Prominent Changes in the CRCC Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors Effective January 1, 2017

1. **Values & Termination/Referral:** Enhanced guidance regarding the obligation to avoid values imposition, including values issues in termination and referral. (A.4 and A.8.b)

2. **Technology:** Recognizes how technology is integrated in every aspect of practice; provides greater clarity for informed consent and disclosure in distance counseling; addresses required practices in use of social media. (Section J and throughout the Code)

3. **Personal Virtual Relationships:** Prohibits engaging in personal virtual relationships with current clients (e.g., through social media). (A.5.f)

4. **Roles and Relationships:** Provides additional guidance regarding service provision with previous sexual or romantic partners, friends, and family members; enhanced guidance about extending professional boundaries. (A.5.d, A.5.e, A.5.g & A.5.h)

5. **Outcome-based Payments & Liens:** Includes guidance for acceptable practices; reinforces payment for services based on an outcome of a case or award is not acceptable. (K.3.d & F.4.a)

6. **Assessment, Evaluation & Tests/Instruments:** Consistency in use of these terms applied throughout the section; terms defined in Glossary. (Section G & Glossary)

7. **Role Changes in Forensic Setting:** Provides cautions as well as clear guidance when changing roles, including the requirement to complete a new professional disclosure form. (F.1.c)

8. **Self-Reporting:** New standard requiring notification to CRCC when certified rehabilitation counselors are sanctioned for violations of other ethical codes, violated laws related to rehabilitation counseling, or are convicted of offenses that constitute violations of the Code. (L.2.e)

9. **Section Introductions:** Added to provide context for the Enforceable Standards within the section; introductions are aspirational – not enforceable.

10. **Preamble:** Enhanced to reinforce that Enforceable Standards are not to be interpreted in isolation; actions of rehabilitation counselors should be consistent with the spirit, as well as the letter, of the Enforceable Standards.