

MEETING MINUTES

TASK FORCE

Date: October 23, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Jerry Marco

IN ATTENDANCE

S. Baker, E. Bennett, M. Goins, L. Hall, A. Hammond, T. Jones, K. Keplinger, L. Kerns, J. Kerns-Galloway, J. Kittle, J. Marco, B.L. Pace, S. Ryan, A. Starkey, S. Strong, S. Tolson, S. Trudell, and T. Zirkle.

AGENDA DISCUSSION

- Introductions
 - CAV – Centers Against Violence
 - Rooms available at shelter
 - Will be hiring Assistant Director soon
 - Domestic violence awareness month
 - Jobs & Hope
 - Provided list of food pantries and Churches providing meals - attached
 - Buckhanon PEER/ First Choice Services
 - Influx of unhoused individuals
 - Our House
 - AmeriCorp site now
 - Can now train recovery coaches and certify peers
 - DHS – Department of Health and Human Services
 - Food stamps delayed – information attached
 - North Central Community Corrections/Lighthouse
 - Received 4 people recently
 - Celebrate Recovery
 - Food pantry up and running
 - Transported 2 people to rehab
 - 35-38 people at meetings on Friday
 - Davis Medical
 - 6 people sent to recovery
 - WV Prevention Solutions
 - Awaiting decision on 5 year grant
 - Will work on radio campaign for drug prevention
 - School visits scheduled
 - Randolph-Tucker CAC – Children’s Advocacy Center
 - Working in schools for sexual abuse prevention
 - Basic body safety in elementary schools
 - Sexual abuse prevention class at 4H
 - Mayor of Elkins
 - Uptick in overdoses in the area
 - Meeting at the mountain school
 - Working toward funding to house students who have aged out of the program but are unready to be on their own.
 - Public Forum will be planned for January 2026
 - Warming Shelter will be discussed at November 2025 meeting
- Peer Discussion
 - Do we really need more peers in the community?

- Yes!
- Concern over burnout for current PEERs
- Do we have the proper, clinical infrastructure to support more peers?
 - Facility in the works in Elkins
 - Working to obtain funding
 - First Choice Services
 - Imbed PEERs in agencies and maintains oversight
 - Step-by-step process
 - Require candidates to meet minimum requirements for certification
 - GED or diploma
 - 2 years of experience
- Step-by-step process: - Materials attached from RRG Behavioral Health

REPORTS

- How many peers do we have in the region?
 - WV Addiction Board - website provides list of all certified entities

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting November 27, 2025, 1:00 pm at the Phil Gainer Community Center.

WV WORKS

WV WORKS is a time-limited, cash assistance program for families with minor children. WV WORKS provides opportunities and supports to empower eligible families to achieve economic success.

Participants receive specialized services to identify strengths and barriers and develop a personal responsibility contract that will help the family become self-sufficient.

Through assessment and goal setting, a participant develops a plan that includes weekly activities that could consist of skill development, work experience, training, or education to help set their family up for a successful transition to economic independence.

During the process, a family support specialist works with the participant to overcome barriers and provide supportive services to meet the participant's goals. Some of the supports include SNAP, Medicaid, assistance with transportation costs, childcare, clothing, licensing and testing fees, relocation costs, dental and vision care, and other family support referrals.

The participant must maintain participation in weekly activities and efforts towards their goals or the cash assistance may be ended. Cash assistance is limited to 60 months in a lifetime.

WV WORKS also offers cash assistance and supports to non-parent relatives of minor children. These payments are made to assist with the children in their care and to increase child stability, safety, and welfare. The Family Support Specialist assists the relative in developing opportunities for them and the children in their care to support the needs and goals of each family. Verification of the relationship is required.

DoHS is an equal opportunity provider.

To be screened or to
apply for benefits

online, visit:

wvpath.wv.gov



Scan this QR Code to obtain your local
office's contact information



Division of Family Support
350 Capitol Street, Suite
B18 Charleston, WV 25301
304-352-4431

West Virginia Department
of Human Services

Bureau for Family
Assistance



West Virginia Family
Assistance Programs

West Virginia Family Assistance
programs assist children, families, and
individuals during times of financial,
medical, or personal crisis by
empowering them to develop and
achieve self-sufficiency.

