

Virginia PRS Certification and Registration Pathways

NATURAL PEER SUPPORT: Peer to Peer support may be offered naturally as it occurs between two people who share a common experience of the hope for recovery from any one of the many mental or addiction illnesses. This includes Family Support Partners. Natural Peer Support is offered with a variety of training, background and skill sets. People in this category call themselves Peer Specialists, Recovery Coaches, Peer Counselors, Peer Supporters, etc.

PEER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS: Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS) are individuals who have successfully completed the 72-Hour DBHDS Peer Recovery Specialist Training. They may be in the process of accumulating requirements, such as 500 hours needed to qualify as a **CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST (CPRS)** with the Virginia Certification Board. They may also be accumulating requirements for certification as a **NATIONAL CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST (NCPRSS)** with NADAAC. They could also be certified by another qualifying State, National or Veterans Administration process.

REGISTERED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS: CPRS AND NCPRSS must become registered with the Department of Health Professions, Board of Counseling in order to have their services billed to Medicaid. At this point they are referred to as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist (**RPRS**).

Natural Peer Support

- Occurs anywhere, anytime between two people who seek to share a recovery experience
- Often referred to as Peer Supporter, Recovery Coach, Peer Specialist
- May or may not be a trained role

PRS

- Peer Recovery Specialist
- Individual has successfully completed the DBHDS 72-Hour Peer Recovery Specialist Training

CPRS

- Certified Peer Recovery Specialist
- Includes Family Support Partner
- Certified by the Virginia Certification Board (A member Board of IC & RC)
- DBHDS 72-Hour PRS Training is a mandatory component of certification

NCPRSS

- National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist
- Certified by the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors
- Must take DBHDS 72-Hour PRS Training in addition to any other certification requirements.

Registered Peer Recovery Specialist

- Eligible to have services billed to Medicaid by a qualified Medicaid Provider
- Must be a CPRS, a NCPRSS or have a letter from DBHDS accepting alternative State or National Certification
- Must have completed DBHDS 72-Hour PRS Training

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