

## Independent Third Parties Facilitate Discussion

For Immediate Release - Alexandria, VA

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Representatives from NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals, and the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Inc. (IC&RC/AODA), are participating in a series of interviews to discuss issues, barriers and opportunities for increased collaboration or possible merger between the two organizations.

Jeffrey A. Hoffman, Ph.D. of Danya International, Inc. and Vic Shaw, M.Th. of Distance Learning Center, LLC, have offered their assistance to the organizations and are facilitating the interviews of key stakeholders. Both men have donated their services in moderating this process.

A mutually agreed upon set of questions were developed as a means of providing continuity to the interviews. All interviews and interviewees are held in the strictest of confidence. At the conclusion of the interviews, a report will be presented to both organizations, which will be non-binding, and neither party is under any obligation to act upon the report. Any distribution of the final report and suggestions for moving forward will be mutually agreed upon by both the IC&RC and NAADAC. It is anticipated that the final report will be completed by the end of 2006.

"These interviews are another step toward coming to some type of resolution that ultimately must be what is best for the field. It has been a long slow process but an important one. Allowing for thoughtful discussion regarding collaboration will lend itself to the outcome that is best for all involved," said IC&RC Executive Director Mary Jo Mather.

"We have invested significant resources in terms of time, energy and finances, into this yet incomplete process. The ultimate goal of these discussions is to remain consistent with the goals that both organizations agreed to in 2005: speaking with one voice, collaboration and pursuing one credential for the profession," stated NAADAC President Sharon Morgillo Freeman, Ph.D., APRN-CS, MAC.

Both NAADAC and IC&RC extend a sincere thanks to Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Shaw for their kind offer of assistance with this process and their dedication to the addiction profession.

For full details on the merger discussion, please visit [www.naadac.org](http://www.naadac.org) or [www.icrcaoda.org](http://www.icrcaoda.org) .