

Dear Family Peer Advocates,

Happy New Year from the Department of Training and Credentialing at Families Together in New York State!

As you know, there are many changes in the children's system set to start in 2016 and 2017, related to New York State's efforts to redesign the way Medicaid services are delivered. Some of those changes will directly affect Family Peer Support Services and the Family Peer Advocate Credential.

I am writing today to update you on some changes related to credential renewal that will start in January 2016.

1. In past years, it was required that Professional Level FPA credentials needed to be renewed every 3 years. To keep current with the upcoming changes related to Medicaid and the proposed State Plan Amendment, starting **January 1, 2016, Professional FPA credentials will need to be renewed every two years.**

Your current Credential certificate indicates the date you need to renew. The change will affect you at your next renewal date.

2. Along with a change in the renewal timeframe, there is a change in the amount of continuing education hours that are required for renewal. In past years the requirement for renewal was 30 hours of continuing education. Starting January 1, 2016, as per the chart below, 20 hours of continuing education will be required every 2 years.

Here is small chart to help clarify the change.

If your original Credential or renewal was awarded in:	Renewal Due Date	Required hours of Continuing Education	Next Renewal (Two year rule starts)	Required hours of Continuing Education
2013	2016	30	2018	20
2014	2017	30	2019	20
2015	2018	30	2020	20
New Renewal Policy Starts				
2016	2018	20	2020	

3. All Renewal Applications must be submitted to the Department of Training and Credentialing at Families Together no less than 30 days before the date of expiration. For example: if your credential is expiring in March of 2016, your application MUST get to our office by February 1, 2016, to insure that we have time to process the application. As a current and valid credential is required for many FPSS positions, it is crucial to you that your Credential does not expire.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

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Sincerely,
Susan