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**To:** NYCB Trainer Registry Members  
**Subject:** Upcoming Changes to Peer Recovery (CRPA) Certification Examination  
**Date:** May 14, 2025

As key stakeholders in NYCB's certification program for CRPAs, it's important that you be fully aware of changes that will be forthcoming in the IC&RC's Peer Recovery certification exam (i.e., CRPA exam) beginning in July 2025. Specifically, the Peer Recovery exam will now include an entirely new "domain" on Harm Reduction. The new Harm Reduction domain will be added as the fifth domain and constitute 15 percent of the exam content.

It is important to note that the exam will still be a 75-multiple choice exam and the timeframe (2 hours) for candidates will remain the same. What will be different is that weighting on the exam for each domain will change as follows:

Domain	Weight on Exam
Domain #1: Advocacy	20%
Domain #2: Ethical Responsibility	30%
Domain#3: Mentoring & Education	20%
Domain #4: Recovery/Wellness Support	15%
Domian #5: Harm Reduction	15%

Implications: With this change, it is incumbent on NYCB and members of the Trainer Registry to communicate to students and candidates for the CRPA exam that, in addition to the original four CRPA domains, they will now be tested on their knowledge of Harm Reduction. Specifically, candidates will be expected to:

- Recognize principles of harm reduction in SUD and mental wellness.
- Provide tools and strategies to reduce harm and negative consequences.
- Discuss harm reduction strategies and readily available resources (e.g., recognizing patterns and behaviors, stages of change).
- Provide overdose prevention education and link to resources (e.g., naloxone, community resources, testing strips).
- Identify resources for ancillary/wraparound services.
- Practice self-awareness of personal beliefs and biases towards harm reduction.
- Identify alternative approaches that do not seek to prevent or end substance use.

While NYCB is evaluating how this change will affect the CRPA certification standards that are currently in place, several actions/measures should take place:

- (1) students/candidates who take the CRPA exam after July 3, 2025 should be strongly encouraged to enroll in and complete Harm Reduction courses that address the above competency statements.
- (2) Trainer Registry members who offer Harm Reduction workshops should review their curricula to ensure that they incorporate the above competency statements to ensure exam candidates are adequately prepared for the CRPA exam.
- (3) NYCB will need to consider revising certification standards around required training to include Harm Reduction while assuring that Registry members offering foundational training have sufficient advance notice to make the necessary adjustments in their programs.

For now, Trainer Registry members are urged to download and review the new IC&RC Peer Recovery Candidate Guide that is posted on their website at: <https://internationalcredentialing.org/icrc-credentials/pr/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JK' followed by a horizontal line.

Jihoon Kim, LMSW, CPRA-P  
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