MAY 2024

BURIAL ASSISTANCE

The Indigent Burial Program assists with payment of up to \$1,000 toward the cost of funeral expenses for an indigent adult or child. The program benefits are determined by the current burial rate. Family contributions and other third-party payments of up to \$1,200 are permitted.

COMMUNITY REFERRALS

DoHS works with other community programs and agencies to locate needed assistance for clients. Family support workers and case managers may refer clients to these agencies for services.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Emergency Assistance Program helps individuals and families facing a financial crisis associated with living expenses or housing. The program goal is to provide short-term emergency financial assistance with which eligible individuals and families may obtain items or services needed to alleviate an emergency situation. Items or services may include rent or mortgage, utilities, food, household supplies, clothing, and transportation. Assistance is limited to one 30-day period during any 12 consecutive months. Income limits are low and in most instances, payments are limited to the equivalent of a 30-day usage amount. Community agencies and organizations are often used as resources.

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)

LIEAP is aimed at helping low income households meet the rising costs of heating bills during the winter season. Eligibility is determined by income, the number of people living in the household, and whether the household is responsible for paying heating bills.

MEDICAID PROGRAMS

Medicaid provides assistance for many medical services such as prescriptions, medical supplies, medical care, and nursing home care. There are many ways to qualify for Medicaid based on age, income, or an established disability. Additional programs provide assistance to those with specific health problems or situations such as pregnancy, AIDS, breast and cervical cancer, disabled adults and children, SSI recipients, nursing home care, in-home care, and Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicaid and WV CHIP recipients may also be eligible for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), which assists certain Medicaid recipients with transportation to medical appointments and treatments. For more information on this program, contact the NEMT broker, Modivcare, at 1-844-549-8353, or visit www.modivcare.com.

SCHOOL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE (SCA)

The SCA Program provides assistance to each school-age child in an eligible household. Eligibility is determined by school enrollment and household income. Children must be enrolled in West Virginia public, private, or home school prekindergarten through grade 12 (and sometimes college). Eligible ages may be four through 18. This benefit helps low-income families provide school clothing for their school-aged children.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is intended to provide monthly benefits to supplement the amount of food that an eligible household is able to purchase. Eligibility for SNAP benefits is based on household size, income, assets and expenses. These guidelines are set by the federal government. Households with an elderly or disabled person are given special consideration and may be eligible for additional income deductions.



The asset limit is \$2,750 for most households, but if at least one person is age 60 or over, or disabled, the asset limit is \$4,250. For some households, individuals may be required to participate in a work activity to maintain their eligibility. SNAP benefits are issued with an Electronic Benefits Transfer card. The SNAP benefits may only be used to purchase food for human consumption and seeds or plants to grow food at home.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Cash assistance, SNAP benefits, and Medicaid coverage may be provided to aliens entering this country under refugee status, as determined by Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE). The client is eligible to receive cash benefits for eight months from the time of entry into the United States. SNAP benefits and medical coverage may continue after that period. Referrals are made so that the refugees can obtain assistance with learning English, finding housing, and any other support needed to help them adjust to life in West Virginia.

SNAP & Other Benefits: Partial Federal Government Shutdown FAQ

Last updated: October 21, 2025

Q: What's happening with SNAP right now?

A: A partial federal government shutdown is impacting SNAP operations nationwide, including West Virginia.

Q: Can West Virginia issue SNAP benefits during this shutdown?

A: No. The State of West Virginia cannot issue SNAP benefits at this time.

Q: I was approved for SNAP on or after October 16, 2025. Will my benefits be loaded?

A: SNAP benefits approved on or after October 16, 2025 will not be issued to your EBT card at this time. This includes all payments, such as auxiliary payments for lost or stolen benefits.

Q: I have SNAP benefits scheduled for future months (e.g., November). Will I receive them?

A: The USDA has directed West Virginia DoHS to delay the issuance of future SNAP benefits (including November) while the shutdown continues.

Q: When will the shutdown end?

A: We do not know when the partial federal government shutdown will end.

Q: After the shutdown ends, when will SNAP benefits be issued?

A: We do not yet know how long it will take after the shutdown ends for customers to receive their benefits.

Q: Can I still apply for SNAP?

A: Yes. You can apply and be determined eligible, but benefits will not be issued until funding resumes.

Q: Can I get a new or replacement EBT card?

A: Yes. Cards and replacement cards can still be issued. However, no new SNAP benefits will be loaded onto those EBT cards at this time.

