

## **NEW JERSEY MOBILE RESPONSE AND STABILIZATION SERVICES (MRSS) CERTIFICATION - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

### **When did the MRSS Certification Program become operational?**

In July, 2014, the New Jersey Children's System of Care announced the initiation of the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) Certification program for Crisis Intervention Specialists (CIS). The certification and training curriculum were designed by MRSS Leadership in conjunction with the Training and Technical Assistance Program at UBHC and Children's System of Care (CSOC) to standardize the training expectations and core competencies for MRSS program staff across the state.

### **What are the target dates for MRSS staff to become certified?**

New MRSS Crisis Intervention Specialists are required to be certified within 12 months of the December 1, 2014 implementation date or their date of hire, whichever comes second. Program Administrators are highly recommended to become certified as well.

### **What is the process to become NJ MRSS Certified?**

#### **MRSS Certification Online System**

Every CIS must create an online profile on the MRSS Certification Online System in order to complete the certification process. CIS staff can create an online profile by going to [www.pfccertification.org](http://www.pfccertification.org) and clicking on MRSS Certification. From the login screen, click on New CIS Registration and fill out the form. Once a new CIS fills out the form and clicks on Save, he will have created his online profile.

**\*\*Please make sure you use only Microsoft Internet Explorer as your browser to access the online system\*\***

All of the components of the certification are tracked within the CIS' online profile on the MRSS Certification Online System by her supervisor, who must be an MRSS Superuser. Once a CIS has created her online profile, her supervisor will verify her training participation and her demonstration of the core competencies electronically.

There are three components to the MRSS Certification process:

#### **The first component is training.**

Listed below are the 11 trainings CIS staff must attend in order to be certified. Training Attestation may be substituted for up to 9 of the required trainings as indicated below. Training Attestation indicates supervisor satisfaction that the CIS has completed each required training or Master's level coursework equivalent and/or substantive work experience equivalent addressing all training objectives (see Training Catalog for course objectives).

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	<b>Training Title</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Modality</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
1	Crisis Response Protocol	2 days	UBHC	Live Training	6 mos
2	Safety Issues Working in the Community	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	6 mos
3	DSM*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
4	PBS* – 1 of 5	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
5	Cultural Competence*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
6	Developmental Tasks of Childhood and Adolescence *	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
7	Engagement & Motivation Skills*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
8	Family Dynamics*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
9	Child Traumatic Stress*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
10	Risk Assessment and Mental Health*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year
11	Understanding Child Abuse and Reporting Laws*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training	1 year

Subject Matter Required, Course Titles May Change

\*MA level Coursework or work experience Equivalent Consideration

CIS staff should begin attending trainings as soon as they are hired in order to meet the certification time frame. If a CIS has attended one of the required trainings prior to his hire date and can provide verification of attendance (Certificate of Attendance or transcript), that training can count toward MRSS Certification.

Once a CIS participates in one of the required trainings, she may present her attendance certificate to her supervisor so that the supervisor may verify the CIS' attendance in her online profile on the MRSS Certification Online System.

**The second component is core competency.**

CIS staff must meet all 23 core competencies as verified by their supervisors. Core Competency attestation indicates that a supervisor has consistently observed the defined Core Competency set in practice. See attached sheet for the complete list of core competencies.

Note that certification on the use of the CAT IMDS tool is one of the competencies.

Each individual core competency is verified, entered and tracked electronically in the CIS online profile by the supervisor.

**The third component is an online, thirty-six (36) question multiple-choice review.**

If a CIS' score on the online review is 70% or higher, he will then be considered "NJ MRSS Certified." If a CIS' score is between 60% and 69%, he will be advised to review his training materials and retake the review. If after a second attempt, his score remains between 60% and 69% **OR** if after a first attempt his score is below 60%, the CIS and his supervisor will be advised to contact Antoinette Gurden at [antoinette.gurden@rutgers.edu](mailto:antoinette.gurden@rutgers.edu) to discuss his scores on individual content areas. The CIS and his supervisor will be asked to develop a plan to ensure that he receives further training on content areas missed on the online review. The plan may include the CIS

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attending specific live trainings again **AND/OR** the CIS reviewing training content with his supervisor. If a CIS fails a section on the review that was waived by his supervisor, he will be required to attend the corresponding live training. Once the plan has been carried out, the CIS and his supervisor will be advised to contact Antoinette Gurden at [antoinette.gurden@rutgers.edu](mailto:antoinette.gurden@rutgers.edu) in order to attempt the online review again.

