



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

Recovery Support Services (RSS) Initiative

August 26, 2024

Agenda

- Recovery Support Services (RSS) Initiative Overview
- The Path Ahead
 - What do we need to do?
 - What will we accomplish?
 - Where do we go from here?

Recovery Support Services (RSS) Initiative Overview

Planning

Design & Development

Implementation

Summary of the Initiative

- The State of Vermont is **seeking to establish Recovery Support Services (RSS) as a Medicaid reimbursable benefit.**
- The initial rollout of the Medicaid benefit will focus on **Recovery Coaching** delivered by **certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS)** employed by **Recovery Services Organizations** (e.g., Recovery Centers). The Health Department will explore opportunities to expand the array of Medicaid reimbursable RSS after the initial rollout.

Meeting with you today:



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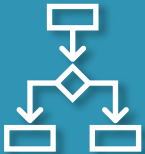
Stakeholder
Engagement &
Organizational
Change
Management (OCM)
Lead

The Path Ahead: What do we need to do?

To meet the requirements set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and state regulation, The Health Dept. will work with you achieve the following goals over 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.

The Path Ahead: What will we accomplish? (1 of 2)



Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) Certification

Formalization of the *Peer Recovery Support Specialist* (PRSS) **profession** for those who will deliver RSS through certification by the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) using the existing Recovery Coach certification requirements.

Key Work to Date

- Development and passage of **OPR Legislation (Act 170)** to establish OPR as the authority for certifying PRSS
- Drafting of the **certification rule** and outreach to solicit your input
- Ongoing legal revisions to the **Code of Ethics** and outreach to solicit your input

Next steps

- **OPR-facilitated rulemaking** for PRSS certification
- Procurement of an **organization to provide PRSS training**
- OPR-led **operationalization** of the PRSS profession



Recovery Services Organization (RSO) Certification

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

Key Work to Date

- Drafting and ongoing processing the **Recovery Services Organization Certification Rule**
- **Outreach** to solicit your input on certification, the rule, and the standards

Next Steps

- Finalization of the **standards** with the **assessment tool** and **application**
- **Additional outreach** to solicit your input on the finalized standards with the application and assessment tool
- Continuation of formal **rule processing**

The Path Ahead: What will we accomplish? (2 of 2)



Recovery Center Operational Assessment

Assessment to **learn more about Recovery Center operations** to understand what operational updates may be necessary to accommodate Medicaid requirements. The Health Dept. then intends to **support you in incorporating the necessary operational changes.**

Key Work to Date

- Internal review of **minimum Medicaid requirements** and identification of **Medicaid resources**

Next Steps

- Outreach to provide you with more information and solicit your input on the Health Department's goals/plans for a **time study**
- A **time study exercise** to learn more about how all Recovery Center staff spend their time day-to-day (e.g., providing 1-on-1 coaching vs. administrative work vs. outreach work)
- Further planning for upcoming **operational assessment site visits** to learn more about Center operations



Medicaid Benefit Design & Roll-Out

Implementation of **RSS as a Medicaid benefit** by developing and establishing new policies and procedures, establishing a payment model and rate for reimbursement, updating Medicaid IT systems, and supporting enrollment of both Recovery Centers and PRSS in Medicaid.

Key Work to Date

- **Peer state research** and outreach to **New England states** to learn more about RSS benefit models used by other states

Next Steps

- Refining the **benefit model design** to meet minimum Medicaid requirements
- **Payment Model and Rate Setting** activities
- Design and implementation of **IT updates/tools** for Medicaid compliance
- Consider **solutions for supporting submission** of Medicaid billing claims

The Path Ahead: Where do we go from here?



Launch **communication tools** (webpage, newsletter, inbox) to keep you up-to-date on activities.



Schedule a **monthly touchpoint series** with this group to check-in regularly on Medicaid activities.



Schedule time for **detailed overview(s)** of the **Recovery Center Time Study** exercise and key next steps.



Process the **PRSS and RSO Certification Rules** and finalize supporting materials with your input.

Proposed Engagement and Stakeholder Meeting Cadence

We propose the following meeting cadence to **keep you up to date**. All meetings will include an **agenda distributed beforehand and post-meeting takeaways**. We encourage **sending questions** between meetings:

1) High-level Overview (2 or 3 times yearly)

- Here are all the things going on.
- You don't need to think about many of these things yet.
- Questions/discussion

2) Monthly touchpoints (A combination of working sessions and conversations about “The Future of Recovery”)

Topics might include:

- Medicaid overview
- Medicaid data
- Updates
- CFO/legal
- Conversations with peers in other states who have gone through the transition process
- Building professional boards
- Board engagement in this change effort
- Relationships with clinicians as a strategic issue
- Recovery coaching as an occupation beyond Recovery Centers
- Recovery Centers as a business

3) Engagement around specific initiatives (as needed)

- Time Study
- Operational analysis