



West Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, Inc.

Professional Contact

Fall 2018

From Mary's Desk



Well, another summer has come and nearly gone. I wanted to mention a few things going on with WVAADC, as well as with the legislature and State Government. Many, many thanks and kudos to Patty Deutsch (and her helpers) for pulling

the conference together!!

Our Advocacy Day at the Legislature this coming year will be Thursday January 17, 2019. Do mark your calendar as the Public Policy Committee is hard at work putting together a great day for us at the Capitol. Our Lobbyist Hallie Mason will again be with us to arrange any contacts we need and provide updates for the legislative goings on.

On a State level, DHHR/BHMF is dealing with trying to address the workforce shortage, both with addiction professionals as well as with behavioral health professionals in general. This is an initiative driven by the Federal Government as well as having been a State focus for many years now. I and the Public Policy committee, with the help of Hallie Mason, have been working diligently to try and thwart any attempts to devalue addiction

professionals' qualifications as a means of adding to the workforce. Adding non-qualified personnel will not help our addiction crisis.

Other big news at the State level is the recent influx of grant monies from the Federal Government for the STR (State Targeted Response to the Opioid) Grant and the SOR (Strategic Opioid Response) grant. The latter is a very large grant, specifically allocated for medication-assisted-treatment (MAT) ... no exceptions. The STR grant is aimed at expanding access to substance abuse treatment, namely MAT. SAMHSA points to an abundance of recent data that they report demonstrates the efficacy of MAT. SAMHSA is very focused on MAT as a means of addressing the opioid epidemic in the US.

Lastly, there is a good bit of interest in the 1115 Waiver that the Bureau of Medical Services has received from the Federal Government. One of the exciting parts of the 1115 Waiver is funding for payment of Peer Recovery Specialists' services! That, in my opinion, is a way to stretch our workforce.

Given the opioid epidemic and the State and Federal focus on it – I expect much more information will be coming to us as we are a logical partner to work on this with the State. I have been asked to meet with Jaime Cantley, President of the West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction and Prevention

Professionals (WVCBAPP), to start tossing around the possibility of partnering with them to administer a grant for Substance Use Disorder training in the State. I hope to have a preliminary meeting prior to our conference as expansion of our partnership expansion might necessitate a vote by the entire membership. So until next time, carpe diem!

Mary

Peer Recovery Committee

Certified Peer Support Specialist and Peer Recovery Coaches

As chair of the Peer Assistance committee it has been an absolute pleasure to work with the dedicated professionals of the WVAADC Board to help build a 1 day track for Peer Recovery. With the field of Peer Support Specialist/Peer Recovery growing at an unprecedented rate, the WVAADC Board of Directors is proud to be out front working to make sure properly trained and competent individuals are going out into the field to help those in need of recovery services.

We had a great line up of presenters for our fall conference, who brought tons of great information and CEU's for new and experienced Coaches. Some of the workshops offered included, but are not limited to – Harm Reduction and MAT with Robin Pollini and Laura Jones, both of the Morgantown area. Jeff Lane from Medicaid gave an overview on the SUD Waiver Program and Jason Batton presented on Peer Recovery specialists and Ethics, and the list goes on.

I have been fortunate to be able to work alongside new WVAADC board member Emily Birkhead who is chairing the committee which put together the panel for the Peer Recovery discussion held during our fall conference. This discussion was great

for Peer Support Specialists and those who supervise them as well.

The West Virginia Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals announced they are standing on the policy of requiring all Peer Support Specialist and Peer Recovery Coaches to adhere to the NAADCAC/NCC AP National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist Code of Ethics. A move that is meant to promote and safeguard the quality, effectiveness and competence of Peer Recovery.

At this time there are also several networks for Peer Support Specialist/ Peer Recovery Coaches being formed throughout the state. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

Ethics Committee Update

There have been no ethical violations reported during the past year. If you suspect unethical practice by a WVAADC member, please report it to

Heather Sharp at hnbspinks@wirefire.com

and/or

Manuel “Marc” Jackson at mjackson@harrisoncountywv.com



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Awards Committee Update

Start making nominations for next year's awards now! We will be taking nominations until the conference next year. You can see a list of awards and nominations forms on the WVAADC, Inc. website, www.wvaadc.com.

The 2018 Award Winners are:

New Frontier Award: **Emily Birckhead**

Distinguished Service Award: **Joe Deegan**

WVAADC Counselor of the Year:

Christopher Campbell

Russ Taylor Addiction Awareness Award:

Elaine Secrist

“Journey to the Profession Higher Education Scholarship”: **Dustin Daniels**

Bill Perkins Presidential award:

Carl “Rolly” Sullivan, III, MD

WVAADC Partnership Award:

Thomas Health at St. Francis Hospital, Addiction Healing Center



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Membership



Benefits:

Saving Money

Educational Opportunities and Literature:

Professional Networking and Resource Network.

Discounted Professional Insurance and Advocacy

Discounts on trainings and conferences provided by

WVAADC!

Communication Committee

If you have an article for the newsletter or for the website, please email it to angeladmorris@msn.com or lindainwv@live.com



Follow us on Facebook

@AADCWV

WVCBAPP Updates

We have been busy this past year at WVCBAPP processing your renewals and approving initial applications to test. Keep them coming!