**What is the process to become a NJ MRSS Superuser?**

If you supervise MRSS staff and you want them to become NJ MRSS Certified, you will need to be able to establish an online MRSS Superuser file, assign your CIS staff to your staff list, and electronically verify your CIS' completion of trainings and demonstration of core competencies. CIS staff cannot be NJ MRSS Certified without being assigned to a supervisor and having their supervisors verify training completion and core competencies. Agencies may designate one or more persons to be MRSS Superusers.

MRSS supervisors are highly recommended to attend the Crisis Response Protocol training if they have not done so recently. They **MUST** attend the MRSS Superuser Technical Assistance, which will be provided to them locally, in order to receive the MRSS Superuser login and password that will allow them to access the MRSS Certification Online System and certify their CIS staff.

**Are MRSS staff required to be re-certified?**

Yes, all CIS staff are required to be **re-certified annually**.

**Year 1 Recertification**

There are two (2) components to the first year recertification process.

**The first component is live training.** Listed below are the 9 trainings CIS staff must attend in order to be re-certified. Training Attestation may be substituted for up to 5 of the required trainings as indicated below. Training Attestation indicates supervisor satisfaction that a CIS has completed each required training or Master's level coursework equivalent and/or substantive work experience equivalent addressing all training objectives (see Training Catalog for course objectives).

	<b>Training Title</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Modality</b>
1	NJ Wraparound	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
2	Crisis Intervention with At Risk Youth	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
3	Crisis Intervention with Dually Diagnosed Youth	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
4	Complex Trauma	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
5	Substance Abuse* - 1 of 4	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
6	Domestic Violence* – 1 of 2	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
7	PBS* – 1 of 5	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
8	Collaboration*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training
9	Impact of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities on Children & Families*	1 day	UBHC	Live Training

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Once a CIS participates in one of the required trainings, she may present her attendance certificate to her supervisor so that her supervisor may verify the CIS' attendance in her online profile on the MRSS Certification Online System.

**The second component is core competency.** The CIS' supervisor must electronically verify in the CIS' online profile that she continues to meet all core competencies, **INCLUDING RECERTIFICATION ON THE CAT TOOL.**

Once the supervisor verifies all the core competencies and the training attendance, the CIS will be recertified for one year. There is no online review component for the recertification process.

### **Subsequent Annual Re-Certification**

There are two (2) components to the recertification process.

**The first component is live training.** In order to foster a culture of continuing education supportive of best practice, CIS staff must attend 6 trainings relevant to the MRSS role annually, which can be selected from available CSOC trainings and/or other trainings approved by his supervisor. These trainings are intended to be full day information sessions or combinations of half day sessions as opposed to shorter webinars. The MRSS Certification Online System will allow selection of CSOC trainings and offer an option in which text can be entered to document other trainings attended.

Once a CIS participates in one of the required trainings, he may present his attendance certificate to his supervisor so that the supervisor may verify the CIS' attendance in his online profile on the MRSS Certification Online System.

Trainings may be attended at any time between the CIS' prior certification expiration date and his new expiration date.

**The second component is core competency.** The CIS' supervisor must electronically verify in the CIS' online profile that she continues to meet all core competencies, **INCLUDING RECERTIFICATION ON THE CAT TOOL.**

Once the supervisor verifies all the core competencies and the training attendance, the CIS will be recertified for one year. There is no online review component for the recertification process.

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**The website <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/csc/training/> only shows trainings for the following month. Is there any way we can get the schedule further in advance for planning purposes?**

*The schedule is posted by 5pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for the following month. Due to the logistics of securing trainers and venues, it is generally not possible to confirm training dates and locations further out than that.*

**I attended Cultural Competence sometime last year. Do I have to take it again?**

*Your supervisor will decide if you need to retake trainings in order to be MRSS Certified.*

**How do I register for MRSS Certification Trainings?**

*You register the same way you would register for any other Children's System of Care training. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/csc/training/> and click on the blue shaded box to the right that says "Online Training Registration."*

**Where are the trainings offered?**

*Most required trainings are offered regionally throughout the state. Throughout the year, training locations rotate through the northern, central, and southern regions. The Crisis Response Protocol is generally offered in the central region.*

**I don't see any of the MRSS Trainings on the <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/csc/training/> website except for the MRSS Orientation.**

*Other than the Crisis Response Protocol, the required trainings are open to all system partners and not specifically labeled as MRSS trainings, however, there is a search function on the registration website. Choose MRSS from the "recommended for" dropdown menu in the search field to search for trainings required for MRSS Certification and Recertification.*