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Interview with Doug Rosenberry

Certification Development

Doug Rosenberry brings a distinguished public service career in substance use disorder including such highlights as overseeing the consolidation and creation of the Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC, 1996). His most recent achievement is with development at ASAP of the Veteran Supported Recovery specialty certification and associated training (2021).

You are very involved with VSR. Tell us about the project and your role in it.

Veteran Supported Recovery (VSR) as a peer specialty was a natural outcome of the hard work and dedication of ASAP's Veterans Summit Planning Leadership. They recognized that Veterans in recovery have very unique needs and would be better served by individuals who understand the military experience and appreciate the importance of military core values like honor, courage and commitment. For me, it was both an honor and a learning experience to work with a committed group of Veteran subject matter experts to help define what a VSR Professional is and what the core knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) should be to effectively serve those who've sacrificed so much for their country. [Note: VSR Orientation Training Module launched online on May 17, 2021.]

How did you become involved with ASAP-NYCB?

My involvement in the field dates back to the 1980s when I worked at OASAS as a contract manager and later as the agency's Communications Director. I always viewed ASAP as our most important constituent and **John Coppola** as a leading spokesperson and advocate for the SUD field. I followed, with interest, ASAP's movement into the peer certification world and saw this as an important new opportunity for the organization as well as NY's recovery community. When I left public service in 2012, John approached me to see if I might play a role. The rest is history!

What do you do as NYCB Certification Development?

Certification is a formal process designed to identify the core competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities) required to competently and safely perform a defined set of tasks. At NYCB, I've supported the certification program for CARCs, CRPAs and related specialties like CRPA-Family, CRPA-Youth and Veteran Supported Recovery by advising on the development of appropriate standards, making sure requirements are grounded in the defined role and that standards are consistently and fairly applied to every candidate who applies.

You've had a distinguished career in public service in the SUD field. Can you share some highlights?

When I look back at my 32-years in public service, the three accomplishments that I am most proud of are: (1) overseeing the consolidation and creation of New York's leading SUD counseling designation in 1996 – the Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor; (2) serving as the principle author of the groundbreaking white paper, *The Addictions Profession: A Workforce in Crisis* that spurred workforce development as a primary focus for SUD professionals in New York; and (3) being the recipient of the **IC&RC's** Presidential Leadership Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedication to the Field of Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention.

How do you see the peer recovery profession evolving over the next 5-10 years?

What we've all witnessed in the peer recovery profession is only the beginning of a movement that will continue to grow and thrive in the next two decades. The traditional clinical model to serving persons in recovery has been slow to embrace peer support as an integral tool, but is clearly showing signs of acceptance and, more importantly, investment in integrated peer services. This bodes well for the peer recovery profession and for the thousands of persons in recovery who will increasingly benefit from their person-centered, strengths-based approach.

Is peer recovery training evolving sufficiently to meet these challenges?

Absolutely. In the last 2 years alone, we've witnessed an astonishing expansion in peer-specific and advanced training offerings that were simply not available when the CARC and CRPA were first launched nearly a decade ago. This is a clear indication of the maturation of the peer recovery profession and the growing acknowledgement of the need to enhance the skills of peer professionals so that they're able to better meet the needs of special populations, such as Veterans.

Can you tell us a little about your life outside of work? Family? Leisure pursuits?

Growing up in upstate New York, I've always been active in outdoor sports and spend much of my free time hiking and kayaking in the Adirondacks. I am currently Membership Chair for the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and have hiked to the summits of 20 of the 46 Adirondack high peaks. So – I've still got a long way to go! My wife, Elise, and I are married 43 years and travel as often as possible to visit our adult children (and granddaughter) who live in Chicago and Fort Worth, Texas.
