

Peer Cert Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting

Attendance: AC Team: Jeff Santo, Traci Compositor, Nicole Hampton, Joann Butler, Melita Arms, Cini Shaw, and from PRCH: Kim Blackman, Jannat, Graziela Reis, Megan Evans and Chyrell Bellamy.

Date:02/05/2025

Time: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Purpose of meeting: The Advisory committee convened to discuss the updates for the “grandparenting/exempting process for the new established Certified Recovery Peer Professional (CRPP)—for people who were trained previously by one of the 3 approved DMHAS peer support/RSS/RC training sites (Advocacy Unlimited, CCAR, Hartford Healthcare).

Brief Overview: We discussed:

- Updates to the grandparenting/exempting process for the new CRPP.
- 50 50-question Pilot exam has been created.
- To establish a standardized exam, we need as many people as possible to take the exam.
- Discussed application.
- We discussed the exam. The exam will be online through Prometric.
- Discussed the eligibility requirements (see link to eligibility process).
- Questions related to whether people will have to attest to their lived expertise were raised. It was stated that this process would not ask people to do so, as this one-time exemption process should consider that there were criteria in place prior that will be honored for this one-time exemption. It was also noted that DMHAS is considering a Family/caregiver worker certification.
- Discussed, and someone clarified the distinction between the Recovery Coach Academy (RCA) and the Recovery Coach Professional (RCP) designation and the criteria for obtaining the RCP
- We discussed accommodations (ADA) and challenges people may have with using computers. Chyrell mentioned that a medical note would be required for the exam if accommodations are needed. Prometric has been contacted about possible challenges people may have with computers, not having private space to take the exam, etc.
- Lastly, they addressed the grandfathering process for those who have already completed the RCA and the need to educate employers about the RCP criteria.

Next steps

- Update the application to reflect that references are not required for the application.
- Edit the certification duration from 2 years to 3 years in the document.
- Chyrell will contact Stacy and Elsa to verify the distinction between RC and RCP with CCAR and report back to the team.
- It is important to provide training education for HR and employers on supervision, peer job requisition, and good questions to consider when assessing peer-related experience. The team stated that this would be important given that people are not required to attest to "lived experience" for the grandparenting process.
- Several AC team members want to be involved in the supervision training process.

Discussion: Peer Support Professional Application Process

The committee discussed the application process for the new CRPP peer support professional role, which includes an application verifying training at one of the 3 approved sites, verification of age, and CEUs within the last three years. However, for those who completed their peer support training program from one of the three DMHAS-approved organizations after July 1, 2024, the CEU requirement is waived. Chyrell confirmed that no references are required.

Application:

The application will be on the CCB website and will auto-save as someone fills it in. Once submitted, it cannot be edited.

People may receive one of three email notifications after they have applied: a confirmation email, an email about incomplete applications, and an email about ineligibility.

There will be a certification review team to handle any challenges.

The exam will be 50 multiple-choice questions, appointment-based, and CRPP will last three years. Applicants will receive a reminder email one month before their certificate expires.

Recovery Coach Academy and Designation

The team discussed the Recovery Coach Academy (RCA) and the Recovery Coach Professional (RCP) designation. They clarified that the RCP is a designation given after completing the RCA and additional training, while the RCA is a class anyone can take. They also discussed the RCP criteria, including completing 60 hours of the RCA training and passing a test. The team raised questions about whether both were eligible for the grandparenting process.

Townhall

At least four people—Jeff Santo, Traci C., Nicole Hampton, and Joann Butler—want to participate in the town hall, which will include introductions and possible roles. We will plan a separate time for a run of the show with those who will be participating in the town hall.

Key Discussions:**Certification Review Team (CRT):**

Many insightful questions were raised during the meeting.

Chyrell mentioned that we will establish a Certification Review Team (CRT) to address challenges related to questions and concerns, unique circumstances, and ineligible applications. As the CCB and DMHAS suggested, this team will be independent of the CCB.

Several questions were raised about unique situations. It was stated that all people should apply, and if there are unique circumstances, they will be reviewed for consideration.

Designation of RCP vs. RC:

Cini and Nicole highlighted a point of clarification: whether the eligibility should state RCP (Recovery Coach Professional) or whether RC (Recovery Coach) was sufficient. They stated they felt the RCP was more akin to the RSS and broader than the RC.

Stated we would clarify this distinction with Stacy at CCAR for validation.

Certification Post Grandparenting and CEUs:

Several ideas related to certification after grandfathering were discussed, including the issue of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). We will delve into this topic in more detail in future meetings. They requested that the CCB list a variety of offerings for continued education beyond what they currently list on their websites.

There was a discussion on the necessity of requiring lived experience for RCs and RSSs for the grandparenting process. Chyrell emphasized that it is not ethical to mandate new requirements for grandparenting, given that this was not stipulated by the training sites when individuals initially signed up.

Additional Points:**Advocacy for RSS2:**

The group expressed interest in advocating for an RSS2 designation within DMHAS to establish a career ladder.

Supervision Training:

We reiterated the importance of supervision training and emphasized that it is the employer's responsibility to determine the most suitable person to hire and the type of peer support they might need, such as experience with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), Mental Illness (MI), firsthand lived experience or family/carer experience.

Participation and Roles:

Several members, including Nicole, Traci, Joann, Jeff, and Melita, have volunteered to take on active roles with the supervision training. This involvement will help distribute responsibilities and prevent exhaustion among committee members.

More details will be discussed after the town hall.

Note: Please do not respond to this summary except to address questions posed. Further discussions will be scheduled in our next meeting.

Thank you All for your contributions!