

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