Q: I'm scheduled for a SNAP review/redetermination. Do I still need to complete it?

A: Yes. Please complete all required paperwork and steps for reviews/redeterminations.

Q: Are WV WORKS cash benefits affected?

A: No. WV WORKS benefits are not currently impacted.

Q: Are healthcare benefits (Medicaid/CHIP) affected?

A: No. Medicaid and CHIP have not been impacted.

Q: Can I still check WV PATH for updates on my case?

A: Yes. You can continue to log into WV PATH to check messages, case status, and document requests. Benefit amounts will not update on your EBT card while SNAP payments are paused.

Q: Can I visit my DoHS County Office to ask about Emergency Assistance?

A: Yes. County Offices are open and can screen you for Emergency Assistance based on eligibility and available funding. Staff can also help review other options and next steps.

Q: Is there a number I can call to find other resources during the shutdown?

A: Yes. Call 2-1-1 for referrals to local resources such as food pantries, community meals, housing and utility assistance, and other support.



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU FOR FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Alex J. Mayer
Cabinet Secretary

Janie Cole
Commissioner

Dear SNAP Household,

The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) Bureau for Family Assistance (BFA) is writing to inform you of a critical update concerning the issuance of your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits approved on or after October 16, 2025.

Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, the United States Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) has directed West Virginia DoHS and other state SNAP agencies to delay the issuance of SNAP benefits to those whose benefits were approved on or after October 16, 2025. This delay will impact your combined issuance of October and November benefits until Congress takes action to reopen the government and the USDA FNS approves us to begin issuing benefits again.

DoHS recognizes the uncertainty this may cause and wants to assure you that we are committed to keeping you informed. The DoHS team will continue to share updates as we receive further guidance from USDA FNS.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the potential delay of October and November SNAP benefits, please contact the DoHS Office of Constituent Services at 1-877-716-1212.

Thank you for your continued trust and understanding.

Sincerely,

West Virginia Bureau for Family Assistance



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF

**HUMAN
SERVICES**

DUE TO THE ONGOING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN, SNAP BENEFITS MAY BE DELAYED.

DOHS UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS NEWS MAY RAISE CONCERNS, AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING AS WE NAVIGATE THIS FEDERAL ISSUE. DOHS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE UPDATES AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

PLEASE SPEAK WITH YOUR WORKER ABOUT ANY
FURTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT DOHS OFFICE OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES AT 1-877-716-1212

Food Assistance Resources – North Central WV Counties

Upshur County

- Upshur Parish House & Crosslines, Inc.
 - Address: 68 College Ave., Buckhannon, WV 26201
 - Phone: 304-472-0743
 - Website: www.parishhouse.org
 - Hours: Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
 - Notes: Serves Upshur County residents. Proof of residency or ID may be required. Call ahead to place orders.
- Salvation Army – Buckhannon
 - Address: 21 N Spring St., Buckhannon, WV 26201
 - Phone: 304-472-2747
 - Website: www.salvationarmyusa.org
 - Hours: Typically mid-day hours; call ahead
 - Notes: ID and proof of address may be required.
- Feed My Sheep Outreach
 - Address: Buckhannon, WV
 - Phone:
 - Website: <https://www.mybuckhannon.com/food-outreach-organization-searching-for-new-home-to-fulfill-upshur-countys-growing-needs/>
 - Hours: Weekly meal service
 - Notes: Serves local community; call for schedule.
- Faith Tabernacle Food Outreach
 - Address: Buckhannon, WV
 - Phone: 304-472-0737
 - Website: https://www.foodpantries.org/li/wv_26201_faith-tabernacle-food-outreach
 - Hours: Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM
 - Notes: Open to Upshur County residents; proof of residency may be required.

Randolph County

- Tyrand Cooperative Ministries
 - Address: 39 Cherokee St., Mill Creek, WV 26280
 - Phone: 304-335-2788
 - Website: www.tyrandcoop.org
 - Hours: Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM (Wed until 3:00 PM)
 - Notes: Serves Randolph County; food box allocation based on family size.
- Catholic Charities WV – Randolph County Office
 - Address: 1513 Harrison Ave., Elkins, WV 26241
 - Phone: 304-636-4875
 - Website: www.ccwva.org
 - Hours: Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM
 - Notes: Emergency food assistance; proof of residence may be required.
- Woodford United Methodist Church
 - Address: Elkins, WV
 - Phone:

- Website: <https://www.ccwva.org/2017/11/20/helping-provide-home-cooked-meal-need/>
- Hours: Weekly community meals on Saturdays
- Notes: Serves local residents; call to confirm schedule.

