

For Immediate Release - Alexandria, VA

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The National Certification Commission (NCC) of NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals, the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) and the Society of Credentialed Addiction Professionals (S.CAP) announced a proposal to unify their independent credentials for addiction counselors into a series of credentials that will be available at the local, national and international level. This proposal will be submitted to the IC&RC Board of Directors in April 2005 and the NAADAC Board of Directors in July 2005. If accepted the consolidation will affect 45,000 credentialed addiction counselors.

The committee, made up of equal numbers of NAADAC and IC&RC representatives, decided on six essential components for any addiction credential:

1. The need for strong local credentialing boards;
2. Local, national and international credentialing for the profession;
3. Valid and legally defensible examinations;
4. The purpose, foundation and scope of practice for each credential;
5. Portability of credentials from state to state; and
6. Appropriate levels of credentialing based on the needs of local and international credentialing boards.

The proposal being presented to the IC&RC and NAADAC Boards will suggest the establishment of a new addictions treatment and prevention credentialing board that will incorporate the current credentials of IC&RC and NAADAC. The new organization, and its credentials, is intended to be local, national and international in scope. The joint NAADAC/IC&RC committee proposes that all current IC&RC and NAADAC credentialed professionals will have their qualifications unified by December 31st, 2005.

The co-chairs of the workgroup recommending the changes, William Cote, APRN, LADC, MAC, NAADAC National Certification Chair, and Jim Scarborough, IC&RC Chair, stated: "We are excited by the positive and frank discussion that NAADAC and IC&RC have had. Unifying the addiction profession will benefit everyone who works in addiction prevention, intervention

and treatment and the clients they serve. Instrumental to this process was Dr. H. Westley Clark, Director of CSAT and Dr. Karl White, CSAT's Team Leader for Workforce Development. Without their support these discussions would not have taken place. We would like to thank Dr. Clark and Dr. White on behalf of the 80,000 people throughout the US who work in the addiction profession."