



Vermont Department of Health: Substance Use Disorder System of Care Enhancement

Recovery Support Services (RSS) Initiative
Monthly Recovery Center Director Touchpoint

June 6, 2025

As you join today's call, please share any highlights or takeaways from the recent VDH Conference (May 20th and 21st) in the chat if you were able to attend!

Agenda

- Welcome
- Follow-up from May Touchpoint
- RSS Initiative Status Update Overview
 - Foundational Visit Themes
 - Prevention Works Credentialing Process Flow
- Service Delivery System Overview
 - Act 170
 - Medical Necessity Screening
 - Individualized Recovery Plan Template
 - Discussion
- Closing



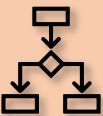

Follow-up from May Touchpoint

May Touchpoint Follow-up

- In the May Touchpoint, some of you expressed interest in contacting other states about how they navigate the intake process for recovery services and how they strike a balance between informality and professionalism. **Have you had a chance to connect with peers in other states, and if so, are there any lessons learned to share with the group?**
- Last time we also discussed fixes to an RDP access issue. **Please put in the chat whether this issue has been resolved for your Recovery Center.**

RSS Initiative Status Update

RSS Initiative Status Update Overview

Component	Objective	Status
 Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) Certification	To develop and operationalize a process for PRSS certification via the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) based on the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) Peer Recovery credential.	The PRSS Certification Rule and accompanying Code of Ethics were approved by LCAR and adopted with an effective date of July 1, 2025. VDH is coordinating with OPR to operationalize the PRSS Certification process and with Prevention Works for the credential process. The contract with FAVOR for RDP 2.0 is expected to begin this month.
 Recovery Services Organization (RSO) Certification	To develop and operationalize a process for certification of RSOs, building upon existing work to accredit organizations who maintain a high standard of service.	The RSO Certification Rule was adopted with an effective date of July 1, 2025. VDH is currently developing the application review and site visit processes . VDH held a webinar on May 30 to preview the RSO Application process and answer submitted questions on the process.
 Foundation Building Exercises	To learn more about Recovery Center operations and areas of support needed for upcoming certifications and for Medicaid.	VDH has initiated several key activities to respond to Recovery Center input during the in-person Foundational Visits (see subsequent slides).
 Medicaid Benefit Design & Rollout	To design and implement a Medicaid benefit system for RSS and to make any necessary adjustments to support Medicaid reimbursement of RSS.	VDH is finalizing key components of the Medicaid service delivery design , including a template for Individualized Recovery Plans and criteria for medical necessity . VDH is also coordinating with partners to develop a draft Medicaid implementation timeline .

Status Update: Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) Certification



Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) Certification

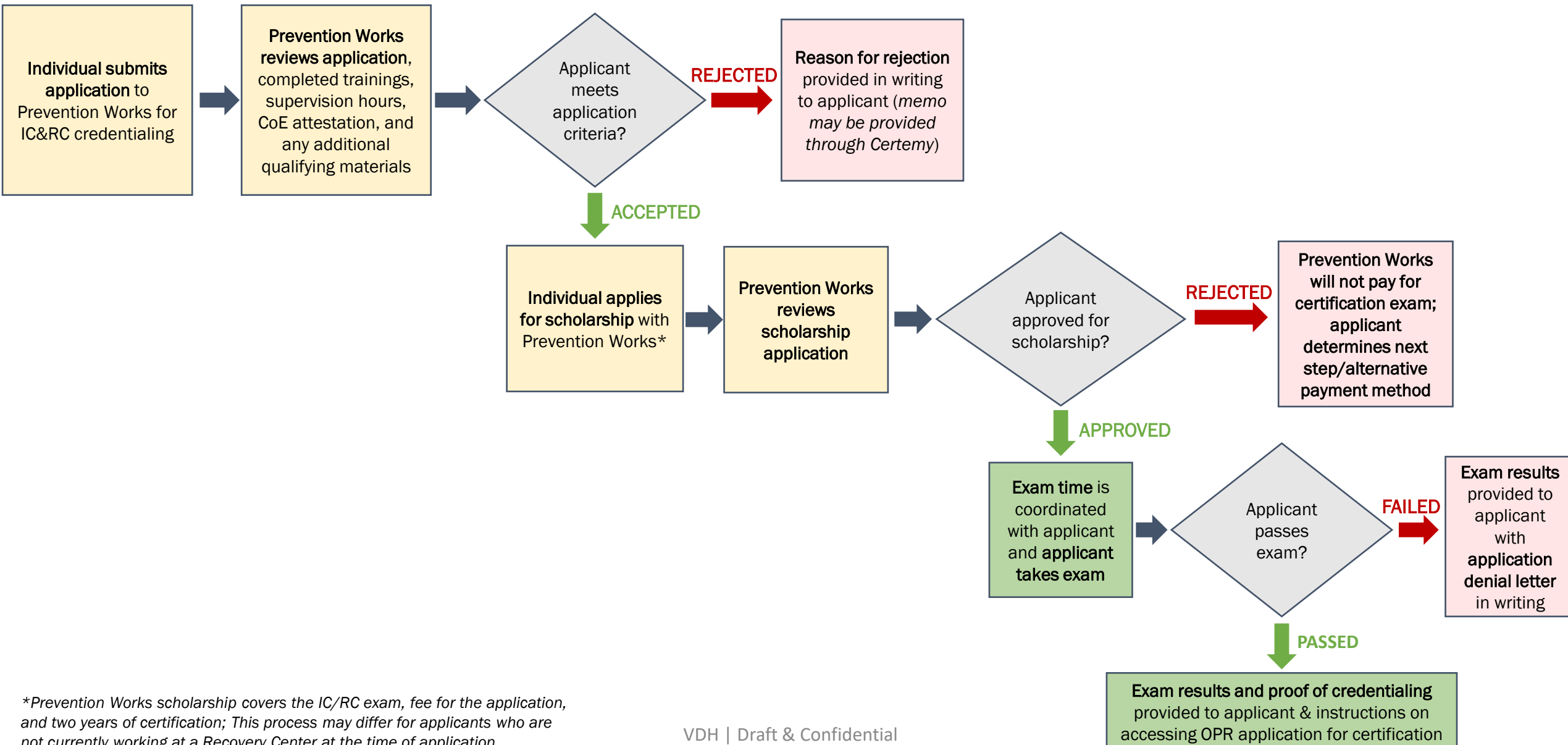
Key Objective

To develop and operationalize a process for PRSS certification via the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) based on the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) Peer Recovery credential.

Current Status

- The [PRSS Certification Rule](#) and accompanying [Code of Ethics](#) were adopted with an effective date of July 1, 2025
- VDH is coordinating with OPR to **operationalize the PRSS Certification process** and with Prevention Works for the credential process
- The contract with FAVOR for **RDP 2.0** is expected to begin this month

Draft High-Level PRSS Credentialing Process with Prevention Works



Status Update: Recovery Services Organization (RSO) Certification



Recovery Services Organization (RSO) Certification

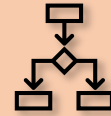
Key Objective

To develop and operationalize a process for certification of RSOs, building upon existing work to accredit organizations who maintain a high standard of service.

Current Status

- The [RSO Certification Rule](#) was adopted with an effective date of July 1, 2025
- VDH is currently developing the **application review** and **site visit processes**
- VDH hosted a webinar on May 30, 2025 to **preview the RSO Application process** and **answer submitted questions**

Status Update: Foundation Building Exercises



Foundation Building Exercises

Key Objective

To learn more about Recovery Center operations and areas of support needed for upcoming certifications and for Medicaid.

Current Status

- VDH has initiated several key **activities to respond to Recovery Center input** during the in-person Foundational Visits – see *next slide*
- **Board development coaching** calls will continue monthly
- VDH will **continue to assess opportunities** for foundation building

Status Update: Medicaid Benefit Design & Rollout



Medicaid Benefit Design & Rollout

Key Objective

To design and implement a Medicaid benefit system for RSS and to make any necessary adjustments to support Medicaid reimbursement of RSS.

Current Status

- VDH is finalizing key components of the **Medicaid service delivery design**, including a template for **Individualized Recovery Plans** and criteria for **medical necessity screening**
- VDH is also coordinating to develop a **draft Medicaid implementation timeline**

Key Service Delivery Components Review

Act 170 and PRSS Certification Rule

Per [Act 170](#) and the [PRSS Certification Rule](#):

“Recovery support services” means a set of culturally competent, nonclinical, evidence-based activities provided consistent with the Code of Ethics for Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists and coordinated through a **written individualized recovery plan of care** that **documents a substance use disorder** and **reflects the need and preferences of the individual in achieving the specific, individualized, measurable goals** specified in the plan.

Documenting substance use disorder and developing an individualized plan of care are key to delivering service within the scope of practice for Certified PRSS

Medical Necessity Screening

- Beginning July 1, 2025, Certified PRSS must document the substance use disorder for each participant
- Medical Necessity Screening questions will be used to establish and document the substance use disorder and need for RSS

Medical Necessity Draft Screening Questions

1. What substances, including alcohol, are you using that you have concerns about?
2. How often are you using this/these substances:
 - a. Daily
 - b. Most Days
 - c. Fewer than 3 days a week
3. Which of these areas of your life have been impacted by substance use:
 - a. Relationships and social supports
 - b. Employment
 - c. Housing
 - d. Transportation
 - e. Physical and Mental Health
 - f. Legal
 - g. Financial, budget and money management
 - h. Recreation and relaxation
 - i. Spirituality, mindfulness, and culture

Breakout: In small groups, discuss your feedback on the draft Medical Necessity Screening questions

Individualized Recovery Plan (IRP) Template

- Beginning July 1, 2025, Certified PRSS must coordinate services through an Individualized Recovery Plan, or IRP
- In order to standardize expectations for this requirement, VDH is planning to use the *Recovery Management Plan* module within RDP as the required IRP Template
- This module reflects key components of the recovery plans already in use at many Recovery Centers, including assessment of recovery capital and SMART goals, and offers the opportunity to document plans in an accessible, centralized location

Service Delivery Discussion Questions

- What, if anything, about the service delivery tools described on the previous slides surprises you?
- What concerns, if any, do you have regarding service delivery or use of the medical necessity questionnaire and IRP template?
- How could you begin to document some of your more informal service delivery?

Breakout: In small groups, discuss the questions above

Closing



Thank you!

We appreciate your time this afternoon and look forward to seeing you in upcoming board development sessions and our next virtual touchpoint in July.