Tucker County

- Tucker County Family Support Center (Mobile Pantry)
 - Address: 100 Education Ln., Parsons, WV 26287
 - Phone: 304-478-3827
 - Website: www.mountaineerfoodbank.org
 - Hours: Monthly, 10:00–11:30 AM
 - Notes: Mobile pantry; call ahead for schedule and eligibility.
- First United Methodist Church – Hinkle House Food Pantry
 - Address: Parsons, WV
 - Phone:
 - Website: <https://tuckerfoundationwv.org/tucker>
 - Hours: Call ahead for hours
 - Notes: Serves Tucker County residents; call for requirements.

Gilmer County

- Community Resources, Inc. – Gilmer County
 - Address: 809 N Lewis St., Glenville, WV 26351
 - Phone: 304-462-8698
 - Website: www.criwv.org
 - Hours: Mon–Fri, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM
 - Notes: Serves Gilmer County residents; proof of address or ID may be required.
- Hope Lutheran Church – Gilmer County Food Pantry
 - Address: Glenville, WV
 - Phone: 706-636-4673
 - Website: <https://www.hopeonthehill.church/gilmer-county-food-pantry>
 - Hours: Wed, 10:00 AM–12:45 PM
 - Notes: Serves local community; call for requirements.

Braxton County

- Mountain CAP of WV – Braxton Office
 - Address: 105 Jerry Burton Dr., Sutton, WV 26601
 - Phone: 304-765-7738
 - Website: www.mountaincapwv.org
 - Hours: Mon–Fri, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM
 - Notes: Serves Braxton County residents; call ahead to confirm eligibility.
- Mountaineer Food Bank (Regional Support)
 - Address: 484 Enterprise Dr., Gassaway, WV 26624
 - Phone: 304-364-5518
 - Website: www.mountaineerfoodbank.org
 - Hours: Mon–Fri, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM
 - Notes: Supplies regional partner agencies and mobile pantries.
- Sutton Baptist Church Food Pantry
 - Address: Sutton, WV
 - Phone: 304-542-3475

- Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/frametownparksandrecreation/posts/398446801517903/>
- Hours: 4th week of the month, Mon–Fri, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM
- Notes: Serves local community; call to confirm schedule.

Impact of Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) in West Virginia

This document highlights the measurable impact of Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) working in Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and hospital-based programs across West Virginia. It includes both outcomes (statistics) and funding sources that sustain these programs.

■ Quick Response Teams (QRTs)

Key Outcomes:

- In Cabell County (Huntington QRT), fatal overdoses decreased by 24% (2017–2018).
- Non-fatal overdose calls dropped 52%, from 1,831 (2017) to 878 (2019).
- Over 700 individuals contacted by QRT; ~30% entered treatment.
- WV PEERS program study (2022):
 - 1,456 peer-encounter events recorded in 8 months.
 - 63.9% linked to treatment/mental health services.
 - 52.3% entered treatment.
 - 30.4% remained in treatment after six months.
- Monongalia County QRT goal: PRSS meet overdose survivors within 72 hours to connect them to services.

Funding Sources:

- SAMHSA State Opioid Response (SOR) grants.
- WV DHHR Bureau for Behavioral Health.
- Local city/county governments and health departments.
- WV First Foundation (opioid settlement funds).
- Hospital partnerships (community benefit programs).

■ Hospital-Based Peer Recovery Programs

Key Outcomes:

- Marshall Health “Reverse the Cycle” program:
 - Screened over 200,000 individuals in EDs and hospitals.
 - Connected more than 1,000 individuals to treatment through PRSS.
- WVU Medicine programs (e.g., Project Engage):
 - Embedded PRSS in emergency and acute care settings to connect overdose patients to treatment.
- WV DHHR statewide data (2024):
 - Drug overdose deaths declined by ~37.7%, reflecting combined impact of PRSS, QRTs, hospital-based peer programs, and community interventions.

Funding Sources:

- Medicaid (Chapter 504 billing).
- SAMHSA SOR grants.
- HRSA and federal workforce development grants.
- Hospital budgets and community benefit programs.
- WV DHHR block grants.

