



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

Recovery Support Services (RSS) Initiative

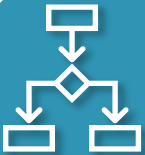
Status Update: December 5, 2024

# Refresher: What are we working towards?

To meet the requirements set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and state regulation, The Health Department is working with you achieve the following goals over the next few years:



Formalize requirements for **individuals** delivering Recovery Support Services and the **organizations** that employ these individuals to help ensure a high standard of service for those in recovery.



Build a foundation for Medicaid reimbursement by ensuring that **Recovery Center operations** can accommodate Medicaid requirements.



Design and roll out a **Medicaid benefit model that is efficient** while adhering to minimum Medicaid requirements.

# 2024 Accomplishments and Next Steps (1 of 2)



## Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) Certification

**Certification of PRSS** via the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) using the existing Recovery Coach certification requirements.

### *2024 Accomplishments*

- Development and passage of **OPR Legislation (Act 170)** to establish OPR as the authority for certifying PRSS
- Drafting and ongoing processing of the **certification rule** and revised **Code of Ethics**

### *Next Steps*

- Continue formal **rule processing** *through Spring 2025*
- Procure an **organization to provide PRSS training** *by Spring 2025*
- **Operationalize** PRSS certification (e.g, training, credentialing, and certification process) *by June 2025*



## Recovery Services Organization (RSO) Certification

**Certification of RSOs (e.g., Recovery Centers)** to build upon existing work and accredit organizations who maintain a high standard of service.

### *2024 Accomplishments*

- Drafting and ongoing processing the **certification rule** with your input
- Finalization of the draft **standards** and **assessment tool** for certification with your input

### *Next Steps*

- Continue formal **rule processing** *through early 2025*
- **Develop** certification processes and procedures (e.g., site visits) *in early 2025*
- Engage with you **to prepare** for the process *in Spring/Summer 2025*

# 2024 Accomplishments and Next Steps (2 of 2)



## Foundation Building Exercises

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

### *2024 Accomplishments*

- Data collection for the **Time Study Exercise** to learn more about how staff spend their time

### *Next Steps*

- Analyze data submitted for the **Time Study Exercise**, distribute the results to you, and reflect on the findings during the in-person kickoff meeting *in January 2025*
- Plan for upcoming **foundational visits** to hear more from you about your operations and needs *in the first half of 2025*



## Medicaid Benefit Design & Roll-Out

Design and implementation of **RSS as a Medicaid benefit** and other adjustments necessary to support Medicaid reimbursement of RSS.

### *2024 Accomplishments*

- Internal review of **minimum federal requirements for Medicaid benefit design and delivery of services**
- **Peer state research** to learn more about RSS benefit models

### *Next Steps*

- Refine the **benefit model** to meet minimum Medicaid requirements *through 2025*
- Implement **IT updates/tools** for Medicaid compliance *through 2025*

# In-person Recovery Collaborative Kickoff

**Time:** 9:00am – 3:00pm on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Vermont Department of Health offices, 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671-8300

**What you can expect:** A variety of discussions and presentations to preview activities for the year ahead and foster collaboration for RSS Initiative activities. The agenda may include but is not limited to:

- Speakers, including Vermont Department of Health senior leadership
- An introductory Medicaid presentation and discussion
- Discussions on upcoming foundation building work
- Time Study Exercise reflections



**Discussion Question:** Will you or a designee be able to attend during the scheduled time and date?