacity to foster the following parameters:

- a. Fostering safe environments
- b. Psychological and emotional safety/refuge
- c. Boundary management
- d. Ethical practice
- e. Behavioral management processes
- f. Participant feedback
- g. Peer facilitator / staff / volunteer skills and capacity
- h. Program strategy

## CHAPTER V. FINANCING

**Section 28. Appropriation.** — Initial funding to defray the expenses necessary for or incidental to the implementation of this Ordinance in the amount of **ONE MILLION PESOS** shall be sourced from the fund of the Provincial Government and is hereby allocated. Every year thereafter, at least **5%** shall automatically be included in the Annual Budget of the province for the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance.

The above expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Cost of printing copies of this Ordinance, information, education, and communication materials on promoting psychosocial and mental wellbeing
- b. Cost of regular or periodic meetings of the Oversight Committee
- c. Cost of inspection and enforcement by the Oversight Committee, including allowances for meals and transportation which shall be set by the Office of the Governor
- d. Logistical support for peer facilitators and peer support group sessions
- e. Benefits and incentives of peer facilitators
- f. Other expenses associated with the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance

## CHAPTER VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

**Section 29. Penalty Clause.** — As specified in the Mental Health Act of 2018 (Republic Act No. 11036), any person who commits any of the following acts shall, upon



conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, but not more than two (2) years, or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), but not more than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court:

- a. Failure to secure informed consent of the service user, unless it falls under the exceptions provided under Section 24 of this ordinance
- b. Violation of confidentiality of information, as defined under Section 24 of this Ordinance

If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the penalty provided for in this template ordinance shall be imposed on the directors, officers, employees or other officials or persons therein responsible for the offense.

These penalties shall be without prejudice to the administrative or civil liability of the offender, or the facility where such violation occurred.

**Section 30. Repealing Clause.** — All ordinances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, found to be in conflict with or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

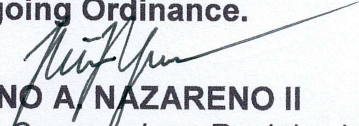
**Section 31. Effectivity Clause.** — This Ordinance shall take effect three (3) consecutive weeks after its publication in a newspaper of local or general circulation or posting in at least two (2) conspicuous places within the city/municipality.

**ENACTED: November 13, 2024**

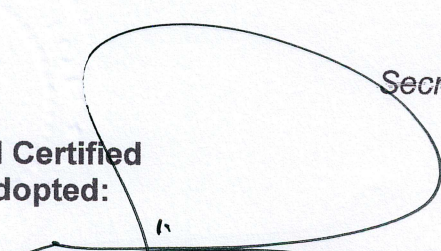
**CARRIED**, by eleven (11) affirmative votes of SP Members Shella Marie S. Go, Anna Cheryl N. Castro, Harold A. Montes, Rotchie M. Ravelo, Marietta D. Palmera, Andy A. Monday, Michelle M. Centeno, Joselito B. Villademoso, Jossone Michael G. Dayanghirang, Eleuterio C. Manaytay, and Shanine C. Lintogonan; negative votes – none; and abstention - none.

\* \* \*

I hereby Certify to the Correctness  
of the foregoing Ordinance.

  
**MAXIMINO A. NAZARENO II**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Attested and Certified  
to be duly Adopted:

  
**NELSON R. DAYANGHIRANG, JR.**  
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

  
**NIÑO SOTERO L. UY, JR.**  
Governor

Date approved **NOV 27 2024**  
and signed \_\_\_\_\_