- Medicaid billing codes (Chapter 504 compliant).
- Federal and state grants such as SAMHSA State Opioid Response (SOR) and HRSA workforce development funds.
- Opioid settlement funds through the WV First Foundation.
- Support from hospitals, city and county governments, and community foundations.

6. Evaluation & Support Infrastructure

- Data tracking systems: encounter logs, ODMaP reporting, treatment referrals, and outcome metrics.
- Peer support networks such as WV Recovers for ongoing mentorship and networking.
- Wellness supports to prevent burnout: staff care policies, peer debrief groups, crisis recovery support for PRSS staff.

By establishing this infrastructure, West Virginia communities can ensure that PRSS professionals are supported, ethically guided, and sustainably funded to serve as a vital recovery workforce across the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Ryan
Peer Recovery Support Specialist

Substance Use Disorder Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS-SUD) Certification Overview

Purpose

The Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS-SUD) certification establishes standards for individuals with lived experience of substance use disorder (SUD) to provide structured, ethical, and effective peer recovery support. Certified PRSS professionals serve as a critical workforce in addressing addiction, recovery, and reentry needs across West Virginia.

Certification Requirements

Recovery & Eligibility

- Written Statement of Personal Recovery from SUD. - 500 hours in peer recovery services across the four PRSS domains. - Part-time or volunteer experience qualifies if under direct supervision. - Hours cannot be counted while in treatment or peer support groups.

Supervision

- A minimum of 25 hours of supervision is required, with at least 6 hours in each of the four PRSS domains (Advocacy, Mentoring/Education, Recovery/Wellness Support, and Ethical Responsibility). - Supervision must occur at least four times per month while the PRSS is actively working or volunteering. - All supervision must be documented, including date, duration, focus topics, and signatures from both supervisor and peer. - Formats include one-on-one clinical or administrative supervision, group supervision, or field observation with real-time feedback. - Supervisors must be qualified under WV Chapter 504, including: • Licensed Behavioral Health Professionals (LICSW, LPC, psychologist, psychiatrist) • Certified PRSS Supervisors (where recognized) • Clinical Directors or Program Managers in behavioral health organizations • Other staff formally approved as supervisory personnel under WVCBAPP and Chapter 504 - Purpose of supervision: to ensure ethical practice, support skill development, promote peer well-being, and maintain compliance with state and organizational standards.

Education

- High school diploma or GED is required as a baseline educational standard. - 46 clock hours of domain-specific training are required, approved by the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals (WVCBAPP). Training must cover the four PRSS domains: • Advocacy • Mentoring/Education • Recovery/Wellness Support • Ethical Responsibility - Recognized West Virginia

training providers include: • Institute for Addiction Education, LLC (WVCBAPP approved) • Anchor Project (WVCBAPP approved) • Recovery Point West Virginia (PRSS training and certification pathway) • WV Peer Recovery Training Center / WV Behavioral Health Workforce & Health Equity Training Center (free or low-cost training) • All accredited colleges and universities recognized by WVCBAPP - College Coursework Equivalency: Three (3) college credit hours equal 45 training hours. Courses such as psychology, addiction studies, social work, human services, and counseling may be applied if verified by the institution. - Other Education: Workshops, conferences, and online modules may qualify if they are verified by WVCBAPP or another approved provider. Verification requires certificates of completion and course outlines. - Continuing Education: Every 2 years, PRSS professionals must complete 20 hours of continuing education, including a minimum of 6 hours in ethics. All continuing education must come from WVCBAPP-approved providers. - Training Emphasis: WV PRSS education is competency-based and recovery-oriented, with emphasis on trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, ethics and boundaries, communication skills, cultural competence, and WV-specific regulations (Chapter 504).

Examination

- Must pass the IC & RC Peer Recovery Support Specialist Exam. - Government-issued photo ID required for testing.

Application Process

- Online Initial Certification Application. - Initial Supervision Form (submitted by supervisor). - Affirmation of Truth (notarized and attached to application). - PRSS-SUD Manual (reference guide for standards).

Who Can Supervise a PRSS?

Supervision is a cornerstone of ethical peer recovery practice. Supervisors must be documented, qualified staff within the organization. Examples include: - Licensed Behavioral Health Professionals (e.g., LICSW, LPC, psychologist, psychiatrist). - Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist Supervisors (PRSS with supervisory designation where permitted). - Clinical Directors or Program Managers in recovery organizations. - Qualified Supervisory Staff approved under Chapter 504 regulations.

