

New York Certification Association

# Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct

January 2014



## Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct

This *Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct* sets forth the ethical and professional standards by which all Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPAs) are expected to adhere. Failure to comply with an obligation or prohibition as set forth in this Code may result in disciplinary action, dependent upon the nature and extent of the violation.

Throughout this document, the term “consumer” is a global term meant to refer to the individual receiving services from the CRPA and does not detract from the principles of self-directed care and the peer-to-peer relationship.

### 1. Professional Standards

- 1.1. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall meet and comply with all terms, conditions, or limitations of any professional credential they hold.
- 1.2. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not perform services outside of their area of training, expertise, competence, or scope of practice.
- 1.3. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not in any way participate in discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, socio-economic status, political belief, psychiatric or psychological impairment, physical disability, or the amount of previous therapeutic or treatment occurrences.
- 1.4. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall place his/her credential(s) on voluntary inactive status for any mental, physical, or behavioral health related adversity that interferes with his/her professional functioning. *Note: self-reports to the NYCA are confidential and are not viewed as an ethical breach. Please contact the NYCA for confidential guidance and technical assistance as necessary and appropriate.*
- 1.5. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not practice during the period of any denial, suspension, revocation, probation, or other restriction or discipline on certification, license, or other authorization to practice issued by any certification authority or any state, province, territory, tribe, or the federal government.

### 2. Criminal Activity

- 2.1. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall report all arrests and case disposition, regardless of adjudication to any felony or first degree misdemeanor crime. Such report must be received within 72 hours of release from any state or federal confinement.
- 2.2. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not use, possess, or sell any unprescribed or illegal substance.
- 2.3. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall comply with all federal and state laws.

### **3. Improper Relations/Sexual Misconduct**

- 3.1. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not engage in improper relations or sexual misconduct with a consumer during the period of time services are being rendered to the consumer and a minimum of two years after the professional relationship has terminated.
- 3.2. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not engage in improper relations or sexual misconduct with any family member or guardian of a consumer during the period of time services are being rendered to the consumer.
- 3.3. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not engage a supervisee in improper relations or sexual misconduct during the period of time a supervisory relationship exists.

### **4. Fraud-Related Conduct**

- 4.1. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not present fraudulent documents when applying for certification or certification renewal.
- 4.2. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not prepare fraudulent certification documents for certification applicants.
- 4.3. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not use a title designation, credential or license, firm name, letterhead, publication, term, title, or document which states or implies an ability, relationship, or qualification that does not exist.
- 4.4. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not practice under a false name or under a name other than the name under which his or her certification or license is held.
- 4.5. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not prepare, present, or participate in activities related to fraudulent billing or benefit claim under any employee benefit program or insurance policy/program.
- 4.6. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not produce, publish, create, or partake in the creation of any false, fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading advertisement.

### **5. Exploitation of Consumers**

- 5.1. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not engage in or maintain exploitative relationships with current or past consumers.
- 5.2. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not misappropriate property from a consumer.

- 5.3. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not enter into a relationship with a consumer which involves financial gain to the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) or a third party resulting from the promotion or the sale of services unrelated to treatment.
- 5.4. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not provide to a consumer any unnecessary, ineffective or unsafe device, treatment, procedure, product or service.
- 5.5. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not solicit from nor provide gifts or favors to consumers.
- 5.6. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not offer, give, or receive commissions, rebates, or any other forms of remuneration for a consumer referral.

## **6. Safety & Welfare**

- 6.1. When a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) believes a consumer may pose a serious and imminent danger of physical harm to himself or others, the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) must take appropriate steps to notify his/her clinical supervisor and all members of the consumer's treatment team promptly so that a clinical determination may be made regarding the consumer's clinical state. The clinical professional will then be responsible for reporting concerns to the appropriate authorities and potential victims, consistent with federal and state confidentiality laws.
- 6.2. When a condition of clear and imminent danger exists that a consumer may inflict serious bodily self-harm, the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall, consistent with federal and state confidentiality laws, take reasonable steps to protect the consumer.

## **7. Records Management**

- 7.1. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not falsify, amend, knowingly make incorrect entries, or fail to make timely essential entries into the consumer record.
- 7.2. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall follow all federal and state regulations regarding consumer records.
- 7.3. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall comply with all federal and state confidentiality laws.

## **8. Cooperation with the Board**

- 8.1. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall cooperate with any NYCA disciplinary investigation or proceeding.
- 8.2. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not attempt to prevent or interfere with any complaint being filed or related NYCA disciplinary investigation or proceeding. Interference may include but not be limited to:
  - 8.2.1. the use of threats or harassment against, or an inducement to, any person in an effort to prevent a complaint from being filed, prosecuted or investigated;
  - 8.2.2. the use of threats or harassment against, or an inducement to, any consumer or witness in an effort to prevent them from providing evidence in an investigation, disciplinary proceeding or any other legal action; or
  - 8.2.3. the willful misrepresentation of facts before the disciplining authority or its authorized representative.
- 8.3. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall report any known violation of the Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct by filing a formal Ethics Complaint with NYCA.
- 8.4. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall not file a false or misleading Ethics Complaint or provide false or misleading information to NYCA.
- 8.5. A Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) shall comply with all federal and state confidentiality requirements when submitting any information to the NYCA Advisory Board.