



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

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



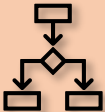

August 7, 2025

Agenda

- Welcome
- RSS Initiative Status Update by Workstream
 - Medicaid Implementation Update and Timeline
 - Q&A
 - RSO and PRSS Certification Updates
 - Q&A
- Medical Necessity Screening Questions Check-in
 - *Breakout Discussion*
- Individualized Recovery Plan (IRP) Documentation Outside of Recovery Coaching
 - *Teams Poll*
- Closing

RSS Initiative Status Update by Workstream

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.	OPR's portal for PRSS Certification applications is open as of July 1. The first two professionals in Vermont have received PRSS Certification. Prevention Works!VT has begun credentialing new Certified Recovery Coaches. VDH is currently working to execute a contract with FAVOR for RDP.
 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 process opened on July 1, 2025. VDH has received four applications thus far. Applications for RSO Certification are due by October 31, 2025 . SFY26 Base grants require that Centers submit an RSO application by this date.
 Foundation Building Exercises	To learn more about Recovery Center operations and areas of support needed for upcoming certifications and for Medicaid.	Foundational visits with Recovery Centers have concluded at this time , and VDH is continuing to follow up with Centers about progress towards their stated goals coming out of the visits.
 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 coordinating with partners to develop a draft Medicaid implementation timeline . Please note that the go-live for the RSS Medicaid benefit will not take place before 7/1/2027 . Recovery Centers can expect to hear more information about the Medicaid rollout and timeline during the October in-person meeting .

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 and Reminders

- VDH is coordinating with partners to develop a **draft Medicaid implementation timeline**. Please note that the **go-live for the RSS Medicaid benefit will not take place before 7/1/2027**.
- Recovery Centers can expect to hear more information about the Medicaid rollout and timeline during the **October in-person meeting**.

Q&A

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 and Reminders

- The RSO Certification process opened on July 1, 2025. VDH has **received four applications** thus far.
- Applications for RSO Certification are **due by October 31, 2025**. SFY26 Base grants require that Centers submit an RSO application by this date.
- As stated in the RSO Certification Rule, RSO Certification is required in order to continue to **receive funding** from the Department of Health.

Status Update: Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) Certification



Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) Certification

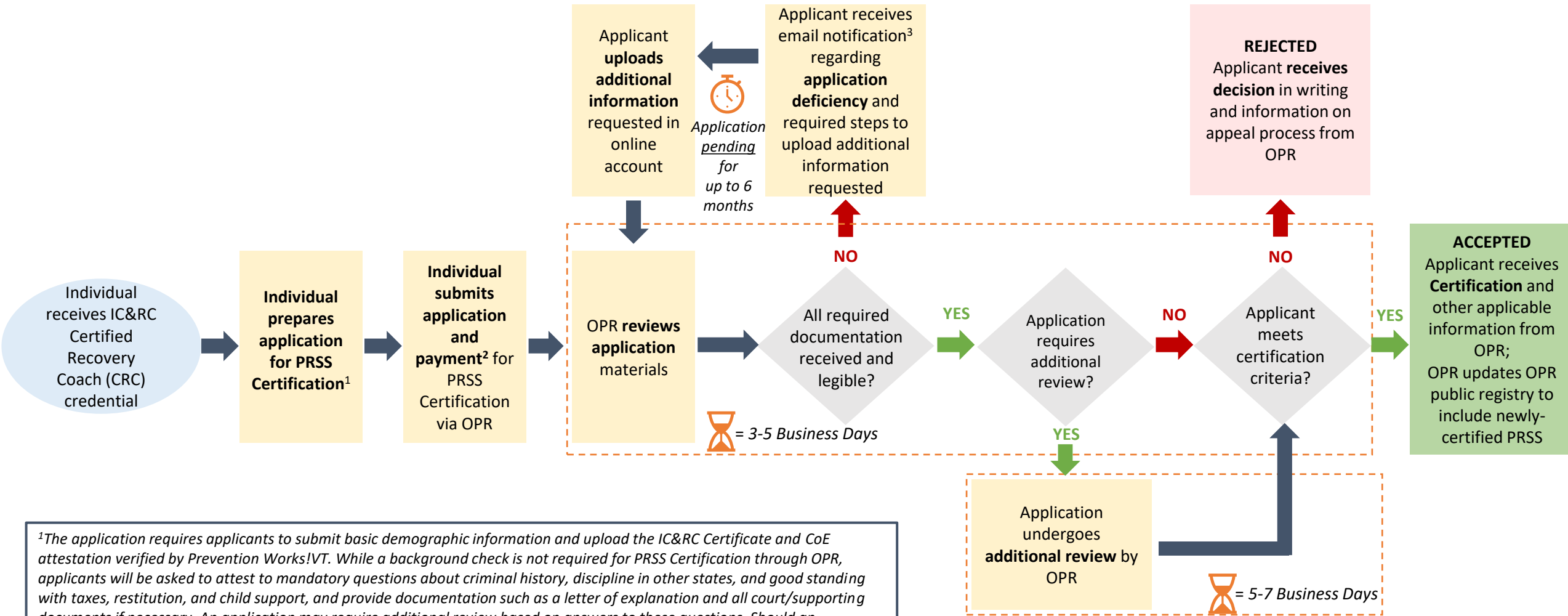
Key Objective

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 and Reminders

- OPR's portal for **PRSS Certification applications** is open as of July 1. The **first two professionals** in Vermont have received PRSS Certification.
- Prevention Works!VT has begun **credentialing** new Certified Recovery Coaches.
- VDH is currently working to **execute a contract with FAVOR for RDP**. Once the contract is in place, VDH will **seek feedback on the system and provide TA**.

Peer Recovery Support Specialist Certification Process via the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR)



¹The application requires applicants to submit basic demographic information and upload the IC&RC Certificate and CoE attestation verified by Prevention Works!VT. While a background check is not required for PRSS Certification through OPR, applicants will be asked to attest to mandatory questions about criminal history, discipline in other states, and good standing with taxes, restitution, and child support, and provide documentation such as a letter of explanation and all court/supporting documents if necessary. An application may require additional review based on answers to these questions. Should an application be preliminarily denied, appeal rights will be provided with notice.

²Recovery Centers manage reimbursement of certification application fees for employees.

³Applicants can log into their online account to check the status of their application at any time after submission. All notifications for deficiencies, payment receipts, submissions and approvals are sent by email to the email address the applicant enters in the OPR system.

This workflow can be found here:

[OPR Peer Recovery Support Specialist Certification Process](#)

Q&A

Medical Necessity Screening Questions Check-in

Medical Necessity Screening Questions Check-in

In June, VDH released a set of Medical Necessity Screening Questions for PRSS to ask all RSS participants in order to establish the need for recovery services:

1. What substances, including alcohol, are you concerned about in terms of your previous or current use?
2. How often are you or were you using this/these substances:
 - a) Daily
 - b) Most Days
 - c) Fewer than 3 days a week
 - d) No days or currently in recovery
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

Medical Necessity Screening Questions Check-in



Breakout Discussion: In your small group, please discuss the questions below. Please be prepared to report out to the large group when we reconvene.

1. How has your Recovery Center begun implementing the Medical Necessity Screening Questions in your intake processes?
2. How is your Recovery Center documenting participant responses to the Medical Necessity Screening Questions?
 - a) Have you explored documenting the answers in RDP? If so, what does that process look like and how is it working thus far?
3. Do you have any additional feedback on the medical necessity screening questions at this time?

Individualized Recovery Plan (IRP) Documentation Outside of Recovery Coaching

IRP Documentation Outside of Recovery Coaching

In June, VDH shared that the *Recovery Management Plan* module within RDP would serve as the standardized IRP template for documenting RSS interactions with participants.



Teams Poll: *To what extent, if any, are the services for those not involved in recovery coaching currently documented at your Recovery Center?*

Follow-up Discussion

- What questions or concerns do you have about **documenting non-coaching interactions** with participants through the Individualized Recovery Plan?
- What are some strategies your Recovery Center has considered to implement documentation for traditionally **anonymous services**?
- How does documentation of these interactions factor into your Center's **data management plan** (e.g., efforts to capture the types and volume of service provided)?

Please note that, per RSO Standard 11.4, the IRP must include the participant's signature. This can be done as a wet signature on a document that is then scanned and uploaded to RDP, or as an electronic signature on a document (e.g., DocuSign PDF) that is then uploaded to RDP.

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 September.