Why CRPA-Provisional?

Notwithstanding that it dates from 2016, CRPA-Provisional is not widely understood in the field. The growing interest in all forms of the CRPA certification – CRPA-Family was introduced on July 1, 2019, with CRPA-Youth due on January 1, 2020 – suggests that a review of this work-based certification is timely.

For employers
Congratulations on integrating peer recovery into your continuum of care and on engaging professionals in the non-clinical peer recovery role. As you know, services provided by professionals holding the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) credential, its associated CRPA-Provisional certification, and its parenthetics (CRPA-Family, CRPA-Youth, etc.) are Medicaid-reimbursable under the pertinent regulations.

Thank you for partnering with NYCB to develop the peer recovery profession.

What is CRPA?
CRPA (Certified Recovery Peer Advocate) is the Medicaid-reimbursable peer recovery certification in New York State. Certification requirements are posted at http://www.asapnys.org/ny-certification-board/certified-recovery-peer-advocate-crpa/.

What is CRPA-Provisional?
In response to advocacy from the field identifying the CRPA role experience requirement (500 hours) as a barrier to entry, CRPA-Provisional was introduced in June 2016 for "candidates interested in completing all of the requirements for the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA), and currently engaged in a Medicaid-reimbursable peer support role."

Thus, candidates for CRPA-Provisional must be currently providing role-based services and meet the other educational and experiential requirements of CPRA.

Is CRPA-Provisional necessary?
CRPA-Provisional is not necessary for CRPA applicants who have already acquired 500 or more hours of qualifying, supervised work experience providing peer support services. However, it is an important step for those individuals who seek to become CRPAs but have not fulfilled the supervised work/role experience requirement.

The purpose of CRPA-Provisional, an engagement-based role, is to allow for Medicaid-reimbursability while the candidate builds a portfolio of 500 hours peer recovery role experience prior to mandatory CRPA upgrade. CRPA-P certificants must accomplish this upgrade within a maximum of 24 months to retain certification status.

CRPA-Provisional is **not** required outside of Medicaid-reimbursable settings, and it is not a prerequisite for building role experience hours in recovery community-based projects.

If a candidate has already accumulated 500 hours work experience in the peer recovery role, CRPA-Provisional is irrelevant. Assuming that all other requirements are met, that candidate is now ready to apply for full CRPA.

How do I become CRPA-Provisional?
Candidates are conditionally-qualified for CRPA-Provisional as soon as they complete the requirements (age, education, training – posted at http://www.asapnys.org/ny-certification-board/certified-recovery-peer-advocate-crpa/). As soon as candidates secure a Medicaid-reimbursable position, their status as CRPA-Provisional will be confirmed on application to the New York Certification Board.

In support of conditionally-qualified CRPA-Provisional job applicants, NYCB will provide a letter to employers confirming certification status. This letter may be produced as an attachment to a job application and/or at interview. Employers are invited to address any questions or concerns direct to the New York Certification Board's Certification Coordinator, Elisabeth Kranson, at ekranson@asapnys.org.

How do I upgrade to CRPA from CRPA-Provisional?
Candidates for CRPA-Provisional commit to completing the 500 hours work/role experience, applying for the CRPA upgrade and passing the associated exam, within a period of no more than 24 months, at which time the CRPA-P expires. (CRPA-Provisional is non-renewable.) For full instructions, please see *Simple Steps to CRPA Upgrade* at http://www.asapnys.org/ny-certification-board/certified-recovery-peer-advocate-crpa/.

The ASAP-NYCB Peer Recovery Exam-Prep workshop is offered free to the community. See details on the website.