RRG Behavioral Health House – Current PRSS Workforce

- 2 Full-Time Certified PRSS - 2 Part-Time Certified PRSS - All peers are supervised under qualified staff in compliance with Chapter 504.

Key Takeaways for City Leadership

- PRSS certification creates a professional recovery workforce built from lived experience. - Certified peers reduce relapse rates, improve treatment engagement, and strengthen community reentry. - Local investment in PRSS training and supervision builds capacity for treatment, prevention, and community recovery support. - Collaboration between municipalities and behavioral health providers ensures qualified supervision and compliance with state standards.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Ryan Peer Recovery Support Specialist

PRSS Infrastructure Blueprint – West Virginia

This blueprint outlines the essential infrastructure required to sustain Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) in West Virginia. It is designed to help municipal leaders, organizations, and policymakers understand the systems that must be in place for PRSS to operate ethically, effectively, and sustainably.

1. Certification & Training Infrastructure

- PRSS certification pathway governed by WVCBAPP (WV Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals).
- Initial training requirement: 46 hours of PRSS-specific domain training.
- Approved training providers such as Marshall University PRSS Hub, WVU Training Center, WV Recovers.
- Ongoing continuing education (20 hours every 2 years, with 6 hours in ethics).

2. Regulatory & Compliance Infrastructure

- PRSS must comply with Chapter 504 regulations governing behavioral health services.
- Clear scope of practice and adherence to the PRSS Code of Ethics.
- Billing compliance through Medicaid Appendix A definitions: Emotional, Informational, and Instrumental Support linked with approved service types.

3. Supervision Infrastructure

- Qualified supervisors: licensed behavioral health professionals, clinical directors, or WVCBAPP-designated PRSS Supervisors.
- Supervision requirement: 25 hours, with at least 6 in each PRSS domain.
- Ongoing supervision: minimum of 4 times per month, formally documented with logs.

4. Organizational Infrastructure

- Defined placement settings: hospitals, treatment centers, recovery organizations, quick response teams, courts, jails, and housing outreach.
- Organizational policies: job descriptions, boundaries, confidentiality/HIPAA compliance, grievance procedures.
- Safety protocols: overdose response, Narcan administration, harm reduction, and mandatory reporting.

5. Funding Infrastructure

Roadmap to Becoming a PRSS Supervisor in West Virginia

In West Virginia, a Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) can advance into a supervisory role by meeting specific requirements outlined by the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals (WVCBAPP) and Chapter 504 regulations. This roadmap outlines the steps.

- Hold a valid PRSS certification in good standing with WVCBAPP (active, not expired, no ethical sanctions).
- Gain at least 2 years of experience as a certified PRSS, demonstrating competency across all four PRSS domains: Advocacy, Mentoring/Education, Recovery/Wellness Support, and Ethical Responsibility.
- Complete additional supervision-specific training (12–16 hours recommended). Training must include ethics of supervision, boundaries, documentation, evaluation, crisis response, and coaching/mentoring peers.
- Document supervised hours of providing peer recovery services under an approved supervisor prior to seeking supervisory designation.
- Submit the PRSS Supervisor Designation Application to WVCBAPP, including: verification of certification, proof of experience, training certificates, and references (if required).
- Upon approval, receive designation as a Certified PRSS Supervisor.
- Maintain the designation by completing continuing education every 2 years, including ethics and supervision-related CEUs, and submitting proof of renewal to WVCBAPP.

Who Can Supervise a PRSS in West Virginia:

- Licensed behavioral health professionals (LICSW, LPC, psychologist, psychiatrist)
- Certified PRSS Supervisors (with WVCBAPP designation)
- Clinical Directors or Program Managers in behavioral health organizations
- Other qualified supervisory staff approved under Chapter 504 regulations

This roadmap ensures that PRSS supervisors are properly trained, experienced, and equipped to guide peers in delivering ethical, effective recovery support across West Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Ryan
Peer Recovery Support Specialist

These statistics demonstrate that PRSS, when deployed in hospitals and QRTs, play a critical role in saving lives, reducing overdoses, and improving long-term recovery outcomes. Sustainable funding ensures these programs continue to strengthen West Virginia's communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Ryan
Peer Recovery Support Specialist