

Fact Sheet:

An Act Relative to Recovery Coach Licensure (2021)

House Bill 2382

Filed in The Massachusetts House of Representatives

Representative James O'Day and Representative Liz Malia

David Paul Linsky, Lindsay N. Sadosa, Thomas M. Stanley, Steven G. Xiarhos, Christine P. Barber, Tami L. Gouveia, Kay Khan, Ruth B. Balser, Paul F. Tucker, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Brian M. Ashe, Kate Lipper-Garabedian, Michelle M. DuBois, David Biele, Senators: John F. Keenan, John C. Velis,

Senate Bill S1452

Filed in The Massachusetts Senate by Lead Sponsor: Senator John Keenan

Steven G. Xiarhos, Joan B. Lovely, Jason M. Lewis, John C. Velis

Purpose

Creates a standardized, streamlined, and regulated process for recovery coach recognition assuring payer reimbursement. This act supports efforts to recognize recovery coaching as part of the behavioral health workforce and increase the availability of peer-to-peer recovery support services.

Process

Establish a Board of Registration of Licensed Recovery Coaches, per the recommendations of the Recovery Coach Commission. Among other duties, the board will:

- Implement rules and regulations
- Review recovery coach applications for approval or disapproval
- Establish specifications for the authorized practice of recovery coaching
- Define appropriate standards for education, core competencies, and experience
- Establish an ethical code of conduct
- Take disciplinary action when recovery coaches violate code of ethics or rules of the board

A 12-member board will operate within Massachusetts Department of Public Health and include the following:

- The Commissioner of Public Health or a designee
- The Commissioner of Mental Health or a designee
- Six members, who are employed as a recovery coach, recovery coach supervisor or educator representing demographic diversity from region, workplace, gender identification, culture or race
- A family member of someone with a substance use disorder
- One member representing a health plan
- A licensed physician or nurse specializing in addiction
- A person with lived experience from a substance use disorder who received recovery coaching services

Important Components

- **Definition of “Licensed Recovery Coach”**
 - “An individual who is authorized to practice with the title of Licensed by the board under this chapter and who uses shared understanding, respect and mutual empowerment to help others become and stay engaged in the process of recovery from a substance use disorder.”
 - The term “Licensed Recovery Coach” may only be used by those who have met the requirements and qualifications and have been authorized by the board.
 - A person who is in the process of accruing work hours required for credentialing may still perform recovery coach duties, so long as they do not advertise themselves as “Licensed”.
- **“Lived Experience”**
 - Licensed Recovery Coaches must demonstrate at least **2 years of sustained recovery**
 - The lived experience requirement may be waived for family members or other allies who were credentialed by the Massachusetts Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification before the establishment of the board.
- **Grandfathering or Test Exempt Period**
 - Those who already possess a “Certified Addictions Recovery Coach (CARC)” certification shall be considered as already meeting the application requirements and shall be test exempt for a limited time as determined by the board.

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