We have upgraded our website to include a news feed page. We have a new Facebook page. If you or your organization have training events that you would like posted to either the website or the Facebook page, please email the information to wvcbapp@wvcbapp.org. Please, like and share our Facebook page!

Don't forget if you were initially certified in an even year, your renewal period is this year. Applications must be postmarked before 8/30/18 to avoid the late fee. After 9/30/18, your credential is no longer

valid, but the good news is that you will have 90 days to submit the application to avoid retesting.

We attended the semi-annual IC&RC meetings in Detroit and Omaha. We are scheduled to attend the next meeting in Canada in October. Through these meetings, we ensure that the credentials continue to meet IC&RC standards and to continue to insure the fidelity of the testing and the credentialing process. It also gives us input into the process of selecting test items. In October, IC&RC will be adding two new testing sites in WV.

We added four new board members this year. We want to welcome Jeremy Truman, Jim McClanahan, Denis Allen, and Emily Reel to the board. You can check out their bios on the About the Board section of our website www.wvcbapp.org. If you have an interest in becoming a board member or would like to volunteer on a committee, please send your letter of interest and resume to wvcbapp@wvcbapp.org. We welcomed a new administrative assistant, Teresa Warner. She has been an asset to us by quickly filtering your questions to the appropriate person and working hard to process your applications.

Greg Perry was elected to the vacant President-Elect position. He and the current President will be working together over the upcoming year to make his transition a smooth process. Congratulations Greg. Lori Garrett-Bumba was elected to the secretary position that was vacated by Greg. We want to thank the WVAADC board for working so closely with us to continue to provide the training necessary for your renewals and initial certifications. If you want more information on the credentials we offer, please visit our website or attend our credentialing session at the WVAADC conference this September. We will be recognizing the newly certified at the WVAADC conference luncheon. We want to thank everyone who is credentialed or seeking credentialing for your continued commitment to the field.

Jaime Cantley, MHA, ADC-S, CCM, NCAC2
WVCBAPP President



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Never Stop Learning

From the back of the WVCBAPP brochure --author unknown

After I became certified and tried to motivate others to also become certified, one consistent question I was asked was why professional development is important. Why does it matter?

- You've finished your degree. Check.
- You've completed all your practical experience requirements. Check.
- You've got a license. Check.
- Your new job is all lined up and ready to go. Mission accomplished right?

It is fair to say the **first part** of the mission is well and truly accomplished. Sit back and give yourself a pat on the back, but do not allow yourself to become comfortable and complacent or you will be lagging behind your colleagues. The same is true for professionals with many years experience.

Continuing professional development is important. It ensures the professional will continue to be competent in the field. It is an ongoing process and continues throughout a professional's career. Professional development is ethically required. The

ultimate outcome of well-planned continuing professional development is that it safeguards the public, the employer, the professional, and the professional's career. If the professional stays on top of the latest and greatest developments in addiction treatment, the quality of the treatment provided is enhanced.

I would like to offer you some things to think about as you are questioning whether or not you should attend a training or even become certified.

- Professional development ensures capabilities keep pace with the current standards of practice.
- Professional development ensures that the professional maintains and enhances the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver appropriate services to the clients and the community.
- Professional development ensures that knowledge stays relevant. The professional is more aware of the changing trends and directions in the profession. The pace of change is faster than it has ever been. If you stand still you will get left behind, as the currency of your knowledge and skills becomes outdated.
- Professional development helps the professional to continue to make a meaningful contribution to the field of addiction. The professional will become more effective in the workplace which can assist in advancement into new positions.
- Professional development helps one to stay interested and interesting. Experience is a great teacher, but it can sometimes mean that we practice the same thing over and over again even if it is not working because we are comfortable. Professional

development opens new possibilities, new knowledge and new skill areas.

- Professional development can deliver a deeper understanding of what it means to be a professional, along with a greater appreciation of the implications and impacts of your work.
- Professional development helps advance the body of knowledge and technology within the profession.
- Professional development can lead to increased public confidence in individual professionals and the profession as a whole.

The importance of continuing professional development should not be underestimated – it is a career-long obligation for professionals.

Not only is it mandated by professional organizations or required by codes of conduct or ethics, it is a personal responsibility of professionals to keep the knowledge and skills current so that high quality services can be delivered that safeguards the public and meets the expectations of clients and the requirements of the profession.

Continuing professional development should be engaging and fun. Trainings can be a time of fellowship, networking, and self-care. Sometimes it is difficult to find a relevant course that fits in with your other obligations, but that should not be a deal breaker. Research and attend topics that are of interest. Where there is a will, there is a way.

I encourage you to never stop learning because that is how you will not only do the right thing, but know the right thing to do.

Upcoming Events

Screenings of Recovery Boys

Thursday, September 20th at 6pm
142 Robert E Lee Ave
Elkins, WV

Monday, September 24th at 6:30pm
403 Neville St.
Beckley, WV 25801

Appalachian Addiction & Prescription Drug Abuse Conference

October 18-20, 2018
Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV

Register at:

<https://wvsma.org/product/2018-appalachian-addiction-prescription-drug-abuse-conference/>